

# Michael P. Fix

## Curriculum Vitae

Department of Political Science  
Georgia State University  
38 Peachtree Center Ave., Suite 1005  
Atlanta, GA 30303

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<http://www2.gsu.edu/~mfix/>

### Academic Appointments

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Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Georgia State University, 2018–  
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Georgia State University, 2011–  
2018

### Education

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Ph.D. in Political Science, University of South Carolina, 2011  
Master of Arts in Political Science, University of Kentucky, 2008  
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Classics, University of Kentucky, 2006  
Associate of Arts, Somerset Community College, 2004

### Publications

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#### Books

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1. **Fix, Michael P.**, and Benjamin J. Kassow. 2020. *U.S. Supreme Court Doctrine in the State High Courts*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

#### Peer-Reviewed Articles

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1. **Fix, Michael P.** and Bailey R. Fairbanks. 2020. “The Effect of Opinion Readability on the Impact of U.S. Supreme Court Precedents in State High Courts.” *Social Science Quarterly*. 101(2): 811–824
2. Curry, Todd A., and **Michael P. Fix**. 2019. “May It Please the Twittiverse: The Use of Twitter by State High Court Judges.” *Journal of Information Technology & Politics*. 16(4): 379–393.
3. **Fix, Michael P.** 2018. “Understanding the Mechanisms Driving the Evolution of Obscenity Law in Five Common Law Countries.” *Journal of Comparative Law*. 13(2): 147–163.

4. **Fix, Michael P.**, and Joshua L. Mitchell. 2017. "Examining the Policy Learning Dynamics of Atypical Policies with an Application to State Preemption of Local Dog Laws." *Statistics, Politics and Policy*. 8(2): 223–247.
5. **Fix, Michael P.**, Justin T. Kingsland, and Matthew D. Montgomery. 2017. "The Complexities of State Court Compliance with U.S. Supreme Court Precedent." *Justice System Journal*. 38(2): 149–163.
6. **Fix, Michael P.** 2016. "The Evolution of Obscenity Standards in the Common Law World." *Journal of Comparative Law*. 11(2): 75–99
7. Franklin, Daniel P., and **Michael P. Fix**. 2016. "The Best of Times and the Worst of Times: Polarization and Presidential Success in Congress." *Congress and the Presidency*. 43(3): 377–394.
8. **Fix, Michael P.** 2016. "A Universal Standard for Obscenity? The Importance of Context and Other Considerations." *Justice System Journal*. 37(1): 72–88.
9. Butz, Adam M., **Michael P. Fix**, and Joshua L. Mitchell. 2015. "Policy Learning and the Diffusion of Stand-Your-Ground Laws." *Politics & Policy*. 43(3): 347–377.
10. **Fix, Michael P.** 2014. "Does Deference Depend on Distinction? Issue Salience and Judicial Decision Making in Administrative Law Cases." *Justice System Journal*. 35(2):122–138.
11. Kassow, Benjamin, Donald R. Songer, and **Michael P. Fix**. 2012. "The Influence of Precedent on State Supreme Courts." *Political Research Quarterly* 65(June): 372–384.
12. Randazzo, Kirk A., Richard W. Waterman, and **Michael P. Fix**. 2011. "State Supreme Courts and the Effects of Statutory Constraint." *Political Research Quarterly* 64(Dec.): 790–802.
  - Reprinted in Randazzo, Kirk A. and Richard W. Waterman. 2014. *Checking the Courts: Law, Ideology, and Contingent Discretion*. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.
13. **Fix, Michael P.**, and Kirk A. Randazzo. 2010. "Judicial Deference and National Security: Applications of the Political Question and Act of State Doctrines." *Democracy and Security* 6(1): 1–16.

## Law Review Articles

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1. **Fix, Michael P.** and Gbemende E. Johnson. 2017. "Public Perceptions of Gender Bias in the Decisions of Female State Court Judges." *Vanderbilt Law Review* 70(6): 1845–1886.

