

THESSALIA (LIA) MERIVAKI

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Political Science & Public Administration

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RESEARCH &
TEACHING
INTERESTS

Election Sciences
Election Administration
Voting Rights

Political Behavior
Data Transparency
Political Methodology

ACADEMIC
POSITIONS

Mississippi State University
Assistant Professor
Department of Political Science & Public Administration

2017-present

University of South Florida, St. Petersburg
Visiting Assistant Professor
Department of History & Politics

2016-2017

EDUCATION

University of Florida
Ph.D., Political Science
- Fields: American Politics - Political Methodology – Public Policy

2016

University of Florida
M.A., Political Science/Political Campaigning

2011

University of Sheffield, UK
M.A., International Studies

2008

University of Macedonia, Greece
B.A., Politics and Diplomacy

2006

PEER-REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS

1. Merivaki, Thessalia and Mara Suttman-Lea. *Forthcoming*. “Designing Voter Education: State Responses to the Help America Vote Act.” *Election Law Journal*.
2. Merivaki, Thessalia. *Forthcoming*. “Making National Voter Registration Day a Course Assignment.” *PS: Political Science and Politics*.
3. Derek Willis, Thessalia Merivaki and Ioannis Ziogas. 2021. “Election Data Transparency: Obtaining Precinct-Level Election Returns.” *Public Integrity*. Online First.

4. Merivaki, Thessalia. 2020. "Who is Left Out? Validating Voter Registration Applications." *American Politics Research* 48(6): 682-686.
5. Merivaki, Thessalia. 2020. "Our Voter Rolls Are Better Than Yours: Investigating Voter List Maintenance Practices in Mississippi." *American Politics Research* 48(5): 560-570.
6. Merivaki, Thessalia and Daniel A. Smith. 2020. "A Failsafe for Voters? Cast and Rejected Provisional Ballots in North Carolina." *Political Research Quarterly* 73(1): 65-78.
7. Merivaki, Thessalia. 2019. "Access Denied? Assessing Voter Registration Rejections in Florida," *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* 19(1): 53-82.
8. Merivaki, Thessalia and Daniel A. Smith. 2016. "Casting and Verifying Provisional Ballots in Florida," *Social Science Quarterly* 97(3): 729-747.
9. McDonald, Michael P. and Thessalia Merivaki. 2015. "Voter Turnout in Presidential Nominating Contests," *The Forum* 13(4): 597-622.

UNDER REVIEW

1. Endicott, Travis, Julie Wronski and Thessalia Merivaki. "The Paradox of the Voter Experience: Racial Differences in Support for Alternative Voting Methods." (Revise & Resubmit in *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*).
2. Mara Suttman-Lea and Thessalia Merivaki. "Can Local Election Officials Expand the Electorate? Face-to-Face, Traditional, and Social Media Outreach and Voter Registration." (Under Review in *Policy Studies*).

BOOK

1. Merivaki, Thessalia. 2021. "The Administration of Voter Registration: Expanding the Electorate Across and Within the States," Palgrave-McMillan.

BOOK
CHAPTERS

1. Merivaki, Thessalia and Daniel A. Smith. 2019. "The Challenges of Voter Registration," in Kathleen Hale and Bridgett Kind eds., *The Future of Election Administration*. Palgrave-McMillan.
2. Smith, Daniel A., Brian Amos, Carl Klarner, Daniel Maxwell, Thessalia Merivaki, and Tyler Richards. 2019. "Rigged? Assessing Election Administration in Florida's 2016 General Election," in Matthew Corrigan and Mike Binder, eds., *The 2016 Presidential Election in Florida: Ground Zero for America's New Political Revolution*. Gainesville: University Press of Florida.

3. Merivaki, Thessalia. 2016. "Initiative, Referendum, and Recall." *American Governance*, Stephen L. Schechter et al. ed. Vol. 3. Farmington Hills, Michigan: Macmillan Reference USA/Cengage Learning: 71-76.

BOOK REVIEWS

1. Merivaki, Thessalia. Electoral Integrity in America: Securing Democracy. Edited by Pippa Norris, Sarah Cameron, and Thomas Wynter. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. 280p. *Perspectives on Politics* 17, no. 2 (2019): 581-583.
2. Merivaki, Thessalia. How We Vote: Innovation in American Elections. Georgetown University Press. Forthcoming. *Political Science Quarterly*.
3. Merivaki, Thessalia. Voter Suppression in U.S. Elections: In Conversation with Kim Downs. By Stacey Abrams, Carol Anderson, Kevin M. Kruse, Heather Cox Richardson, and Heather Ann Thompson. (Athens: University of Georgia Press, 2020. Acknowledgments, introduction, bibliography. Pp. xi, 160. \$19.95, paper.). Forthcoming. *North Carolina Historical Review*.

