

Rachel Augustine Potter

CONTACT INFORMATION

S384 Gibson Hall
1540 Jefferson Park Avenue
P.O. Box 400787
Charlottesville, VA 22904

Phone: 434.924.3614
E-mail: rapotter@virginia.edu
Website: <http://www.augustinepotter.com/>

APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, University of Virginia, 2014–present
Fellow, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, Princeton University, 2018–19

EDUCATION

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Ph.D., Political Science & Public Policy, 2014

Dissertation: “Writing the Rules of the Game: The Strategic Logic of Agency Rulemaking”

Awards: APSA E.E. Schattschneider Award for the best dissertation in American politics,
APSA Mancur Olson Award for the best dissertation in political economy, APSA George C.
Edwards III Award for the best dissertation in presidency research

University of Southern California, Price School of Public Policy, Los Angeles, California

M.P.P., Public Policy, 2005

Boston College, Chestnut Hill, Massachusetts

B.A., Communication, 2001

Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

BOOK

Bending the Rules: Procedural Politicking in the Bureaucracy
University of Chicago Press, 2019.

Featured in: The University of Chicago Law Review Online, New Books in Political Science
podcast, *Extensions*: A Journal of the Carl Albert Congressional Research Studies Center,
APSA 2019 Author Meets Critics Roundtable, Science of Politics podcast

Reviewed in: *American Review of Public Administration*, *Gestión y Política Pública*, *Congress
& the Presidency*, *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Public
Administration Research and Theory*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Science Quarterly*,
Presidential Studies Quarterly, *Regulation* magazine, *Yale Journal on Regulation* (symposium
feature)

Awards: 2019 APSA-IPSA Theodore J. Lowi Award for the best first book in any field of
political science, 2019 APSA Richard E. Neustadt Award for the best book on executive
politics, 2020 National Academy of Public Administration Louis Brownlow Award for the
best book on public administration

ARTICLES

“A Female Policy Premium? Agency Context and Women’s Leadership in the U.S. Federal Bureau-
cracy” (with Craig Volden). *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. Forthcoming.

“Congressional Oversight Revisited: Politics and Procedure in Agency Rulemaking.” (with Kenneth Lowande). *Journal of Politics*. Forthcoming.

“Providing Political Guidance? Agency Politicization and ‘As If’ Policymaking.” 2020. *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* 1(1): 1-26 (lead article, inaugural issue).

“Continuity Trumps Change: The First Year of Trump’s Administrative Presidency.” (with Andrew Rudalevige, Sharece Thrower, and Adam Warber). 2019. *PS: Political Science & Politics* 52(4): 613-619 (lead article).

“Agency Rulemaking in a Separation of Powers System.” (with Charles R. Shipan). 2019. *Journal of Public Policy* 39(1): 89-113.

“Slow-Rolling, Fast-Tracking, and the Pace of Bureaucratic Decisions in Rulemaking.” 2017. *Journal of Politics* 79(3):841-855

Winner of the 2017 Kenneth J. Meier Award for the Best Paper in Bureaucratic Politics, Public Administration, or Public Policy, MPSA

“Organizational Capacity, Regulatory Review, and the Limits of Political Control.” (with Alex Bolton and Sharece Thrower). 2016. *Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization* 32(2): 242-271.

“The Limits of Foreign Aid Diplomacy: How Bureaucratic Design Shapes Aid Distribution.” (with Vincent Arel-Bundock and James Atkinson), 2015. *International Studies Quarterly* 59(3): 544-556.

BOOK CHAPTER

“Learning from Failure: A ‘Failure CV’ for the Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs” chapter for edited volume *Executive Policymaking: The Role of the OMB in the Presidency*, Meena Bose and Andrew Rudalevige (eds.) Brookings Institution Press. Forthcoming.

SELECTED WORK IN PROGRESS

“Macro Outsourcing: Evaluating Government Reliance on the Private Sector.” *Revise and resubmit* at the *Journal of Politics*.

“Buying Evidence? Government Research as a Presidential Prerogative.” *Working paper*.

“Show me the Evidence: Committee Reports, Research, and Congressional Lawmaking.” *Data collection stage*.

“The Political Consequences of Bureaucratic Professionalism” (with Jeffrey Harden and Srinivas Parinandi). *Grant application stage*.

“Everyone Likes Butter: Continuity and Change in Trump’s Administrative Presidency” (with Andrew Rudalevige, Sharece Thrower, and Adam Warber). *Working paper*.

BOOK REVIEWS

“Review of *Incomprehensible!* by Wendy Wagner (with Will Walker),” 2020. *The Regulatory Review*, March 31.