## Book Chapters

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1. **Fix, Michael P.**, Kirk A. Randazzo, and Ana R. Martin. Forthcoming. “The Impact of Democratic Consolidation on Public Confidence in Courts.” In *Open Judicial Politics*, 2nd edition, eds. Rorie Spill Solberg, Jennifer Segal Diascro, and Eric Waltenburg. Oregon State University Open Educational Resources.

## Book Reviews

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1. **Fix, Michael P.** 2020. “Giving the Strawman a Brain: Integrating Law and Politics in Understanding the Supreme Court.” *Journal of Politics* 82(4): e40–e44.
2. **Fix, Michael P.** 2012. Review of *The Israeli Supreme Court and the Human Rights Revolution: Courts as Agenda Setters* by Assaf Meydani. *Law and Politics Book Review*. 22(Dec.) 536–538.

## Public Scholarship

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1. Curry, Todd A., **Michael P. Fix**, Michael K. Romano, and Michael F. Salamone. “Unlike the Supreme Court, state courts have responded quickly to the Covid-19 pandemic.” *Monkey Cage*. May 11, 2020.

## Other Publications

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1. **Fix, Michael P.** 2019. “Hicklin Rule (U.K.).” In *The SAGE International Encyclopedia of Mass Media and Society*, ed. Debra L. Merskin. Sage.
2. **Fix, Michael P.** and Justin T. Kingsland. 2019. “Miller Test (U.S.).” In *The SAGE International Encyclopedia of Mass Media and Society*, ed. Debra L. Merskin. Sage.
3. Dias, Clarissa, and **Michael Fix**. 2012. “Measuring Judicial Independence.” *Law and Courts Newsletter* 22(Winter): 21–25.
4. **Fix, Michael P.**, and Elizabeth E. Wheat. 2011. “Reevaluating Our Conceptualization of Uppercourts and Lowercourts.” *Law and Courts Newsletter* 21(Winter): 7–11.
5. **Fix, Michael P.** 2009. “Bailey v. Drexel Furniture Company.” In *Encyclopedia of the United States Constitution*, ed. David Schultz. New York: Facts on File.
6. **Fix, Michael P.** 2009. “Yick Wo v. Hopkins.” In *Encyclopedia of the United States Constitution*, ed. David Schultz. New York: Facts on File.
7. **Fix, Michael P.** 2008. “Bantam Books v. Sullivan.” In *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment*, ed. David Hudson, Jr., David Schultz, and John R. Vile. Washington: CQ Press.

8. **Fix, Michael P.** 2008. “Bantam Books v. Sullivan” and “U.S. v. 12 200-ft. Reels of Film.” In *Encyclopedia of the First Amendment*, ed. David Hudson, Jr., David Schultz, and John R. Vile. Washington: CQ Press.

## Working Papers

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“The Politics of Judicial Reform: State Adoptions of Intermediate Appellate Courts” (with Joseph Ross and Justin Kingsland). *Under review*.

“Federal Appeals Court Responses to Supreme Court Precedent” (with Ben Kassow). *Under review*.

“Examining the Interconnectedness of State High Court Twitter” (with Todd Curry and Michael Romano). *Currently being revised for journal submission*.

“State High Court Decision Making: Do Courts Defer to the Executive?” (with Ivanka Bergova and Natalie Rogol). *Currently being revised for journal submission*.

“Rigid Rules and Slippery Standards: How the Nature of US Supreme Court Precedents Impacts Subsequent State Court Treatments” (with Matthew Montgomery and Justin Kingsland). *Currently being revised for journal submission*.

“Does US Supreme Court Precedent Affect the Text of Future Opinions?” (with Bailey Fairbanks, Robert Reese, and Morgan Smith). *Currently being revised for journal submission*.

“Judicial Diversity on State Courts” (with Micayla Clark, Bailey Fairbanks, Abigail Matthews, and Savannah Rogers). *Currently being revised for journal submission*.

## Grants and Awards

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Georgia State Center for Human Rights and Democracy, Project Leader Award. “Examining Variation in State Punitiveness.” (with Mike Evans), 2012 [\$5000].

Southern Political Science Association, Artinian Award, 2012 [\$250].

