

ABIGAIL L. HELLER

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EDUCATION

Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Ph.D. in Political Science

May 2021

M.A. in Political Science

August 2018

- Honors: Laney Fellowship (2014–2020); Professional Development Support Research Grant (2018)

London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE), London, UK

M.Sc. in Politics and Government in the European Union with Merit

November 2013

Franklin and Marshall College (F&M), Lancaster, PA

B.A. in Government with Departmental Honors (*magna cum laude*)

May 2012

- Honors: Arthur King Kunkel Prize in Government for Excellence as Demonstrated by Independent Research (2012); F&M Marshall Scholar (2008–2012); Hackman Fellow (2011); F&M Marshall Grant (2011)

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Emory University, Atlanta, GA

Woodruff Library Research & Engagement Graduate Fellow

2020–present

- Conducted analysis of use & cost-effectiveness of Emory journal packages (in R & Excel)
- Produced written & verbal reports regarding Emory journal packages
- Conducted analysis & comparison of online academic publication databases
- Provided data manipulation (merging & cleaning) & analysis (R & Excel) for multiple projects

Teaching Assistant

2016–2020

- Provided teaching assistance for 1 graduate (Causal Inference) & 2 undergraduate (Introduction to International Relations & Principles of Political Science) classes
- Led discussion sections (supplemental required classes) & held weekly office hours
- Assisted with assignment/exam design & grading

Co-Instructor

2018

- Collaborated with co-instructor to plan East European Politics (undergraduate) course, design assignments & exams, & grade papers
- Designed & delivered instruction/lectures for approximately one fourth of the classes

Emory University & The Carter Center, Atlanta, GA

Election Monitoring (ELMO) Initiative Graduate Fellow

2018–2019

- Reviewed & updated standardized election observation survey forms & codebook
- Presented election observation survey recommendations to senior staff in 4 meetings
- Conducted individual consultations with 3 Democracy Program Associate Directors to understand election observation survey needs & concerns
- Designed & led 4 workshops on use of ELMO/NEMO data collection tool
- Explored feasibility of standardized mission reports & data analysis protocols (with R Markdown)
- Began design of an R Shiny app to simplify election observation mission budgeting process

SELECTED RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation Research

“Public Support for Electoral Reform: The Role of Electoral System Experience” (Accepted at *Electoral Studies*)

- Developed original theory predicting causal relationship between experience with different electoral systems & support for electoral reform (i.e., electoral system change)
- Merged, cleaned, & manipulated ≈ 30 years of survey data to test the theory
- Leveraged causal inference techniques (difference-in-differences) to analyze the data in R

“The Battle over Gerrymandered Districts: How Americans Balance Fairness and Partisanship”

- Developed original theory about relationship between preferences for free & fair elections, partisanship, & elite-level ideological polarization in context of U.S. redistricting
- Designed, obtained IRB approval for, & implemented original conjoint survey experiment using MTurk & Qualtrics with $\approx 2,100$ U.S. residents to test the theory
- Analyzed survey results with variety of statistical techniques in R & Stata

“Legislating Themselves Out of Office: Electoral Reform and Parties as Non-Unitary Actors”

- Developed original theory of legislator support for electoral reform predicting compensation from party leaders for disadvantaged members
- Merged, cleaned, & manipulated historical data & compiled original data to test the theory
- Conducted quantitative statistical analysis of the data in R

Conference Presentations

American Political Science Association: 2019, 2018, 2017

Duke-Emory-Rochester Grad Student Conference: 2019

European Political Science Association: 2020 (canceled due to COVID-19)

Midwest Political Science Association: 2021, 2019, 2017

Southern Political Science Association: 2021, 2020, 2019, 2017

Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science: 2019

PUBLICATIONS

Heller, Abigail L. “Public Support for Electoral Reform: The Role of Electoral System Experience.” *Electoral Studies*. Forthcoming.

Gandhi, Jennifer and Abigail L. Heller. 2018. “Electoral Systems in Authoritarian States.” In *Oxford Handbook of Electoral Systems*, Erik S. Herron, Robert J. Pekkanen, and Matthew Soberg Shugart (eds.). Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Heller, Abigail L. 2012. “Duverger’s Law and the Case of Great Britain.” *Journal of Undergraduate International Studies* 13: 10–22.

TRAINING & SKILLS

Training & Experience: Quantitative methods (4-course sequence covering descriptive & inferential statistics), qualitative methods (including interviews), pedagogical training

Programming Languages: R (advanced, including Shiny & R Markdown), Python (basic)

Software: Stata (advanced), LaTeX (advanced), Microsoft Office Suite (advanced)

Language: English (native), Spanish (basic reading/speaking)