WORK IN PROGRESS

1. Merivaki, Thessalia and Christopher Mann, "'Click Here to Register to Vote,' and Then What? Assessing the Impact of Online Voter Registration Procedures on Prospective Voters."
2. Samuel Frantz, Thessalia Merivaki, Ioannis Ziogas and Michael Baldassaro. "When Misinformation Turns Toxic: Using Machine Learning to Measure Toxicity in Social Media."
3. Thessalia Merivaki and Mara Suttman-Lea. "Educating Voters Online: Local Election Official Use of Social Media During the 2020 U.S. Presidential Election."

GRANTS

- Awarded
1. Brandeis University, Educational Network for Active Civic Transformation (ENACT) Faculty Fellowship (June 2021- Virtual). \$1,000
 2. Mississippi State University, Stennis Institute of Government Summer Grant (May 2021). \$500
 3. Mississippi State University, Center for the Humanities Research Honorarium (May 2020). \$150
 4. Scholars Strategy Network, Mississippi Student Voter Summit (May 2020- Virtual). \$6,300

5. Principal Investigator: MIT Election Data and Science Lab, New Initiatives Grant “Voter List maintenance Within a Hybrid Structure of Data Management: The Case of Mississippi” (2018-2021). \$18,000
6. Principal Investigator: MIT Election Data and Science Lab, New Initiatives Grant “Investigating Voter List Maintenance Practices in Mississippi” (2017-2019). \$5,000
7. Mississippi State University, Center for Community Engaged Learning (2018). \$1,000
8. University of South Florida, St. Petersburg, Center for Civic Engagement (2017). \$1,000

In Development

1. Co-Principal Investigator: Knight Foundation, Combatting Disinformation In Communities of Color Grant. “Evaluating Local Election Administration Responses to Minimize Information Gaps in Communities of Color.” (Co-Pi: Mara Suttman-Lea, Connecticut College). \$100,000
2. Principal Investigator: Mississippi State University, Inclusion, Diversity, Equity and Access Research Grant. “Removing Barriers to Participation Among Young Future Voters.” (Co-Pi: Lisa Bryant, Fresno State University, Ioannis Ziogas, University of Mississippi). \$15,000

CONSULTING

1. U.S. Elections Expert Study Team, The Carter Center, August 2020-.
2. Democracy Fund, September 2019-January 2020.

INVITED TALKS

1. “Systemic Risks: How to Protect our Democracies from Manipulation.” International Centre for Parliamentary Studies (ICPS), June 2, 2021.
2. “Ballot Access, Voter Fraud, and Voter Suppression: A Panel Discussion.” Jean Beer Blumenfeld Center for Ethics, Georgia State University, October 13, 2020.
3. “Voter Education and the Administration of Elections during the Pandemic.” MIT MEDSL Webinar Series, May 21, 2020.
4. “Preparing for the 2020 Election During a Pandemic,” Center for the Humanities, Mississippi State University, May 11, 2020.
5. “Voter Education and Outreach Policies Across the States: Registering the Youth to Vote,” Inclusion and Integrity in Election Administration Symposium II, Auburn University, October 11-13, 2019.

6. “Who Are Provisional Voters? Evidence From North Carolina,” Inclusion and Integrity in Election Administration Symposium, Auburn University, October 15-17, 2017.
7. “The Contributions and Conundrums of Technology: The Election Administration and Voting Survey and Data Reporting Consistency.” The Evolution of Election Administration since the VRA 1965-2015 Symposium, Auburn, September 15, 2015.
8. “Limitations of Online Voter Registration and Implications for Future Reforms,” Future of Florida: Political Action Summit, Bob Graham Center for Public Policy at the University of Florida, Gainesville, February 22, 2015.
9. “Partisanship or Electoral Politics? Casting and Verifying Provisional Ballots in Florida,” Symposium on Regulation in the U.S. States, Florida State University, Tallahassee, February 21, 2014 (with Daniel A. Smith).
10. “Selecting the Next American President,” University of Macedonia, Greece, May 17, 2010.