Southern Political Science Association, Prestage-Cook Travel Award, 2011 [\$250].

## Invited Talks, Public Lectures, and Symposia

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“The Importance of State High Courts,” John Sherman Cooper Lecture Series, Somerset Community College, October 12, 2020.

“US Supreme Court Doctrine in the State High Courts,” Department Colloquium, Department of Political Science, University of Kentucky, September 30, 2020.

“Diversity in the Judiciary,” Institute of Continuing Judicial Education of Georgia, March 13, 2020.

“Diffusion and Reinvention of U.S. Supreme Court Morality Policy,” Department Colloquium, Department of Political Science, University of Alabama, December 1, 2017.

“Perceptions of Gender Bias in Public Attitudes towards the Decisions of Female Judges” (with Gbemende Johnson), Vanderbilt Law Review Symposium, Vanderbilt Law School, March 31, 2017.

## Media Appearances

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Interviewed for GSU PRN, “[Trump administration reverses ICE rule on international students](#),” July 15, 2020.

Interviewed for 11Alive, “[GSU professor wants to offer independent study course for international students to keep them in U.S.](#),” July 30, 2020.

Interviewed for WABE, “[‘Variation’ In Stay-At-Home Orders Seen Throughout The South](#),” April 14, 2020.

## Conference Presentations (last 10 years)

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### 2021

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“How Crisis Breeds Innovation: The Case of State Courts of Last Resort” (with Todd Curry, Michael Romano, and Michael Salamone). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association [Virtual].

### 2020

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“Does Precedent Affect the Text of Future Opinions? The Case of the *Miller* Test and Factual Descriptions in State High Court Decisions” (with Bailey Fairbanks and Robert Reese). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, at San Juan, PR.

### 2019

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“Examining the Interconnectedness of State High Court Twitter” (with Todd Curry and Michael Romano). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, at Washington, D.C.

“How State High Courts Use (or not) U.S. Supreme Court 2nd Amendment Precedents” (with Benjamin Kassow). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, at Washington, D.C.

“Examining the Interconnectedness of State High Court Twitter” (with Todd Curry and Michael Romano). Presented at the State Politics and Policy Conference, University of Maryland.

“State High Court Usage of *Lemon v. Kurtzman*: Why Do State High Courts (Sometimes) Ignore Precedent?” (with Benjamin Kassow). Presented at the State Politics and Policy Conference, University of Maryland.

“Masters of Their Own Domain: Explaining Variation in State High Court Responses to *Atkins v. Virginia*” (with Benjamin Kassow). Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at Austin, TX.

“State High Court Decision Making: Do Courts Defer to the Executive?” (with Ivanka Bergova and Natalie Rogol). Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at Austin, TX.

## 2018

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“Explaining State Adoptions of Intermediate Appellate Courts” (with Justin T. Kingsland and Joseph V. Ross). Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at Boston, MA.

“May It Please the Twittiverse: The Use of Twitter by State High Court Judges” (with Todd Curry). Presented at the State Politics and Policy Conference, Pennsylvania State University.

“State Court Compliance with U.S. Supreme Court Precedents” (with Justin Kingsland). Presented at the Conference on Institutions and Law Making, Emory University.

“Rigid Rules and Slippery Standards: How the Nature of US Supreme Court Precedents Impacts Subsequent State Court Treatments” (with Justin Kingsland and Matthew Montgomery). Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at New Orleans, LA.

“Citizens Suits under the Clean Air Act: Does Increased Access Level the Playing Field?” (with Elizabeth Wheat). Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at New Orleans, LA.

## 2017

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“Understanding the Mechanisms Driving the Evolution of Obscenity Law in Five Common Law Countries.” Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at New Orleans, LA.

“Perceptions of Gender Bias in Public Attitudes towards the Decisions of Female Judges” (with Gbemende Johnson). Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at New Orleans, LA.

## 2016

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“Does Obfuscation Breed Obscurity? The Relationship between Opinion Readabil-

ity and Citations on the U.S. Supreme Court” (Bailey Fairbanks). Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at Chicago, IL.

