

Nicole Huffman

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Education

Stony Brook University, Ph.D. in Political Science August 2021 – May 2026

- Subfields: American Politics and Political Psychology
- Thesis: How Context Affects Citizens' Engagement in Electoral Accountability
 - Committee: Ryan Vander Wielen (chair), Leonie Huddy, Michael Peress, and Jamil Scott

University of Virginia, B.A. in Psychology and B.A. in Politics with Highest Honors August 2017 – May 2021
in Politics

- Thesis: An Intersectional Analysis of Gender, Race, and Place Identities' Impact on Political Cognition

Professional Positions

Postdoctoral Researcher September 2026 – August 2028

University of Gothenburg

- Working on Female Leadership and Effects from African Droughts (Fem-LEAD) project with Aksel Sundström

Publications

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- Olson, L., **Huffman, N.**, and Gray, R. (2026). The Effect of News Coverage Celebrating Inclusion in Congress. *Public Opinion Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/poq/nfaf050>.
 - **Huffman, N.**, Olson, L., and Vander Wielen, R. (2025). Proving Her Strength: The Partisan and Gendered Implications of Legislative Obstruction. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/lsq.70026>.
 - Engelhardt, A. M., **Huffman, N.**, and Oelerich, V. (2025). Validating Whites' Reactions to the "Racial Shift". *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, 1-13. <https://doi.org/10.1017/XPS.2025.2>.
 - Phillips, J.B., Munis, B.K., **Huffman, N.**, Memovic, A., and Ford, J. (2025). When Push Comes to Shove: How Americans Excuse and Condemn Political Violence. *Political Behavior*. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-025-10009-7>.
 - **Huffman, N.** and Nam, H. (2025). Diversity Politics: The Effects of Elite Rhetoric and Issue Racialization on Support for Descriptive Representation. *Political Psychology*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.70083>.
 - Munis, K. and **Huffman, N.** (2025) Why Does Place Matter More (Politically) to Rural People? Political Communication, Fomenting Place Resentment, and Urban Collective Narcissism. In Jacobs, N. (Eds.), *Rethinking Rural*. De Gruyter.

Paper Under Review

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- **Huffman, N.**, Kane, J., and Stack, D. Worth a Try? The Electoral Consequences of Symbolic Legislation. *Conditionally Accepted at Research & Politics*.
 - **Huffman, N.** and Venugopalan, A. There's Something Wrong in the Village: Psychological Bases of Support for Transgender Genocide. *Revised and Resubmitted to Politics, Groups, & Identities*
 - **Huffman, N.** and Vander Wielen, R. Education's Worth: How Different Voters Evaluate Education Across Candidate Gender. *Under Review at American Politics Research*.
 - **Huffman, N.**, Jordan, S., Munis, K., Phillips, J., and Soules, M. The Protesters in Our Heads: American (Mis)Perceptions About Who Engages in Disruptive Expression. *Under Review at Perspectives on Politics*.
 - Engelhardt, A. M. and **Huffman, N.** Fragile Links: Racial Group Embeddedness and Variability in Group Meaning. *Under Review at the Journal for Politics*.

Research in Progress

- Variations in Policy Accountability: Gender and Partisan Asymmetries or a Third Variable Problem? *(in paper writing)*
- Who Holds Politicians Accountable: The Role of Institutions in Electoral Accountability *(in paper writing)*
- Issue Selection in Times of High Partisan Competition *(in paper writing)*
- Talking about diversity in politics improves evaluations of an underrepresented presidential candidate (with Hannah Nam) *(in paper writing)*
- Demographics of Protesters Do Not Lower Americans' Support for Political Protest or Rejection of Political Violence (with Soren Jordan, Joe Phillips, and Michael Soules) *(in paper writing)*
- Who Wants to Know?: Information and Fact Check Seeking in Disinformation Environments (with Vin Arceneaux and Ryan Vander Wielen) *(in paper writing)*
- What is diversity for? Examining Diversity Rationales and Psychological (Dis)comfort (with Hannah Nam) *(in survey design)*

Teaching

Instructor of Record for Undergraduate US Congress Course	Summer 2023, Summer 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Summer 2025
Instructor of Record for Undergraduate Externship for Applied Learning	Fall 2024
Teaching Assistant for Graduate Applied Data Analysis I	Fall 2023
Teaching Assistant for Undergraduate Introduction to American Government	Fall 2021, Spring 2022

Grants and Awards

Stony Brook Faculty in the Arts, Humanities and lettered Social Sciences (FAHSS) Grant with Drew Engelhardt (\$3,500)	2026
APSA Class and Inequality Travel Award (\$250)	2025
Stony Brook Graduate Student Organization Distinguished Travel Award (\$1,395)	2025
Russell Sage Foundation Pipeline Grant with Hannah Nam (\$35,000)	2025
Stony Brook Political Science Milton Lodge Graduate Research Award	2024
APSA Summer Centennial Research Grant (\$1,350)	2024
Political Communication Travel Grant (\$500)	2024
The Institute for Humane Studies Event Support (\$918)	2024
Time Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences with Asha Venugopalan	2024
Stony Brook FAHSS Grant with Ryan Vander Wielen (\$3,500)	2023
Stony Brook FAHSS Grant with Lauren Olson and Ryan Vander Wielen (\$3,500)	2022
Time Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences with Lauren Olson	2022
McCourtney Institute for Democracy Grant with Kal Munis, Joe Phillips, Arif Memovic, Enrique Mendoza, and Jake Ford (\$1,000)	2022
UVU Grant for Engaged Learning with Kal Munis, Joe Phillips, Arif Memovic, Enrique Mendoza, and Jake Ford (\$1,000)	2022
Stony Brook University Graduate Council Fellowship (\$50,000)	2021-2026
University of Virginia Politics Department Grant for Undergraduate Thesis Research (\$1,000)	2020
University of Virginia Collaborative Bynum Grant with Kal Munis (\$2,500)	2019

Departmental Service

Graduate Assistant for Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior (EPOVB)	2025
Conference Planning Committee	
Graduate Student Representative on Diversity Committee	Spring 2023- Spring 2025

Invited Professional Presentations

Barbour Center Conference	2025
Election, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Conference	2025
Women in Legislative Studies Conference	2024, 2025
American Political Science Association Conference	2022, 2023, 2024, 2025
Midwestern Political Science Association Conference	2023, 2024, 2025
Southern Political Science Association Conference	2023
International Society of Political Psychology	2023

References

Ryan Vander Wielen
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Leonie Huddy
SUNY Distinguished Professor at Stony Brook University
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Michael Peress
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Drew Engelhardt
Assistant Professor at Stony Brook University
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