RESEARCH
BRIEFS, AMICUS
CURIAE &
OP-EDS

1. “Is ballot collection, or ‘ballot harvesting,’ good for democracy? We asked 5 experts,” The Conversation, March 15, 2021.
2. Amicus Curiae, *Brnovich v. Democratic National Committee*. March 2020.
3. “Ask an Expert: Election Observation in the U.S.” The Carter Center, October 19, 2020.
4. “Poll workers on Election Day will be younger- and probably more diverse- due to COVID-19,” The Conversation, September 17, 2020.
5. “Securing Fair Elections: Challenges to Voting in the United States and Georgia.” Scholars Strategy Network, December 2019 (Contributing Author).
6. “Engaging Students on National Voter Registration Day at Mississippi State University.” *Political Science Now*, *American Political Science Association*, November 19, 2019.
7. “Building Civic Engagement Capacity from The Ground: Voter Registration On College Campuses.” *Forbes*, November 4, 2019.
8. “Measuring Voter Engagement in Election Administration: How Much Do States Expect from Local Election Officials?” *MIT Election Data and Science Lab*, July 12, 2019 (with Mara Suttman-Lea).
9. “Why Those Who Register to Vote Early Can Risk Having Their Voter Registration Rejected,” London School of Economics American Politics and Policy Blog, February 27, 2019.
10. “Mississippi State is All-In: A Community-Engaged Learning Approach to Student Civic Engagement,” *Urban Affairs Forum*, October 24, 2018.

11. “Managing Voter Registration Lists the Hybrid Way: The Case of Mississippi,” *MIT Election Data and Science Lab*, July 26, 2018 (with Sean Conner).
12. “Who Votes Provisionally and Why? A Look at North Carolina’s 2016 General Election,” *MIT Election Data and Science Lab*, May 2, 2018 (with Daniel A. Smith).
13. “What Provisional Ballots Tell Us about the Remaining Challenges in America’s Local Voting Systems,” *Scholars Strategy Network Key Findings*, February 2018.
14. “The Big Cost of Using Big Data in Elections.” *The Washington Post*, October 18, 2015 (with Michael McDonald and Peter Licari).

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

1. “Can Local Election Officials Expand the Electorate? Face-to-Face, Traditional, and Social Media Outreach and Voter Registration.” Election Sciences, Research and Administration Annual Conference (with Mara Suttman-Lea). 2021 (Virtual).
2. “Can Local Election Officials Expand the Electorate? Face-to-Face, Traditional, and Social Media Outreach and Voter Registration.” Electoral Integrity Project Annual Workshop, Lisbon. 2021 (Virtual).
3. “When Misinformation Turns Toxic: Using Machine Learning to Measure Toxicity in Social Media.” (with Samuel Frantz and Ioannis Ziogas). Electoral Integrity Project Annual Workshop, Lisbon. 2021 (Virtual).
4. “Measuring the Activity of Voter Registration Drives and Their Impact on Registration Success: Evidence from Florida.” Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (Virtual). 2021.
5. “Can Voters Tell When Costs of Voting Are High? The Voting Experience in Mississippi.” Election Sciences, Research and Administration Annual Conference, Gainesville, Florida (Virtual). 2020.
6. “Our Voter Rolls Are Better Than Yours: Investigating Voter List Maintenance Practices in Mississippi.” Mississippi ASPA Chapter Conference, Starkville, MS. 2020.
7. “Click Here to Register to Vote, And Then What? Assessing the Impact of Online Voter Registration Procedures on Prospective Voters,” APSA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC. 2019
8. “Measuring Voter Engagement in Election Administration: How Much Do States Ask from Local Election Officials?” Election Sciences, Research and Administration Annual Conference, Philadelphia, PA (with Mara Suttman-Lea). 2019.
9. “Uncovering Implementation Problems in Voter Registration: The Case of Youth Preregistration in Florida,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 2019.

10. "Research Transparency in Political Science: Assessing Progress Through Analytic Replication," Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (with Ioannis Ziogas). 2019.
11. "Uncovering Implementation Problems in Voter Registration: The Case of Youth Preregistration in Florida," Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Austin, TX. 2019.
12. "Managing Voter Registration Rolls the Hybrid Way: The Case of Mississippi," Election Sciences, Research and Administration Annual Conference, Madison, WI. (with Sean Conner). 2018.
13. "Managing Voter Registration Rolls the Hybrid Way: The Case of Mississippi," State Politics and Policy Annual Conference, College Station, TX (with Sean Conner). 2018.
14. "Who are Provisional Voters? Evidence from North Carolina," Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL (with Daniel A. Smith). 2018.
15. "Tweeting with a Russian Accent: Assessing Twitter Patterns During the 2016 Presidential Election," Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL (with Ioannis Ziogas). 2018.
16. "Uncovering Implementation Problems in Voter Registration: The Case of Pre-registration in Florida," Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA. 2018.
17. "Who are Provisional Voters? Evidence from North Carolina," Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA (with Daniel A. Smith). 2018. "
18. "The Supply of Voter Registration in Florida: How and When One Registers Matters," Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA. 2017.
19. "Beyond NVRA Compliance: State Responses to the Demand for Voter Registration." State Politics and Policy Conference, Dallas, TX. 2016.
20. "Some Register Better: Assessing County Variation in Voter Registration Rates in Florida," State Politics and Policy Conference, Sacramento, CA. 2015.
21. "Who Registers? Assessing County Variation in Voter Registration Rates in Florida," Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 2015.
22. "Is 'Young' More than a Bracket: Youth Voter Participation and State Election Reforms," Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, (with Enrijeta Shino). 2015.
23. "More than a Bracket: Youth Voter Participation and State Election Reforms," Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA (with Enrijeta Shino). 2015.

