

Chris Chaky

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EDUCATION

Harvard University

Ph.D., Government

Cambridge, MA

May 2021

Dissertation: "Public Opinion in the Opioid Crisis: Essays on Salience, Policy, and Attribution"

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

M.A., Government

May 2017

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

Muhlenberg College

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

Allentown, PA

May 2015

Minors: Music, Women's and Gender Studies

SKILLS

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

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Harvard University

Ph.D. Researcher, Government Department

Cambridge, MA

August 2015 – May 2021

- Develop and conduct 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.
- Collect data sources including public health outcomes, criminal justice statistics, surveys, election results, and administrative and Census data.
- Perform statistical analyses in R, using regression techniques such as fixed-effects, difference-in-differences, and instrumental variables.
- Design and implement survey experiments to test the impact of priming on issue positions.
- Write literature reviews, providing updated research summaries in criminal justice and public opinion.
- 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

- Produced summary memos and extensive contact lists for local policy debates in four cities: policing in New York, housing in Atlanta, public pensions in Chicago, 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

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

TEACHING AND LEADERSHIP EXPERIENCE

Harvard University

Teaching Fellow

Cambridge, MA

August 2017 – August 2020

- 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, 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

- 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

- 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

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

POLITICAL EXPERIENCE

New York State Senator Terry Gipson

Poughkeepsie, NY

Field Organizer, Terry Gipson for New York State Senate

May 2014 – August 2014

- 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.
- Organized petitioning drives to collect over 5,000 signatures for Senator Gipson to appear on the ballot.

Administrative Assistant, Senator Gipson District Office

May 2013 – August 2013

- Managed database for constituent contact. Trained staff and interns on coding procedures.

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