

Curriculum Vitae

February 27, 2026

1) Biographical Data

1.1) Contact

Dr. Rachael Houston
Texas Christian University
TCU Box 297021
Fort Worth, TX 76129
Website: <https://www.rachaelhouston.com/>
E-mail: r.houston@tcu.edu
Phone: 817-257-5914

1.2) Education

Ph.D. Political Science. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2022.
M.A. Political Science. University of Minnesota, Twin Cities, 2019.
B.A. Political Science and Communication. Coastal Carolina University, 2017 (*magna cum laude*).

1.3) Appointments

2022- Assistant Professor of American Judicial Politics, Department of Political Science, Texas Christian University.
2021-2022 Instructor, Department of Education, History, and Political Science, Normandale Community College.
2021 Community Faculty, Social Science Department, Metropolitan State University.

2) Scholarship

2.1) External Research Grants

3. APSA Advancing Research Grants for Early Career Scholars (\$2000). 2025. "Whose Briefs Count? Mapping Regional Influence in Healthcare Cases Before the Supreme Court" (with Christine Bird and Marcy Shieh)
2. APSA Advancing Research Grants for Early Career Scholars (\$2000). 2024. "Hard Pill to Swallow: Gendered Public Perceptions of Supreme Court Oral Arguments and Women's Reproductive Healthcare" (with Christine Bird and Marcy Shieh)
1. Center for C-SPAN Scholarship and Engagement (\$2000). 2022. "Does Greater Transparency Increase Viewership and Legitimacy? An Analysis of C-SPAN's Live Audio Broadcasts of Supreme Court Oral Argument" (with Timothy R. Johnson)

2.2) Internal Research Grants

Texas Christian University (2022-)

2. AddRan Junior Faculty Summer Research Program (\$3000). 2025. “Hard Pill to Swallow: Gendered Public Perceptions of Supreme Court Oral Arguments and Women’s Reproductive Healthcare.”
1. AddRan Junior Faculty Summer Research Program (\$6000). 2023. “A Legitimacy Crisis?: Examining Media Framing of the U.S. Supreme Court.”

University of Minnesota (2017-2022)

8. Center for the Study of Political Psychology Research Grant (\$1000)
7. Ornstein Fellowship in American Politics (\$2500)
6. Graduate Research Partnership Program (GRPP) Fellowship (\$4000)
5. Center for the Study of Political Psychology Research Grant (\$1400)
4. Marbury Efimenco Fellowship (\$400)
3. Clagget Fellowship (\$1400)
2. Center for the Study of Political Psychology Research Grant (\$1400)
1. Center for the Study of Political Psychology Pilot Grant (\$400)

2.3) Books and Edited Volumes

1. Houston, Rachael, Johnson Tim, and Ringsmuth, Eve. (2023). “[Scotus and Covid: How the Media Reacted to the Livestreaming of Supreme Court Oral Arguments.](#)” Rowman & Littlefield.

2.4) Articles and Chapters

12. Cota, Matthew T., Rachael Houston, Elizabeth Lane, and Jessica Schoenherr. 2026. “[Beyond the Front Page: Supreme Court Media Coverage in the Digital Age.](#)” *PS: Political Science & Politics*.
11. Bird, Christine, Rachael Houston, and Mary Shieh. 2025. “[Ad-Dressing the Bench: The Impact of Interest Group Ads on Partisan Perceptions of Supreme Court Confirmations.](#)” *Interest Groups & Advocacy*.
10. Bird, Christine, Rachael Houston, and Mary Shieh. 2025. “[From Ads to Action: The Influence of Interest Group Supreme Court Confirmation Advertisements on Political Engagement.](#)” *Political Research Quarterly*.
9. Houston, Rachael and Stephen Earnest. 2024. “[Defining the Modern Public Square: A Study of Federal Judicial Interpretations.](#)” *University of St. Thomas Journal of Law and Public Policy*.
8. Houston, Rachael and Eve Ringsmuth. 2024. “[Case of the Mondays: Examining Media Coverage of Oral Arguments Based on Weekday Selection.](#)” *Journal of Law and Courts*.
7. Sorenson, Maron, Rachael Houston, and Amanda Bryan. 2024. “[280 Characters of Contention: Analyzing Partisan Behavior on Twitter During Supreme Court Confirmation Processes.](#)” *Journal of Law and Courts*.
6. Houston, Rachael. 2024. “[A World Outside the Classroom: Evaluating Faculty Attitudes Toward Civic Learning and Engagement.](#)” *Journal of Political Science Education*.
5. Houston, Rachael. 2023. “[Sounding the Legitimacy Alarm Bell: How Media Outlets Frame the Legitimacy of the U.S. Supreme Court.](#)” *Touro Law Journal of Race, Gender, and Ethnicity*.

