

# Chris Chaky

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## EDUCATION

### Harvard University

Ph.D., Government

*Dissertation: "Politicization of Public Health: Local Context and Public Opinion in the Opioid Crisis"*

*Research interests: American politics, public health, public opinion, criminal justice, urban/local politics*

M.A., Government

*Subfields: American Politics, Political Methodology, The Politics of Incarceration in the U.S.*

Cambridge, MA

*Expected May 2021*

*May 2017*

### Muhlenberg College

B.A., Political Science (Honors), Summa Cum Laude

*Minors: Music, Women's and Gender Studies*

Allentown, PA

*May 2015*

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

### Harvard University

Ph.D. Researcher, Government Department

Cambridge, MA

*August 2015 – Present, 35-45 Hours/Week*

- Develops and conducts quantitative research projects testing the effect of local context on public opinion, voting behavior, and legislator behavior in public health and criminal justice issue areas.
- Designs and implements survey experiments to test the impact of context priming on issue positions.
- Collects data sources including public health outcomes, surveys, election results, and administrative and Census data.
- Performs statistical analyses in R, using regression techniques such as fixed-effects, difference-in-differences, and instrumental variables.
- Writes literature reviews, providing updated summaries of research in public opinion, public health, and criminal justice.
- Presented research at six major political science conferences and two departmental workshops.
- Received 2020-21 Harvard University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship (\$38,934).
- Received 2020 Center for American Political Studies Graduate Seed Grant (\$850).

*Graduate Research Assistant, Government Department*

*January 2016 – December 2019, 10-15 Hours/Week*

- Produced summary memos and extensive contact lists for local policy debates in four cities: housing in Atlanta, public pensions in Chicago, policing in New York, and education in Los Angeles.
- Scheduled 120 interviews with local political elites and activists with research team.
- Conducted 50 semi-structured qualitative interviews and observed political events.
- Cleaned survey data and produced detailed topline and crosstab survey reports.
- Trained and supervised research assistants for coding open-ended survey responses and interview transcripts.

*Graduate Research Assistant, Economics Department*

*June 2019 – September 2019, 10 Hours/Week*

- Researched surveys and academic literature about religion and preferences over welfare and income redistribution.
- Collected, analyzed, and presented updated survey data for revised book chapter.

## LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

### Harvard University

Teaching Fellow

Cambridge, MA

*August 2017 – May 2020, 15 Hours/Week*

- Led course sections online and offline for classes including American Government: A New Perspective, Race in a Polarized America, and Research Practice in Qualitative Methods.
- Facilitated class discussions, taught and reviewed course material, and developed and graded assignments and exams.
- Provided feedback and guidance to students on class papers and research projects.

*Head Teaching Fellow*

*August 2019 – May 2020, 5 Hours/Week*

- Organized classes of around 60 and 100 students and handled course administration.
- Supervised teaching fellows and standardized grading procedures.

*Senior Thesis Advisor*

*April 2018 – April 2019, 1 Hour/Week*

- Advised undergraduate student senior thesis on LGBT politics, and provided feedback, comments, and guidance.
- Received 2019 Harvard University Government Department Thesis Advising Award.

*Co-Coordinator, Harvard University American Politics Research Workshop*

*August 2017 – May 2018, 5 Hours/Week*

- Recruited graduate students to present job market papers and working projects at department workshop.
- Successfully applied for funding for workshop and organized weekly meetings.

## **GOVERNMENT EXPERIENCE**

### **New York State Senator Terry Gipson**

Poughkeepsie, NY

*Field Organizer, Terry Gipson for New York State Senate*

*May 2014 – August 2014, 40 Hours/Week*

- Recruited volunteers and interns from county committees, volunteer lists, and local high schools and colleges.
- Managed and trained interns and volunteers on phone banking, canvassing, petitioning, and data entry in Votebuilder.
- Organized petitioning drives to put Senator Gipson on five ballot lines, including over 5,000 signatures for a new line.

*Administrative Assistant, Senator Gipson District Office*

*May 2013 – August 2013, 40 Hours/Week*

- Managed Bluebird database for constituent contact, created a new categorization system and trained staff and interns.

## **SKILLS**

- Quantitative and qualitative analysis, survey experiments, data visualization, semi-structured interviews, teaching
- Computer programs and languages: R, RMarkdown, tidyverse, ggplot2, Stata, LaTeX, Excel, Dedoose, LexisNexis

## **WORKING PAPERS**

- The Opioid Crisis and Drug Policy: Does Local Context Shape Public Opinion?
- Voting to Build Prisons: Exploring Support for Prison Construction Bond Referenda
- Policy Feedback and the Affordable Care Act
- Racial Attitudes and Gun Policies
- Subjective Citizenship, Beliefs about America, and Voting for Donald Trump (with Jennifer Hochschild and Mara Roth)
- The Politics of Public Pensions: Short Time Horizons Meet Implacable Timetables (with Jennifer Hochschild and Kirsten Walters)
- State Power, Political Ideology, Race, and Views of Policing (with Jennifer Hochschild and Angelo Dagonel)
- Coal Price Shocks, Local Economic Conditions, and Voting Behavior (with Gabrielle Malina)
- Group Identity and Perceptions of Inequality: A Survey Experiment (with David Ifkovits and Amy Lakeman)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

- 2020: Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference
- 2019: American Political Science Association Annual Conference – Criminal Justice Mini-Conference, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Harvard University American Politics Research Workshop, Washington University at St. Louis Black and Blue Conference, Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference
- 2018: Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Brown University/Watson Institute Anton-Lippitt Conference on Citizenship and the City
- 2017: Harvard University American Politics Research Workshop, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference