

Dr. Sara Elizabeth Watson

Department of Political Science
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Positions	2017-present.	<i>Associate Professor</i> , Political Science, The Ohio State University
	2008- 2017	<i>Assistant Professor</i> , Political Science, The Ohio State University
	2007-2008	<i>Visiting Researcher</i> , Political Science, University of Michigan
Education	M.A., Ph.D.	Political Science, University of California, Berkeley
	B.A.	Political Science, University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill

RESEARCH

Book

2015. *The Left Divided: The Development and Transformation of Advanced Welfare States*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

2024. "Legislative Behavior in the French Senate: A New Dataset from the Fifth Republic," *Party Politics* (with Anna Meyerrose)

2023. "How Import Shocks, Electoral Institutions and Radical Party Competition Affect Legislator Ideology: Evidence from France." *British Journal of Political Science*. (with Anna Meyerrose)

2022. "Representation and Displacement: Labor Disembedding and Anti-Systemic Protest in France," *Comparative Politics*. (With Mark Vail and Daniel Driscoll)

2022. "Climate Change? Designing and Implementing Climate Surveys to Promote Inclusivity in Political Science Departments." *PS: Political Science & Politics* (with Leyla Tosun and Linnea Turco).

2022. "Welfare States and Growth Models" in *Diminishing Returns: The New Politics of Growth and Stagnation*, Baccaro, Blyth and Pontusson (eds). New York: Oxford University Press (with Julia Lynch).

2018. "Firms and Social Protection: An Event Study." *Comparative Political Studies* (with Raj Arunachalam).

2016. "Privatizing Participation?" *Politics & Society*. Vol. 44, issue 4 (Dec). (with Jane Gingrich).

2016. "Height, Income and Voting." *British Journal of Political Science*. FirstView, June 2016, (with Raj Arunachalam)

2015. "Does Welfare Conditionality Reduce Democratic Participation?" *Comparative Political Studies*. Vol 48, no. 5

2011. "Of Firms and Flexibility," chapter in edited volume, *Social Policy in the New Europe*, Ansell et al (eds.). New York and Oxford: Bergahn Press, (2011).

2008. "The Left Divided: Parties, Unions and the Resolution of Southern Spain's Agrarian Social Question," *Politics & Society*, December 2008, 36 (4): 451-477.

Invited Book Reviews

2023. "*The Repoliticization of the Welfare State*. By Ian McManus. Ann Arbor, MI: Michigan University Press, 2022. 234p. \$80.00 cloth, \$29.95 paper. *Election Campaigns and Welfare State Change: Democratic Linkage and Leadership Under Pressure*. By Staffan Kumlin and Achim Goerres. New York: Oxford University Press, 2022. 240p. \$85.00 cloth." *Perspectives on Politics*. [Invited 1500 word paired book review]

2009. Review of *Age in the Welfare State* in *Comparative Political Studies*, March 2009, 42(3): 467-470.

In Progress

"Globalization and the Political Supply Side" (with Anna Meyerrose)

- Data collection funded by OSU Political Science's *Good to Great* initiative.
- Drafted, preparing for submission

"Situating America's 50 Worlds of Welfare: Social Rights and Obligations in Europe vs the US."

"From Protest to Silence: the Hidden History of Campus Justice,"

Ohio Educational Policy Research

Ohio Educational Accountability

2020. **English Language Learner Accountability:** *Ohio's English Language Proficiency Gap-Closing Metric: An Early Assessment*. Department of Political Science Working Paper. February 2020.

- Overview of research is in this editor-reviewed [Feb 2020 blog post](#) for the Fordham Institute.
- Impact: My research contributed to changes to the Ohio school report card system in this area as of the 2021 report card (changes to gap-closing/English-learner accountability).

Equity and Excellence Gaps in Ohio

2022. **Building Norming Strategies:** “Local Norms as a Strategy for Improving Equity in Gifted Identification (Part II). *OAGC Review* 2022. [Editor-reviewed]

2021. **District Norming Strategies:** “Local Norms as a Strategy for Improving Equity in Gifted Identification: Considerations from a Large, Urban School District (Part I).” *OAGC Review* Winter 2021/2022. [Editor-reviewed]

- Impact: In 2023-2024, I was invited to serve on a Report Card working group to consider possible changes to revisions of the “gifted rule” in the Ohio Administrative Code. Working group currently on hold due to reorganization of the ODE(W).

