

# BEN GASKINS

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## Academic Employment

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| 2020 to present | Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR<br>Associate Professor of Political Science          |
| 2014 to 2020    | Lewis & Clark College, Portland, OR<br>Assistant Professor of Political Science          |
| 2011 to 2014    | Gardner-Webb University, Boiling Springs, NC<br>Assistant Professor of Political Science |

## Education

Ph.D. 2011, Political Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

*Dissertation title:* “Religious Commitment and Political Information: How Religion Structures Political Engagement.”

*Major fields:* American Politics and Comparative Politics

M.S. 2008, Political Science, Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL

B.A. *cum laude* 2006, Political Science and Music, Furman University, Greenville, SC

## Publications

### Peer-Reviewed

Gaskins, Ben & JahAsia Jacobs. 2022. “The Effects of Race and the Prosperity Gospel on Politics in the Trump Era.” *Politics & Religion*, 15(3): 579–616.

Gaskins, Ben, Jason Barabas, & Jennifer Jerit. 2020. “Qualitative Quotes: The Prevalence and Effects of Survey Respondent Exemplars in Political News Coverage.” *The International Journal of Press/Politics* 25(1): 96–114.

Gaskins, Ben, Todd Lochner, Ellen Seljan, Katie Kowal, Zane Dundon, & Maya Gold. 2019. “From the FEC to the Ballot Box: Voter Accountability for Campaign Finance Law Violations.” *American Politics Research* 47(5): 1000–1035.

Gaskins, Ben. 2019. "The Effects of Religious Attendance and Evangelical Identification on Media Perception and Political Knowledge." *Politics & Religion* 12(2): 346–384.

Clifford, Scott & Ben Gaskins. 2016. "Trust Me, I Believe in God: Candidate Religiousness as a Signal of Trustworthiness." *American Politics Research* 44(6): 1066–1097.

Beard, T. Randolph, Robert B. Ekelund Jr., George S. Ford, Ben Gaskins, & Robert D. Tollison. 2013. "Secularism, Religion, and Political Choice in the United States." *Politics & Religion* 6(4): 753 – 777.

Gaskins, Ben, Matt Golder, & David Siegel. 2013. "Religious Participation and Economic Conservatism." *American Journal of Political Science* 57(4): 823-840.

Gaskins, Ben, Matt Golder, & David Siegel. 2013. "Religious Participation, Social Conservatism, and Human Development." *Journal of Politics* 75(4): 1125-1141.

Gaskins, Benjamin & Jennifer Jerit. 2012. "Internet News: Is it a Replacement for Traditional Media Outlets?" *The International Journal of Press/Politics* 17(2): 190-213.

#### Other Publications

Book Review: *Why Religion Is Good For American Democracy* by Robert Wuthnow. 2022. *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, 61(1): 260-262.

Ben Gaskins. "Lack of trust in institutions may be more important than religion in driving poor political knowledge among American voters." The LSE Phelan US Centre's Religion in American Society blog series. 10/7/2021. <https://bit.ly/3DhMJKf>

Book Review: *From Politics to the Pews: How Partisanship and the Political Environment Shape Religious Identity* by Michele Margolis. 2020. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 84(3): 791-794.

Ben Gaskins. "How Distrust in the Media Creates a Political Knowledge Gap Between Religious and Secular Americans." Religion in Public Blog. 7/22/2019. <https://religioninpublic.blog/2019/07/22/how-distrust-in-the-media-creates-a-political-knowledge-gap-between-religious-and-secular-americans/>

Book Review: *Godless Democrats and Pious Republicans? Party Activists, Party Capture, and the God Gap* by Ryan Claassen. 2017. *Political Science Quarterly* 132(1): 173-175.

Ben Gaskins and Scott Clifford. "America is becoming more secular, but citizens still see political candidates' religion as a mark of trustworthiness." The LSE US Centre's daily blog on American Politics and Policy. 1/26/2016. <http://bit.ly/1Tnjue6>

### **Research in Progress**

"To Sue or Not to Sue? Religion and American Litigiousness." With Todd Lochner, Paige Underwood, & Salma Preperneau.

“Jesus Saves. Should We? Christian financial advice, monetary investments, and opinions regarding spending and debt.” Book Project.

“Does Religion ‘Distract’ Voters? How Religion Affects Economic and Values Voting.”

“The Effect of Religiosity on Perceptual Bias and Issue Knowledge.”

“Religious vs. Partisan Heuristics: The Effect of Elite Cues on Policy Opinions.”

“Religion, Electoral Systems, and Party Congruence.”

## **Conferences and Invited Presentations**

“Political Consequences of Christian Financial Advice.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Montreal, Canada, 2022.

“Religion and Litigiousness: How White Evangelicals View and Use the Civil Justice System,” with Todd Lochner, Paige Underwood, & Salma Preppernau. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2022.

“Jesus Saves. Should We? Christian Financial Advice and Attitudes Toward Debt and Spending At the Personal and National Levels.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA, 2018.

“Informal Enforcement of Campaign Finance Law.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, Canada, 2017

“Jesus Saves. Should We? Christian financial advice, monetary investments, and opinions regarding spending and debt.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico, 2016.

“Does Religion ‘Distract’ Voters? How Religion Affects Economic and Moral Voting.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, 2015.

“Does Religion ‘Distract’ Voters? How Religion Affects Economic and Values Voting.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2014.

