

LAUREN PRATHER  
CURRICULUM VITAE

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## Appointments and Affiliations

SCHOOL OF GLOBAL POLICY AND STRATEGY, UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, SAN DIEGO

Associate Professor of Political Science, 2022-  
Co-Director, Center for Transparent and Trusted Elections, 2025-  
International Advisory Board, Electoral Integrity Project, 2022-  
Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2015-2022

## Education

PH.D., POLITICAL SCIENCE, STANFORD UNIVERSITY, JUNE 2015

B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE (HON.), B.A. FRENCH (HON.), UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS, MAY 2006

## Research

### BOOK

*Monitors and Meddlers: How Foreign Actors Influence Local Trust in Elections*, 2022, Cambridge University Press. (with Sarah S. Bush)

Winner Best Book (2022-2023), APSA Foreign Policy Section

Reviewed in H-Diplo ISSF Roundtable, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, *International Studies Review*, *International Affairs*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Choice*, and New Books Network Podcast

### ARTICLES

19. "After Zombies Attack: How Low-Quality Monitors Affect Credible International Election Observers." Forthcoming. *International Studies Quarterly*. (with Sarah Bush and Christina Cottiero)
18. "Who Supports Hostage Recovery? Explaining Individual Variation in American Support for Bringing Hostages Home." Forthcoming. *European Journal of International Studies*. (with Danielle Gilbert)

17. “Communicating with voters to build trust in the US election system.” 2025. *Journal of Election Administration, Research & Practice*, 57-62. (with Olivier Bergeron-Boutin, Katherine Clayton, Thad Kousser, and Brendan Nyhan)
16. “When Hearts Meet Minds: Complementary Effects of Perspective-Getting and Information on Refugee Inclusion.” 2025. *Political Science Research and Methods*. (with Claire Adida, Adeline Lo, Melina Platas, and Scott Williamson)
15. “Illiberal Regimes and International Organizations.” 2024. *Review of International Organizations*, 20, 231-259. (with Christina Cottiero, Emilie Hafner-Burton, Stephen Haggard, and Christina Schneider)
14. “Zombies Ahead: Explaining the Rise of Low-Quality Election Monitoring.” 2024. *Review of International Organizations*, 20, 261-291. (with Sarah Bush and Christina Cottiero)
13. “Ideology at the Water’s Edge: Explaining Variation in Foreign Aid Support.” 2024. *World Development*, Vol. 176.
12. “Refugees to the Rescue? Motivating Pro-Refugee Public Engagement During the COVID-19 Pandemic.” 2022. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, 9(3), 281-295. (with Claire Adida, Adeline Lo, and Scott Williamson)
11. “Increasing Immigrant Inclusion: Family History, Empathy, and Immigration in the United States.” 2021. *American Political Science Review*, 115(2), 686–693. (with Scott Williamson, Claire Adida, Adeline Lo, Melina Platas, and Seth Werfel)
10. “Foreign Meddling and Mass Attitudes toward International Economic Engagement.” 2020. *International Organization*, 74(3), 584–609. (with Sarah S. Bush)
9. “Transnational Ties and Support for Foreign Aid.” 2020. *International Studies Quarterly*, 64(1), 120–132.
8. “Selling International Law Enforcement: Elite Justifications and Public Values.” 2020. *Research & Politics*, 7(3), 1–7. (with Melissa Lee)
7. “Islam, Gender Segregation, and Political Engagement: Evidence from an experiment in Tunisia.” 2020. *Political Science Research and Methods*, 1–17 (with Sarah S. Bush)
6. “Do Electronic Devices in Face-to-Face Interviews Change Survey Behavior? Evidence from a Developing Country” 2019. *Research & Politics*, 6(2), 1–7. (with Sarah S. Bush)
5. “Who’s There? Election Observer Identity and the Local Credibility of Elections.” 2018. *International Organization*, 72(3), 659–692. (with Sarah S. Bush)
4. “Preferences for Domestic Action Over International Transfers in Global Climate Policy.” 2018. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, 5(2), 73–87. (with Mark Buntaine)
3. “The Promise and Limits of Election Observers in Building Election Credibility.” 2017. *The Journal of Politics*, 79(3), 921–935. (with Sarah S. Bush)
2. “The Effects of Authoritarian Iconography: An Experimental Test.” 2016. *Comparative Political Studies*, 49(13), 1704–1738. (with Sarah S. Bush, Aaron Erlich, and Yael Zeira)
1. “Enfranchising Displaced Voters: Lessons from Bosnia-Herzegovina.” 2007. *Election Law Journal*, 6(4): 354–371. (with Erik S. Herron)