SERVICE

Awards

- **President and Provost’s Award for Distinguished Faculty Service.** March 2025.

International Professional Leadership

- **Chair-Elect and Chair Council for European Studies (2025-26 through 2027-2028).** Elected position. The CES is an academic organization representing approximately 1400 scholars who study Europe. The chair leads the Council for European Studies Executive Committee meetings and works with director to set the organization’s strategy.

OSU Shared Governance Leadership

- **Chair, University Senate Steering Committee (2025-26).** Elected position. Leads the Senate Steering Committee and serves as the principal facilitator for University Senate meetings.
- **University Senate Ad Hoc Committee on Campus Free Expression (2025-2026).** Leading a committee which is consulting with OSU community members and examining OSU’s governing documents and processes related to expressive conduct, with the goal of clarifying our speech policies, prioritizing campus free expression, and supporting and ensuring consistent and viewpoint-neutral enforcement. Will present an interim and final report to Senate in 2026.
- **Member, Ohio Faculty Council (2024-26).** Represent Ohio State at monthly meetings of the Ohio Faculty Council, a body composed of faculty leaders at all of Ohio’s 13 public universities.
- **Chair-Elect and Chair, Faculty Council (2023-25).** Elected position. Chairs the monthly meeting of Ohio State’s representative faculty body. Meet weekly with fellow faculty Senate leaders, monthly with the university president and with the provost, and periodically with members of the Board of Trustees’ Academic Affairs and Student Life Committee. Also

engage with other university officials from OAA, the President's Cabinet and Senior Management Council on an ad hoc basis. Summer 2023-2025.

- ***Chair, University Senate Cabinet (2025-2026)***. Monthly meeting of Senate committee chairs to discuss cross-cutting issues and develop recommendations to administration.
- ***Chair, University Senate Rules Committee (2021-2024)***. As chair I organized the agenda, ran the meeting, met with stakeholders about proposed changes, and presented rule changes to Faculty Council and University Senate.
- ***University Senator (2018-2025)***. Representing Social and Behavioral Sciences (ASC).
- ***Rules Committee member (2018-2021; 2023/24)***. Met twice monthly to deliberate on proposed changes to Faculty Rules from the campus community.
- ***University Sanctioning Committee member (2024-2026)***. Serve on panels to determine sanctioning of campus members found guilty of discrimination or sexual harassment violations.
- ***Member, Senate Cabinet (2021-2025)***. Monthly meeting of Senate committee chairs to discuss cross-cutting issues and develop recommendations to administration.
- ***Senate Steering Committee (2023-26)***. Elected position. Work with president, provost and constituency leaders to discuss current issues and set the agenda for the University Senate.
- ***Faculty Council Ad Hoc Committee on Teaching Truth about Racism (2021) and Ad Hoc Committee on Academic Freedom (2022)***. These committees were formed in response to efforts nationwide and in Ohio to severely limit K-12 and university educators' rights to teach historical facts about race and racism. The committee drafted senate resolutions clarifying university senators' commitment to supporting educators' rights to teach about systemic, structural and ideological racism and opposing Ohio HB 616.

University Service

- ***Co-Chair, OAA Task Force on Clarifying of CTP Faculty Titles and Roles/Responsibilities*** (with Amy Darragh, OSUMC). Invited by Senior Vice Provost Patrick Louchouarne to lead task force on clinical, teaching and practice faculty. Helped lead focus groups and co-authored a 40-page report making recommendations around CTP faculty roles and responsibilities, workload distribution, incorporation into shared governance and efforts to promote equality of status across faculty categories. Spring/Summer 2023.
- ***President and Provost's Distinguished Service Award Review Committee***. Evaluated applications for the award and met with awards committee. October 2025-Jan 2026.
- ***OTDI Advisory Committee***. Assist in providing feedback on university technology related to the academic experience. Issues discussed include software and hardware access, digital storage, and enterprise tools, among others. Spring 2025-Ongoing.
- ***Salmon P. Chase Center Academic Advisory Group***. Assist in standing up the Chase Center in a way consistent with university shared values, institutional processes and with Faculty Rules. Fall 2023-Spring 2025.