“Testing the Miller Test: Evaluating Its Impact on Obscenity Cases in State High Court” (with Matthew Montgomery and Justin Kingsland). Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at Chicago, IL.

## **2014**

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“Does Obfuscation Breed Obscurity? The (Non) Relationship between Opinion Readability and Citations” (Bailey Fairbanks). Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at Chicago, IL.

“Measuring the Influence of American States in Congress” (with Daniel Franklin and Brian Webb). Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at Chicago, IL.

“Innovation and Diffusion of Stand-Your-Ground Policies in the U.S. States” (with Adam Butz). Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at New Orleans, LA.

## **2013**

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“Measuring the Punitive Intentions of State Governments” (with Michael Evans). Presented at the Law & Society Association Annual Meeting, at Boston, MA.

“Innovation and Diffusion of Self-Defense Policies in the U.S. States” (with Adam Butz). Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at Chicago, IL.

## **2012**

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“Conservative Framing of Right Claims in U.S. Supreme Court Cases, 1950-2010” (with Susanne Schorpp). Prepared for Presentation at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at New Orleans, LA.

“The Dangers of Stargazing: Why Too Much Focus of Statistical Significance Distracts from the Substantive Significance in Presenting Empirical Results” (with Ian Smith). Prepared for Presentation at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at New Orleans, LA.

“A Universal Standard for Obscenity? The Importance of Context and Other Considerations” (with Natalie Jackson). Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at Chicago, IL.

“Taking a Hint: Strategic Crafting of Briefs in Response to Supreme Court Treatment of Rights Claims” (with Susanne Schorpp). Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at Chicago, IL.





“The Language of Rights at the U.S. Supreme Court” (with Susanne Schorpp and Shenita Brazelton). Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, at New Orleans, LA.

## **Teaching Experience**

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### **Graduate Courses Taught**

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Introduction to Quantitative Analysis

Advanced Quantitative Methods

Special Topics in Research Methods: Game Theory and Its Application

State Politics and Policy

### **Undergraduate Courses Taught**

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American Constitutional Law

Civil Liberties and Rights

Judicial Process and Courts

Honors Seminar: Outer Limits of Free Speech, (GSU Honors College)

American Government

Senior Seminar: Scientific Study of Law and Courts

### **Dissertation Committees**

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Chair, Bailey Fairbanks, in-progress.

Chair, Ivanka Bergova, in-progress.

Member, Alban Lauka, in progress.

Member, Juan Cruces, in progress.

Member, Russell Luke, in progress.

Member, Ana Martin, PhD to be awarded Spring 2021.

Member, Reagan Pritchett, PhD to be awarded Spring 2021.

Member, Abigail Bowen, PhD to be awarded Spring 2021.

Member, Matthew Montgomery, PhD awarded Spring 2019.

Member, Kurt Hitzeman, PhD awarded Fall 2018.

Member, Shenita Brazelton, PhD awarded Summer 2014.

Member, Clarissa Dias, PhD awarded Fall 2013.

### **MA Non-Thesis Committees**

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Chair, Adam Smiley, MA awarded Spring 2016.

Chair, Bailey Fairbanks, MA awarded Fall 2015.

Member, Diana White, MA awarded Spring 2015.

### **MA Thesis Committees**

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Member, Eric Harrison, MA awarded Spring 2013.

### **Undergraduate Supervision**

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Savannah Rogers, GSU Honors College, Presidential Assistantship Supervisor, Fall 2018–Spring 2021

Robert Reese, Humanities Research Center, Humanities Inclusivity Program Mentor, Fall 2019–Fall 2020

Kreshae Green, Internship Supervisor, Spring 2020

Rose Newell, Internship Supervisor, Summer 2019

Rhonda Frost, Directed Readings, Spring 2019

Savannah Rogers, Internship Supervisor, Spring 2019

Justin Townsend, Internship Supervisor, Spring 2019

Balean Reid, Internship Supervisor, Summer 2017

Payton Reed, Directed Readings, Summer 2017

Bailey Fairbanks, GSU Honors College, Presidential Assistantship Supervisor, Fall 2012–Spring 2013