## WHITE PAPERS

“Communicating with Voters to Build Trust in the System.” 2023. MIT Election Lab Mapping Election Administration and Election Science. (with Olivier Bergeron-Boutin, Katherine Clayton, Thad Kousser, and Brenden Nyhan)

## SUBMITTED

“Blaming the Victim: Hostage Deservingness and the Politics of Hostage Recovery” (with Danielle Gilbert)

## WORKING PAPERS &amp; WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Liberal Language, Illiberal Agenda: The Strategic Framing of Foreign Agent Laws” (with Sarah Bush)

“Election Monitor Access and Citizens’ Trust in U.S. Elections” (with Sarah Bush)

“Trust the Process: How Election Facility Tours Increase Trust in Elections” (with Thad Kousser and Stephen Richer)

“Wrongful Detention, Right Response: The Domestic Politics of Hostage Diplomacy” (with Danielle Gilbert)

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Healthy democracy requires trust – these 3 things could start to restore voters’ declining faith in US elections” December 1, 2022. *The Conversation*. (with Sarah Bush)

“Americans see Afghan and Ukrainian refugees very differently. Why?” 2022. The Monkey Cage on WashingtonPost.com, April 29. (with Claire Adida, Adeline Lo, Melina Platas, and Scott Williamson)

“When Americans recall their roots, they open up to immigration.” March 16, 2021. *The Conversation*. (with Claire Adida, Adeline Lo, Melina Platas, and Scott Williamson)

“Why Trump’s alleged comments about soldiers brought so much outrage.” 2020. The Monkey Cage on WashingtonPost.com, September 12. (with Danielle Gilbert)

“How do Americans react when warned that other countries are meddling in U.S. elections?” 2020. The Monkey Cage on WashingtonPost.com, August 21. (with Sarah Bush)

“Lessons from Results-Blind Review.” 2018. *The Political Economist* (APSA Political Economy Newsletter) 14(1): 10-13. (with Sarah S. Bush, Aaron Erlich, and Yael Zeira)

“Should the U.S. give cash or food to the Philippines?” 2013. The Monkey Cage on WashingtonPost.com, November 18.

## Grants

Election Trust Initiative, 2025 (\$2,500,000) with Thad Kousser

States United Democracy Center, 2024 (\$10,000) with Sarah Bush

MIT Election Lab, 2024 (\$51,415)

UCSD Senate Research Grant, 2024 (\$15,000)

Public Agenda, 2024 (\$46,067) with Sarah Bush

Smith Richardson Foundation, 2020 (\$175,000) with Christina Cottiero, Stephan Haggard, and Christina Schneider

UCSD Hellman Fellow, 2018 (\$46,500)

MIT Election Lab New Initiatives Grant, 2018 (\$10,530) with Sarah S. Bush

Princeton University Center for Human Values, 2015 (\$91,000) with Melissa Lee

*Comparative Political Studies* Transparency Special Issue Research Grant, 2015 (\$11,000) with Sarah Bush, Aaron Erlich, and Yael Zeira

National Science Foundation, RAPID Award, 2014 (\$74,816) with Sarah S. Bush

The Mamdouha S. Bobst Center, Princeton University, 2014 (\$10,000) with Sarah S. Bush