- ***OAA Faculty Recruitment and Selection Policy Writing Group.*** Provided feedback on revisions to the university policy on faculty hiring, in light of new SHIFT framework. Fall 2023.
- ***OAA Free Speech Policy Writing Group.*** Provided feedback on required revisions to the university policy on free speech, as given by changes to the Ohio Revised Code. Fall 2023.
- ***Advisory Committee for Executive Vice President and Provost Search.*** Appointed by the University President to identify candidates for the 2024 provost search. Fall 2023-ongoing.
- ***Office of Student Life Space Standards Workgroup (2024).*** Served as faculty representative in workgroup tasked by the president with clarifying and updating the university's guidelines governing space use and time, place and manner restrictions.
- ***Student Code of Conduct/Disruption Workgroup (2024-2025).*** Met regularly in summer and fall with Office of Student Life Legal Affairs representatives and Council on Student Affairs to discuss the reconciliation of Faculty Rules and Student Code of Conduct language around campus disruption. Drafted two memos regarding Faculty Rule 3335-11. Assisted with revisions to Student Code to be considered by Senate in spring 2026.

Department Service

- ***Best Paper Award Committee,*** multiple years.
- ***Diversity Committee,*** 2017-2020.
- ***Executive Committee,*** 2024-2025.
- ***Graduate Studies Committee,*** 2008-2010; 2011-2012, 2013-2014; 2015-17.
- ***Graduate Admissions,*** 2010-2011; 2017-2021; 2024-25.
- Co-authored ***Political Science Graduate Student Climate survey,*** 2018; and ***Department Equity Audit,*** 2020.
- ***Undergraduate Studies Committee,*** 2012-2013; 2014-2015.
- ***Workgroup*** to draft APT language for departmental hiring of CTP faculty, 2023.

Professional Service

- ***Chair-Elect of Executive Committee:*** Council for European Studies (2025-26).
- ***Executive Committee:*** Council for European Studies (2023-2025).
- ***Editorial Board:*** Socio-Economic Review (2021-2027); Comparative Political Studies (2018-21)
- ***Award Committees:*** CES Best Article Award; APSA European Politics & Society Best Book Award; APSA Best Dissertation Award in European Politics; Greg Luebbert Best Paper Award.
- ***Reviewer (selected list):*** American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Politics, European Journal of Political Science, Journal of Public

Administration, Latin American Politics and Society; Oxford University Press; Cambridge University Press, University of Michigan Press.

- *Paper discussant*: American Political Science Association; Council for European Studies; Midwest Political Science Association; Visions in Methodology.
- *Ohio Department of Education*: Gifted Advisory Council; Presentation to ODE English Language Advisory Council leadership; Ohio school report card workgroup, 2021-2022, 2024.
- *Member*: American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Council for European Studies

Teaching Portfolio:

- **Undergraduate.** PS 3280: Politics of Markets; PS 3290: Comparative Public Policy; PS 4219: European Political Development; PS 4280: State and Economy; PS 4285: Comparative Politics of the Welfare State;
- **Graduate.** PS 7200: Field Seminar in Comparative Politics; PS 7280: Comparative Political Economy; PS 7206: Comparative Political Institutions; PS 8782: Comparative Politics Dissertation Workshop

Dissertation Advising:

- Tammie Louise Finnegan (prospectus and Dissertation Chair): current
- Santiago Lacroix Eussler (prospectus): current
- Sinan Anbarcioglu (prospectus): current
- Seoh Hyeon Kim (Committee member): current
- Mariana Miguelez Gomez (Dissertation chair): graduated December 2022.
- Ricardo Garcia-Graiff (Dissertation chair): graduated August 2021
- Kevin Simmt (Committee member): graduated August 2021
- Alec Clott (Committee member): graduated in April 2021
- Jianzi He (Committee member): graduated in April 2021
- Leyla Tosun (committee member): graduated in December 2020.
- Anna Meyerrose (committee member): graduated in Summer 2017
- Wei-Ting Yen (committee member): graduated in 2016
- Carolyn Morgan (committee member): graduated in 2016
- Peter Tunkis (committee member): graduated in 2015
- Jiwon Suh (committee member): graduated in 2012