4. Houston, Rachael and Timothy R. Johnson. 2023. "[Does Greater Transparency Increase Viewership and Engagement? An Analysis of C-SPAN's Live Audio Broadcasts of Supreme Court Oral Argument.](#)" *The Year in C-SPAN Archives Research*.
3. Houston, Rachael. 2023. "[Does Anybody Really Know What Time It Is?: How the US Supreme Court Defines "Time" Using the Purcell Principle.](#)" *Nevada Law Journal*, 23(3), 5.
2. Houston, Rachael, Siyu Li, and Timothy R. Johnson. 2021. "[Learning to Speak Up: Acclimation Effects and Supreme Court Oral Argument.](#)" *Justice System Journal*. Vol. 42. #1 (February): 1-19.
1. Bryan, Amanda C., Rachael Houston, and Timothy R. Johnson. 2020. "[Taking Note: Justice Harry A. Blackmun's Observations from Oral Argument about Life, Law, and the U.S. Supreme Court.](#)" *Journal of Supreme Court History*. Vol 45 #1 (Spring): 44-65.

2.5) Encyclopedia Entries, Book Reviews, and Commentary

9. Houston, Rachael. 2024. "[Review of Rationing the Constitution by Andrew Coan.](#)" *Law and Politics Book Review*.
8. Ringsmuth, Eve, Rachael Houston, Timothy R. Johnson 2023. "[Supreme Court has not committed to a major innovation in transparency it started during the pandemic.](#)" *The Conversation*. June 23.
7. Houston, Rachael 2022. "[A Reflection on Teaching Political Participation Using TikTok.](#)" *Political Science Educator Newsletter*. Volume 26, Issue 1.
6. Houston, Rachael and Timothy R. Johnson. 2022. "[The Supreme Court and the Incorporation Doctrine.](#)" In LeMay, Michael and Al Mariam. *The Judicial System*. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO.
5. Houston, Rachael 2022. "[Review of Political Science Is for Everybody: An Introduction to Political Science.](#)" *Journal of Political Science Education*. DOI: 10.1080/15512169.2022.2078216
4. Johnson, Timothy and Rachael Houston. "[The Fourteenth Amendment, Incorporation Doctrine, and the U.S. Mexico Border States.](#)" 2021. In LeMay, Michael and Al Mariam. *The U.S. Mexico Border: A Reference Handbook*. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO.
3. Houston, Rachael. 2021. "[Constant Change at the Wisconsin Ballot Box: Voting Rights at Issue in *Luft v. Evers*.](#)" *Justice System Journal*. Vol. 42 (1): 110-112
2. Houston, Rachael. "[How Faculty Can Continue to Keep Students Democratically Engaged.](#)" 2021. *American Political Science Association's Raise the Vote Campaign* (Blog Post). January 12.
1. Houston, Rachael. "[A Roadmap for Engaging College Students in Our Nation's Elections.](#)" 2020. *American Political Science Association's Raise the Vote Campaign* (Blog Post). March 18.

2.7) Honors and Awards

Disciplinary Recognition

1. Southern Political Science Association Neal Tate Best Judicial Paper Award for "From Ads to Action: The Influence of Interest Group Supreme Court Confirmation Advertisements on Political Engagement" (2025)

Texas Christian University Recognition

2. Honors Professor of the Year Finalist (2025)

2. Honors Laureate Mentor: Alan Anderson (2025), Alyssa Deering and Kaitan Perez (2024)
1. Nominated for Clark Society Endowed Faculty Fund (2023)

2.8) Conference Presentations

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference

2. Legislation, Litigation, and Ballots: Impact of Reproductive Health Regulation, with Christine Bird and Marcy Shieh. (2025)
1. How the Media Frames Presidential Rhetoric Surrounding the Supreme Court, with Anna Fleming, Matthew Montgomery, and Natalie Rogol. (2025)

Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Conference

8. The Usual Suspects: Gender Stereotypes and Authority at the Supreme Court, with Christine Bird and Marcy Shieh. (2026)
7. From Verdict to Headlines: Exploring How the Media Shapes the Narrative of Presidential Reactions to Supreme Court Decisions, with Anna Fleming, Matthew Montgomery, and Natalie Rogol. (2025)
6. Policy Pathways: How Reproductive Health Regulations Spark Political Engagement and Trust, with Christine Bird and Marcy Shieh. (2025)
5. The Lens of Partisan Identity: Perceptions of Interest Group Advertisements on Supreme Court Confirmations, with Christine Bird and Marcy Shieh. (2024)
4. Days of Justice: Analyzing the Impact of the Weekday on Media Coverage of Supreme Court Oral Arguments, with Eve Ringsmuth. (2024)
3. The “Dark Money” Showdown: How Confirmation Advertisements Influence Public Opinion and Donation Behavior at the Supreme Court, with Christine Bird and Marcy Shieh. (2023)
2. Everybody’s Talkin’: Public Rhetoric During a Supreme Court Confirmation, with Amanda Savage. (2020)
1. Elite Perceptions of Media Reporting and Citizen Engagement in Southern City Governments, with Adam Chamberlain. (2017)

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference

5. The “Dark Money” Showdown: How Confirmation Advertisements Influence Public Opinion and Donation Behavior, with Christine Bird and Marcy Shieh. (2023)
4. Twitter Meets the Justices: Public Sentiment during Supreme Court Confirmation Processes, with Amanda Savage and Maron Sorenson. (2021)
3. Media Attention to Live-Streamed Oral Arguments: Did the Justices Really Have to Worry?, with Eve Ringsmuth and Tim Johnson. (2021)
2. Oral Arguments and the Freshman Effect on the Supreme Court, with Timothy Johnson and Siyu Lee. (2019)
1. Threat and Perceptions of Court Legitimacy. (2019)

Other Conference Presentations

4. APSA Law and Courts Brown Bag Summer Series. (2021)
3. Gulf-South Summit on Service Learning and Civic Engagement. (2021)
2. AASCU’s Civic Learning and Democratic Engagement Conference. (2020)
1. Midwest Campus Compact Conference. (2019)

2.9) Invited Talks

15. “Beyond the Merits Docket: The Rise and Reach of the Court’s Emergency Decisions” April 22, 2026. TCU Silver Frogs Program.
14. “The Battle for Public Opinion: How Interest Groups Shape Perceptions of the U.S. Supreme Court” May 5, 2025. TCU Silver Frogs Program.
13. “The Governance, Law, and Regulation of the Body” March 27, 2025. Touro University, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center.
12. “From Ads to Action: The Influence of Interest Group Supreme Court Confirmation Advertisements on Political Engagement” February 12, 2025. TCU Distinction Program.
11. “Is the Supreme Court in a Legitimacy Crisis?” October 21, 2024. Fort Worth Women’s Club.
10. “Is the Supreme Court in a Legitimacy Crisis?” March 6, 2024. TCU Distinction Program.
9. “Preserving the Pillars of Justice: Exploring the Legitimacy of the Supreme Court” February 26, 2024. TCU Silver Frogs Program.
8. “Defining the Modern Public Square: A Study of Federal Judicial Interpretations” November 17, 2023. University of St. Thomas School of Law.
7. “Streaming Justice: Exploring U.S. Supreme Court Oral Arguments for Judicial Transparency” September 15, 2023. TCU Silver Frogs Program.
6. “In the Shadows: Should the U.S. Supreme Court Be More Transparent?” April 17, 2023. TCU Silver Frogs Program.
5. “Democracy in Disrepair: Examining the Continued Legitimacy of the Supreme Court” March 15, 2023. Touro University, Jacob D. Fuchsberg Law Center.
4. “SCOTUS and COVID” February 22, 2023. TCU Distinction Program.
3. “The Future of Community Organizing.” December 9, 2021. Brown Community Organizing Initiative.
2. “How to Have Civil Discourse about Our Past, Present & Future.” April 12, 2021. #CCPVotes. Community College of Philadelphia.
1. “Expressing Partisanship and Nonpartisanship in the Classroom.” September 9, 2020. Temple Votes. Temple University.