Project on Middle East Political Science TRE Grant, 2014 (\$3,000) with Aaron Erlich

The Europe Center at Stanford University, Research Grant, 2013 (\$5,000)

Graduate Research Opportunity Award, Stanford University, 2013 (\$3,550)

Center for African Studies at Stanford University, Research Grant, 2011 (\$1,500)

The Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies at Stanford University, Research Grant, 2011 (\$4,000)

## Invited Presentations and Workshops

2024-2025

Election Trust Research Group, Virtual, July 2024; National Association of Election Officials 39th Annual Conference, Detroit, September 2024; Behavioral Conflict Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis, October 2024; Trust in Elections Convergent Research Symposium, Virtual, February 2025; Election Trust Research Convening, UCSD, March 2025; Public Solutions R&D Convening, Harvard Kennedy School, June 2025.

## 2023-2024

Mapping Election Administration & Election Science, MIT, Sept 2023 & Feb 2024; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Sept 2023; EGAP Democracy, Conflict, & Polarization Priority Theme Meeting, ITAM, Oct 2023; Answering Lawmaker's Elections Questions, National Conference of State Legislatures, Austin Tx., December 2023; National Association of Election Officials/Election Center Workshop, February 2024; Subsystems and Complex Governance in World Politics, Watson Institute, Brown University, February 2024; Political Economy Workshop, University of Michigan, March 2024; Workshop on International Politics, University of Chicago, March 2024

## 2022-2023

ESOC Annual Meeting, UC Berkeley, Oct 2022; EGAP Democracy, Conflict, & Polarization Priority Theme Meeting, Cornell University, Oct 2022; Burkle Center Book Talk, UCLA, April 2023; International Relations Speaker Series, UC Davis, April 2023

## 2021-2022

Interfering from Afar: Foreign Interference in Elections Around the Globe Seminar, Electoral Integrity Project, September 2021; International Relations Seminar, University of British Columbia, January 2022; Overcoming Prejudice Against Immigrant Minorities: What Works and What Doesn't?, University of Pennsylvania, April 2022

## 2020-2021

Domestic Polarization and U.S. Foreign Policy Workshop, Heidelberg University Center for American Studies, Heidelberg, Germany, November 2020; Weidenbaum Center Frontiers Workshop on Political Violence, Washington University in St. Louis, February 2021; International Relations Workshop, New York University, April 2021; Comparative Politics and International Relations Workshop, University of Georgia, April 2021; Resistance and Opposition to Liberal International Institutions Workshop, University of Chicago, May 2021

## 2019-2020

MIRTH IR Colloquium, University of California, Berkeley, September 2019; Comparative Politics and International Relations Workshop, University of Georgia, April 2021; International Politics Seminar, Columbia University, October 2019

## 2018-2019

United States Institute of Peace, Washington D.C., August 2018; Peter D. Watson Center for Conflict and Cooperation Seminar, University of Rochester, September 2018; International Relations Colloquium, University of Wisconsin, December 2018; International Relations Colloquium, University of Minnesota, December 2018; New Perspectives Speaker Series, Center for International Studies, University of Southern California, January 2019; Public Opinion and Foreign Aid Workshop, University of Geneva, February 2019; EGAP 25, George Washington University, February 2019

## 2017-2018

Conference on Statehood and the International System, Princeton University, February 2018;  
Empirical Study of Gender Research Network, Vanderbilt University, May 2018

## 2016-2017

International Relations Workshop, UCLA, February 2017; International Methods Colloquium  
Virtual Presentation, March 2017; Workshop on Experiments in Foreign Aid Research, Washing-  
ton D.C., April 2017; International Politics Young Scholars Conference, Christopher H. Browne  
Center for International Politics, University of Pennsylvania, May 2017