“Review of *Obama on the Home Front* by John D. Graham,” 2020. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*. 50(1): 223-224.

“Review of *The Government Industrial Complex* by Paul C. Light,” 2020. *Congress & the Presidency*. 47(1): 144-145.

OTHER WRITING

“How Trump Uses a Crisis: Repeal Rules While Nobody is Looking” *PostEverything, Washington Post*, June 9, 2020.

“Keep Calm and Regulate On?” Brookings Institution, Center on Regulation and Markets, May 19, 2020.

“Member Comments: The Other (Less Visible) Way Congress Oversees Rulemaking” Brookings Institution, Center on Regulation and Markets, November 21, 2019.

“The Trump Administration’s Regulatory Corner-Cutting isn’t Just Bad for Democracy—it’s a Bad Strategy” Brookings Institution, Center on Regulation and Markets, November 20, 2018.

“Regulatory Lobbying has Increased under the Trump Administration, but the Groups Doing the Lobbying May Surprise You.” Brookings Institution, Center on Regulation and Markets, July 11, 2018.

“More than Spam? Lobbying the EPA through Public Comment Campaigns.” Brookings Institution, Center on Regulation and Markets, Nov. 29, 2017.

“How the Trump Administration can use Benefit Cost Analysis to Justify Deregulation.” Brookings Institution, Center on Regulation and Markets, Aug. 1, 2017.

“Why Trump Can’t Undo the Regulatory State so Easily.” Brookings Institution, Center on Regulation and Markets, Feb. 6, 2017.

“Information Collection Budget of the United States Government.” 2007. U.S. Office of Management and Budget. (Coauthored).

“Foundations for Los Angeles? The Scale, Scope and Reach of Foundation Philanthropy in Los Angeles County.” 2006. Center on Philanthropy and Public Policy (CPPP), CPPP Series 6(1). University of Southern California (with James Ferris and Michael Tuerpe).

“Homeland Security: Further Action Needed to Promote Successful Use of Special DHS Acquisition Authority.” 2004. U.S. Government Accountability Office. GAO 05-136. (Coauthored).

HONORS &
AWARDS

Invited Testimony, House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, Jan 2020

Theodore J. Lowi Award for the best first book in any field of political science, APSA-IPSA, 2020

Richard E. Neustadt Award for the best book on executive politics, APSA, 2020

Kenneth J. Meier Award for the Best Paper in Bureaucratic Politics, Public Administration, or Public Policy, MPSA, 2017

E.E. Schattschneider Award for the Best Dissertation in American Government, APSA, 2016

Mancur Olson Award for the Best Dissertation in Political Economy, APSA Political Economy Section, 2016

George C. Edwards III Award for the Best Dissertation in Presidency Research, APSA Presidency and Executive Politics Section, 2016

David Naveh Founders Award for the Best Graduate Student Paper, APSA Presidency and Executive Politics Section, 2013

Special Achievement Award, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs, 2006

Graduate Commencement Speaker, USC School of Policy, Planning & Development, Spring 2005

USC Dean’s Certificate of Merit for Academic Excellence, 2005

Boston College Arts and Sciences Honors Program, 1997 -2001

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS Quantitative Collaborative Seed Grant (with Chinnu Parinandi & Jeff Harden) (\$10,000), 2019
Bankard Fund for Political Economy Grant (\$30,000), 2016
University of Virginia, Summer Research Award (\$5,000): 2015, 2016, 2018
University of Michigan, Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship (university-wide competition), 2013–14
Gerald R. Ford Dissertation Research Grant (\$3,800), 2013
Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy, Horowitz Foundation Research Grant (\$7,500), 2012
University of Michigan, Faculty Women’s Club Scholarship, 2012
University of Michigan, Rackham Precandidate Research Grant (\$1,500), 2011
University of Michigan, Ford School Fellowship: 2011–12, 2012–13
University of Michigan, Rackham Regents Fellowship, 2009–10
Princeton University, Ph.D. Fellowship, 2008–09
Robert Bosch Foundation Fellowship (nationwide competition), 2007–08
U.S. Presidential Management Fellowship (nationwide competition), 2005–07
USC Dean’s Merit Scholarship (full tuition support), 2003–05
Military Officers’ Association of America Scholarship, 1997–01

OTHER TRAINING Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM)
NSF Funding Recipient, University of California at Berkeley, 2013

Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)
Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, 2009

AFFILIATIONS Affiliated Scholar, Regulatory Studies Center at George Washington University, 2014–present
Affiliated Scholar, Scholars Strategy Network, 2016–present
Contributor, Center for the Study of Regulation and Markets, Brookings Institution, 2017–present