“Trust Me, I Believe in God: Theistic Appeals and Candidate Trust,” with Scott Clifford. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Orlando, 2013.

“The Effect of Religiosity on Perceptual Bias and Issue Knowledge.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2012.

“Trust Me, I Believe in God: Theistic Appeals and Candidate Trust,” with Scott Clifford. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2012.

“The Effect of Religiosity on Perceptual Bias and Issue Knowledge.” Invited talk at The University of North Carolina at Charlotte, April 5, 2012.

“Religious vs. Partisan Heuristics: The Effect of Elite Cues on Policy Opinions.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2011.

“Representation, Selection Bias, and Media Reporting on Mass Opinion,” with Jason Barabas. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2011.

“Religious vs. Partisan Heuristics: The Effect of Elite Cues on Policy Opinions.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, 2011.

“Representation, Selection Bias, and Media Reporting on Mass Opinion,” with Jason Barabas. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, 2011.

“Religiosity and Political Knowledge: The Effect of Evangelicalism and Religious Attendance on Information Acquisition.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2010.

“The Internet as a News Source: A Compliment or Substitute for Traditional News Media?” with Jennifer Jerit. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2010.

“Religiosity and Political Knowledge: The Effect of Evangelicalism and Religious Attendance on Information Acquisition.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Atlanta, 2010.

“Religion, Societal Development, and Political Attitudes,” with Matt Golder & David Siegel. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Toronto, 2009.

Invited graduate student participant at the *Experimental Political Science Conference*, Northwestern University, May 28-29, 2009.

“Religion, Societal Development, and Political Attitudes,” with Matt Golder & David Siegel. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2009.

Nominated for the best paper in Comparative Politics at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2009.

“Qualitative Quotes: Representation, Selection Bias, and Media Reporting on Mass Opinion,” with Jason Barabas. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, 2008.

Baylor University’s Institute for Studies of Religion *Graduate Workshop on Religion, Economics, and Politics*. June 19-22, 2008, Alexandria, VA (with presentation of “Religion, Societal Development, and Political Attitudes”).

“Religion, Societal Development, and Political Attitudes,” with Matt Golder. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2008.

“Religion, Societal Development, and Political Attitudes,” with Matt Golder. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Religion, Economics, and Culture (ASREC), Tampa, FL, 2007.

## **Teaching**

### **Lewis & Clark College**

Introduction to American Politics  
 Introduction to Comparative Politics  
 Numbers Core: Political Math  
 Political Parties and Interest Groups  
 Religion and Politics  
 Public Opinion and Survey Research  
 Presidential Politics  
 Capstone: Comparative Religion and Politics

### **Gardner-Webb University**

American National Government (including Honors sections)  
 Introduction to Political Science (Theory and Methods)  
 Public Opinion  
 American Political Parties  
 Constitutional Law  
 Judicial Process  
 The President and Congress  
 State and Local Government  
 Public Policy and Public Administration  
 Global Understanding

### **Florida State University**

Introduction to Comparative Politics  
 Introduction to American Politics  
 Religion and Politics in America  
 Comparative Religion and Politics

## **Service**

2023 APSA Program Co-chair for the Religion and Politics Section

Member (2020) and Chair (2021), Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Best Student Paper Award Committee

Chair of the Inaugural (2020) Susanne Hoeber Rudolph Outstanding Scholar Award for the APSA Religion and Politics Section

Elected Member of APSA's Religion and Politics Executive Committee (2017-2019)

2015 MPSA Program Chair for the Religion and Politics Section

Lewis & Clark College

Curriculum Committee (2020-)

Pi Sigma Alpha Advisor

Truman Scholarship Advisor

Faculty Secretary, 2019

Library and Educational Technology Committee (2017-2019)

Faculty Organizer, 2018 Festival of Scholars

Faculty Advisor: College Republicans, College Democrats, J-Street

Moderator, 2015 International Affairs Symposium

Gardner-Webb University

Institutional Review Board (2013-2014 Chair)

Mobile Learning Task Force

Faculty Technology and Facilities Committee

Student Government Faculty Advisor

Advisor for the department's Pre-Law/Public Service Group

FSU Political Science Graduate Student Association

Vice-President (2008-2009)

President (2009-2010)

Treasurer (2010-2011)

## **Media Interviews**

Television: KATU (Portland, OR ABC affiliate), KOIN (Portland, OR CBS affiliate), CTV News Channel (Toronto, Canada)

Newspapers: The Oregonian, The Associated Press, Portland Tribune (invited guest column), Willamette Week, The Shelby (NC) Star

Radio: KXL, KPAM, KBOO, 1190 KEX, NPR

## **Professional Memberships**

American Political Science Association (APSA Religion and Politics subsection)

Midwest Political Science Association

Southern Political Science Association

Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

## **Reviewer**

American Politics Research  
Human Rights Review  
International Journal of Services Technology and Management  
The International Journal of Press/Politics  
The International Journal of Public Opinion Research  
Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion  
The Journal of Politics  
National Science Foundation  
New Media and Society  
Oxford University Press  
Political Behavior  
Political Psychology  
Political Research Quarterly  
Political Science Quarterly  
Politics and Religion  
Public Opinion Quarterly  
Routledge  
Sage Open  
Social Science Research  
W.W. Norton

## **Other skills**

MTurk; Stata; Snap survey software and Snap online; Qualtrics; MediaLab; Excel.