## 2015-2016

Electoral Integrity Project Pre-APSA Workshop on “What Works? Strengthening Electoral  
Integrity”, American Political Science Association, August 2015; International Conference on  
Women’s Political Participation in the Developing World, NYU Abu Dhabi, March 2016; UC  
Conference on International Cooperation, UCLA, March 2016; Conference on Voting, Elections,  
and Electoral Systems, University of Washington, April 2016; AALIMS Conference on Political  
Economy of Islam and Muslim Society, Stanford University, April 2016; Conference on Interna-  
tional Law, International Norms, and Public Opinion, Princeton University, April 2016; Inter-  
national Relations Workshop, UC, Santa Barbara, May 2016; Ethics and Experimental Political  
Science Workshop, University of West Virginia, May 2016

## 2014-2015

Innovations in International Relations Pre-APSA Workshop, George Washington University, Au-  
gust 2014; International Relations Workshop, Stanford University, Feb. 2015; Experimental  
Political Science Conference, New York University, March 2015; Toward Common Indicators for  
Democratic Elections, The Carter Center and Emory University, April 2015; Center for Democ-  
racy, Development, and the Rule of Law Workshop, Stanford University, May 2015; Richard  
Wesley Conference on Environmental Politics and Governance, University of Washington, May  
2015

## 2013-2014

Winter Experimental Social Sciences Institute, NYU Abu Dhabi, Jan. 2014; International Re-  
lations Workshop, Stanford University, Feb. 2014; Comparative Approaches to the Study of  
Immigration, Ethnicity, and Religion Workshop, Stanford University, May 2014; Graduate Stu-  
dent Workshop on the European Union, University of Colorado, May 2014; Philanthropy and  
Civil Society Workshop, Stanford University, May 2014

## 2012-2013

Conference on Field Experiments in International Relations, Park City, UT. Sept. 2012; Work-  
shop on The EU and Democracy Promotion, University of California - Berkeley, Feb. 2013

## Fellowships

Electoral Integrity Project, Senior Fellow, 2022

UCSD Hellman Fellow, 2018

Policy Engagement Fellow, Bridging the Gap Project, 2017

International Policy Summer Institute, Bridging the Gap Project, American University, 2016

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship Program, 2012-2015

## Conference Presentations

**American Political Science Association:** Paper 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023

**International Studies Association:** Paper 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021

**International Political Economy Society:** Paper 2013, 2015 (Virtual), 2017

**Midwest Political Science Association:** Paper 2011, 2013, 2014, 2015

**Peace Science:** Paper 2016, 2019

**Visions in Methodology:** Paper 2016

## Field Experience

Surveys carried out in Australia, China, France, Georgia, Norway, Sweden, the UAE, the United Kingdom, the United States, Tunisia.

## Teaching

### COURSES

**Political Economy of Foreign Aid**

**Public Opinion and Foreign Policy**

**International Politics and Security**

### PH.D. COMMITTEES

**Shannon Carcelli** (Assistant Professor, University of Maryland)

**Joonhyuk Chung** (current, co-chair)

**Alexandra Lange** (Private sector)

**Heidi McNamara** (Private sector)

**Brandon Merrell** (Assistant Professor, University of Arkansas)

**Kennedy Middleton** (current)

**Kristy Pathakis** (Assistant Professor, Texas A&M)

**Nick Smith** (current)

**Rachel Yu** (current)

## Departmental Service

International Relations Search Committee, 2023

Admissions Committee, 2023

21C India Center Director Search Committee, 2022

Project on International Affairs speaker series organizer, 2016-2022

Cultural Inclusion Committee, 2017-2021

Public Policy Search Committee, 2017

## Professional Service

Reviewer for *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Review*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Environmental Economics and Management*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Communication*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Political Science Research & Methods*, *Research & Politics*, *Review of International Organizations*, and *Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences*.

## Public Policy Service

Policy volunteer, Biden for President campaign, 2020