24. “Explaining Voter Registration Rejections,” State Politics and Policy Conference, Bloomington, IN. 2014.
25. “Surviving the Cut: Towards a Causal Explanation of Recall Success,” Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference, Orlando, FL. 2013.
26. “Casting and Verifying Provisional Ballots in Florida,” Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference, Orlando, FL (with Daniel A. Smith). 2013.

AWARDS &
HONORS

1. *Mississippi State University* 2019
Outstanding Undergraduate Teacher Award
2. *Midwest Political Science Association* 2019
Best Paper by Emerging Scholar Award
3. *American Political Science Association* 2018
Women’s Research Mentoring Workshop Participant
4. *Mississippi State University* 2018, 2019
College of Arts & Sciences Academic Excellence Award
5. *Southern Political Science Association* 2017
Artinian Travel Award
6. *University of Florida* 2014
Bob Graham Center for Public Service, Civic Challenge Award
7. *University of Florida* 2013
Certificate of Outstanding Achievement, International Center
8. *Gerontelis Foundation* 2010
Graduate Fellowship

TEACHING

- Assistant Professor, Mississippi State University*
- Dynamics of American Democracy (Summer 2017/2020).
 - Political Behavior (Fall 2019/2021).
 - Campaign Politics (Fall 2018).
 - Election Reform/State Election Policy & Politics (Spring 2018/2019/2020/2021).
 - Chief Executive (Spring 2018/2019/2020/2021).
 - Legislative Process (Fall 2017/2018/2019/2021).

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of South Florida St. Petersburg

- American National Government (Fall 2016, Spring 2017).
- Empirical Political Analysis (Fall 2016, Spring 2017).
- Florida Politics and Government (Spring 2017).
- The American Congress (Spring 2017).
- Political Parties and Interest Groups (Fall 2016).
- The American Presidency (Fall 2019).

Instructor, University of Florida

- Current Controversies in Public Policy (Fall 2014, Spring 2016).
- European Experience (Fall 2015).
- Political Engagement Research (Summer 2014).

Teaching Assistant, University of Florida

- What is the Good Life? (Fall 2015).
- State and Local Government (Fall 2013).
- Linear Models (Graduate Course – Spring 2014).
- Political Behavior (Fall 2012).
- American Federal Government Online (Spring 2013, Summer 2014, Summer 2015, Summer 2016).

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION	1. <i>Stewards of Democracy Initiative, Early Voting Information Center (EVIC), Reed College.</i> Track Leader.	2021-
	2. <i>Election Science: NSF Convergence Accelerator Workshop.</i> Participant.	2021.
	3. <i>SCORE Project, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency.</i> Project Member.	2019-Present.
	4. <i>Southern Political Science Association (SPSA).</i> Co-Chair, Electoral Politics Section (with Judd Thornton).	2021
	5. <i>Early Voting Information Center (EVIC), Reed College</i> Local Election Official (LEO) Survey, Advisory Board Member	2020
	6. <i>Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).</i> Vice-Chair, Election Administration Leadership Section. (with Doug Chapin).	2019-2021
	7. <i>University of South Florida, St. Petersburg</i> Citizen Scholar, Center for Civic Engagement.	2016-2017

ADVISING

Mississippi State University

- Master's Thesis Committee Member (Bryan Mathison, Mary Evelyn Goodman, Tyler Daniel).
- PhD Dissertation Committee Member (Sean Conner, Brittany Gray, Daniel Tyler).
- Undergraduate Student Adviser (Katelyn Sette, Georgie Swan, Alicia Brown).
- Faculty Advisor, Mississippi State College Republicans.
- Faculty Advisor, The Hillel at Mississippi State University.
- Designated Faculty, National Study of Learning, Voting, and Engagement (NSLVE).
- Member, Voter Friendly Campus University Task Force
- Community-Engaged Learning (CCEL) Fellow.

AFFILIATIONS

Member

- American Political Science Association (APSA).
- Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA).
- Southwest Political Science Association (SPSA).
- Scholars Strategy Network (SSN).
- Network of Schools of Public Policy, Affairs and Administration (NASPAA).

Reviewer

- American Journal of Political Science.
- Electoral Studies.
- Election Law Journal.
- Political Behavior.
- American Politics Research.
- Political Research Quarterly.
- Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics.
- State Politics and Policy Quarterly.
- PS: Political Science and Politics.
- Public Integrity.