### **University, College, & Department Service**

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#### **Georgia State University**

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Member, University Senate, 2018–2021

Member, Research Committee, 2020–2021

Member, University Statutes and Senate Bylaws Committee, 2018–2021

Member, Library Committee, 2018–2020

**College of Arts & Sciences, GSU**

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Program Coordinator, BIS–Law and Society, 2018–  
Member, Interdisciplinary Studies Subcommittee, 2018–

**Political Science Department, GSU**

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Placement Director, 2020–  
Field Coordinator, Research Methods Comprehensive Exam Committee, 2020–  
Member, Lecturer Search Committee, 2020–2021  
Member, Graduate Committee, 2012–2014, 2020–  
Member, Ad hoc Committee on Diversity and Inclusion, 2019–2020  
Member, Identity Politics Search Committee, 2019–2020  
Member, Executive Committee, 2015–2016, 2017–2018  
Member, Lecturer Search Committee, 2014–2015  
Member, Public Law Search Committee, 2011–2012  
Member, Research Methods Comprehensive Exam Committee, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2021  
Member, Public Law Comprehensive Exam Committee, 2017, 2018, 2020

**Professional Service**

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**American Political Science Association**

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Moderator, Law and Courts Listserv, Law and Courts Section, American Political Science Association, 2020–  
Chair, Nominations Committee, Law and Courts Section, American Political Science Association, 2020  
Member, Best Conference Paper Award Committee, Law and Courts Section, American Political Science Association, 2018  
Member, Ad Hoc Committee to Explore Endowment of Section Awards, Law and Courts Section, American Political Science Association, 2013

**Southern Political Science Association**

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Member, V.O. Key Award Committee, Southern Political Science Association, 2021

Section Chair, Judicial Politics, Southern Political Science Association, 2020.

Member, Diane Blair Award Committee, Southern Political Science Association, 2020

### **Conference Panel Service**

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Discussant, "Interbranch Politics and the Courts," Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Jan. 6–9, 2021.

Chair, "Problems and Promises: Confronting Questions of Inclusivity in Judicial Politics Research," Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Jan. 9–11, 2020.

Chair, "State of the Field: Judicial Politics Research in 2020," Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Jan. 9–11, 2020.

Chair and Discussant, "State Courts and Officials," Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Jan. 9–11, 2020.

Discussant, "State Courts," State Politics and Policy Conference, Pennsylvania State University, June 7–9, 2018.

Discussant, "Exploring Constitutional Topics," Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Jan. 12–14, 2017.

Chair and Discussant, "Groups and Interests," Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Apr. 7–10, 2016.

Discussant, "Judicial Institutions and Bureaucratic Decision Making," Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Apr. 3–6, 2014.

Chair, Roundtable, "Advances in Court–Bureaucracy Research," Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Orlando, Jan. 3–5, 2013.

Chair, "Dissertation Mini Conference: Judicial Politics in the U.S.," Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Orlando, Jan. 3–5, 2013.

Chair and Discussant, "The U.S. Supreme Court," Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Orlando, Jan. 3–5, 2013.

Discussant, "Judicial Decision Making in Comparative Context," Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Apr. 12–15, 2012.

Discussant, "Advances in Measurement and Pond Crossing," Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Jan. 12–14, 2012.

Discussant, "Decisionmaking on State Supreme Courts," Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, Jan. 12–14, 2012.

## Reviewer

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### Peer-Reviewed Journals

- *American Journal of Political Science*
- *American Politics Research*
- *American Review of Politics*
- *Journal of Economics and Politics*
- *Journal of Politics*
- *Journal of Law and Courts*
- *Justice System Journal*
- *Law & Policy*
- *Law & Society Review*
- *Policy & Politics*
- *Policy Studies Journal*
- *Political Analysis*
- *Political Research Quarterly*
- *Politics & Policy*
- *Politics, Groups, and Identities*
- *Research and Politics*
- *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*

### Grant Agencies

- National Science Foundation

### Academic Presses

- University of California Press
- Oxford University Press
- Pearson
- Sage Press

- Westview Press

## **References**

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Available upon request.