3) Teaching and Advising

3.1) Undergraduate Courses

Texas Christian University (2022-)

7. POSC 34093 Judicial Politics
6. POSC 34013 Constitutional Law: Powers
5. POSC 34083 Constitutional Law: Rights and Liberties
4. POSC 20403 Introduction to Public Law
3. POSC 20403 Introduction to Public Law Honors
2. POSC 34043 Equality Under the Law
1. UNLF 10211 Intro to University Life

Normandale Community College (2021-2022)

1. POLS 1130 Introduction to U.S. Politics

Metropolitan State University (2021)

1. POL 333 Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties

University of Minnesota (2018-2022)

4. POL 3085 Quantitative Analysis in Political Science
3. POL 3085 Quantitative Analysis in Political Science, Fall 2021, Teaching Assistant
2. POL 4501 Constitutional Law, Fall 2018-2020, Teaching Assistant
1. POL 4502 Constitutional Law II, Spring 2019- Spring 2022, Teaching Assistant

3.2) Undergraduate Advising

Texas Christian University (2022-)

6. Honors Thesis Committee Member: Hadley Whytlaw (2026), Grace Rickey (2026)
5. Pre-Law University Advisor (2024-)
4. Advisor for Political Science Junior and Senior Majors (2022-)
3. Advisor for Political Science Student Summer Research Program (2023, 2024)
2. Advisor for AddRan Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship (2023)
1. AddRan Undergraduate Research Judge (2023, 2025)

4) Service

Service to the Discipline

9. APSA Law and Courts Lifetime Achievement Award Committee (2026)
8. APSA Outstanding Civic Engagement Project Award Committee Member (2025, 2026)
7. Reviewer for *Public Research Quarterly* (2022-), *Social Science Quarterly* (2023-), *Journal of Law and Courts* (2024-), *Justice System Journal* (2021-2022)
6. APSA Law and Courts Website Team Member (2024-)
5. APSA Law and Courts Member for Recruitment, Retention, and Equality (2022-2024)
4. APSA Law and Courts Service Award Committee (2024)
3. Chair and Discussant for SPSA Conference (2024, 2025)
2. Discussant for MPSA Conference (2019, 2020)
1. Chair and Discussant for Pi Sigma Alpha Conference (2021, 2022)

Service to Texas Christian University

University-Wide Service

2. Employee Recognition Advisory Workgroup (Exclusive Access Committee) (2025-)
1. Pre-Law University Advisor (2024-)

AddRan College of Liberal Arts Service

2. AddRan Community-Based Research and Social Change Cluster (2025-)
1. AddRan Pre-Law Institute Task Force (2026-)

Political Science Department Service

7. Minute-Taker (2025-2026)
6. Search Committee for American Judicial Politics Position (2025-2026)
5. Curriculum Committee Member (2024-2025)
4. Committee for Political Science Research Award (Senior Scholar) (2024)
3. Research and Professional Development Committee Member (2023-2024)
2. Co-Organizer for the Green Honors Chair Visit (Spring 2023)

1. Curriculum Committee Observing Member (2022-2023)

5) Additional Training and Technical Skills

8. TCU Selection Committee Training (2024)
7. TCU eFaculty 2.0 Training for Summer Online Teaching (2022)
6. ICPSR Mixed Methods Course (2020)
5. UMN Foundations of Online Teaching Course (2020)
4. R
3. Stata
2. LaTeX
1. Qualtrics

6) Related Professional Activities

4. Faculty Resources Coordinator for Campus Election Engagement Project (2019-2021)
3. Minnesota State Director for Campus Election Engagement Project (2018-2019)
2. Constituent Services Representative for the U.S. House of Representatives (2015-2016)
1. News Producer Assistant for WPDE News Channel 13 (2014-2015)

7) Professional Memberships

5. American Political Science Association (2020-)
4. Southern Political Science Association (2017-)
3. Midwest Political Science Association (2019-)
2. Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society (2017-)
1. Steering Committee Member for Faculty Network for Student Voting Rights (2019-2022)