COURSES OFFERED PLAP 3500, Presidential Power: F 2020
LPPP 7559, Influencing Public Policy: Sp 2020
PLAP 3610, Introduction to Public Administration: Sp 2015, F 2015, F 2016, Sp 2017
PLAP 7000, American Politics Core Seminar: F 2019, F 2020
PLAP 7010, American Political Institutions: F 2014, Sp 2016, Sp 2018, Sp 2020
PLAD 8220, Graduate Professional Development Seminar: Sp 2018
PLAP 4500, Polarization and Inequality: F 2015, F 2016, Sp 2017
PLAP 4500, Contemporary Issues in American Politics: F 2014
PS 300, Contemporary Issues in American Politics, Sp 2012 (University of Michigan)

PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS American Political Science Association: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2018, 2019
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, 2013
Midwest Political Science Association: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019
Southern Political Science Association: 2016
Empirical Rulemaking Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison, Feb 2015
National Capital Area Political Science Ass’n Workshop, George Washington University, Jan 2016
Quantitative Collaborative, University of Virginia, March 2016
Separation of Powers Conference, University of Georgia, Feb 2016
New Developments in Presidential & Executive Politics, Vanderbilt University, June 2018
OMB Symposium Conference, Hofstra University, April 2019
Visions in Methodology Conference, University of Georgia, May 2019
Executive Politics Conference, Ohio State University, June 2019
Political Economy & Public Law Conference, Princeton University, June 2019
Conference on Cultural Influences on Regulatory Capture, SSRC, Dec 2019

Texas A&M University, Jan 2016
 Princeton University, April 2016
 Emory University, Sept 2016
 Georgetown University, Dec 2016
 Vanderbilt University, April 2018
 University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, April 2018
 Princeton University, Nov 2018
 University of Chicago Law School, Feb 2019
 Regulatory Studies Center at George Washington University (book launch event), May 2019
 Quantitative Collaborative, University of Virginia, Sept. 2019
 University of Southern California, Oct. 2019
 Columbia University, Dec. 2019
 University of Virginia Law School, Law & Economics Colloquium, Mar 2020 (virtual)
 University of California at Berkeley, Oct 2020 (virtual)
 Yale University, Sept 2020 (virtual)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE **Federal Interior Ministry** (Bundesministerium des Innern), Berlin, Germany
Robert Bosch Fellow 2007–08

White House Office of Management and Budget, Office of Information and Regulatory Affairs (OIRA), Washington, D.C.
Policy Analyst 2005–07

U.S. Government Accountability Office, Washington, D.C.
Graduate Intern 2004

STUDENTS SUPERVISED Andrew Clarke (Dissertation committee member, Placement: Lafayette College)
 Kenneth Lowande (Dissertation committee member, Placement: University of Michigan)
 Alex Pennington (First reader, MA thesis)
 Taylor Pokrant (First reader, MA thesis)

DEPARTMENTAL & UNIVERSITY SERVICE Ad hoc Chair Search Committee, College of Arts & Sciences: 2016, 2020
 Member, Chair’s Advisory Committee, UVA Politics department, 2015–17, 2019–21
 Member, American Politics Search Committee, UVA Politics department, 2017–18
 Member, UVA Graduate Admissions Committee, 2015–16
 Co-Chair, Interdisciplinary Workshop on American Politics, University of Michigan, 2012–13
 Member, Ford School Ph.D. Admissions Committee, 2012–13
 Co-President, Graduate Association of Political Scientists, University of Michigan, 2010–11

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION Member, Editorial Board, *Journal of Politics*, 2019-present
 Member, Founders Award for Best Graduate Paper Committee, PEP Section, APSA, 2019-20
 Chair, Kenneth J. Meier Paper Award Committee, MPSA, 2019-20
 Chair, Public Administration Section, SPSA, 2019-20
 Member, Excellence in Mentoring Award Committee, Public Policy Section, APSA, 2018-19
 Program Director, Midwest Public Administration Caucus, MPSA, 2018-19
 Member, APSA President & Executive Politics Steering Committee, 2016-present
 Member, MPSA Herbert Simon Career Award Committee, 2015–16
 Member, APSA Neustadt Book Award Committee for best book on the presidency, 2014–15

Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Congress & the Presidency, Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Politics, Journal of Public Administration Research & Theory, Journal of Public Policy, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Perspectives on Politics, Policy Studies Journal, Political Science Research and Methods, Presidential Studies Quarterly, Public Administration Quarterly, Regulation & Governance, Social Choice and Welfare*

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