

Ellen M. Key

Department of Government and Justice Studies
Appalachian State University
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Academic Appointments

Professor of Political Science, Appalachian State University, 2022–present.

Affiliate Faculty of Gender, Women’s, and Sexuality Studies, Appalachian State University, 2016–present.

Associate Professor of Political Science, Appalachian State University, 2018–2022.

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Appalachian State University, 2012–2018.

Education

Ph.D., Stony Brook University, Political Science, 2012.

Examination Fields: Methodology, American Politics, and Political Economy

M.A., University of Georgia, Political Science, 2007.

A.B., Georgetown University, Government and Women’s Studies, 2004.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

* *Coauthored with student*

*Myers, Madelyn R. and Ellen M. Key. 2025. “Abortion Restrictions and Patient Health: Navigating the Risks in Post-*Dobbs* America.” *Journal für Medizin- und Gesundheitsrecht* [*Journal of Medical and Health Law*] 10(2): 188-192.

Farris, Emily M., Ellen M. Key, and Jane L. Sumner. 2024. “Understanding Variation in Start-Up Funds.” *Journal of Politics* 86(4): 1597–1602.

Lebo, Matthew J., Ellen M. Key, and Michael Driggers. 2023. “Revisiting Clarke and Stewart’s (1995) Investigation of PM Approval and Vote Intentions in the UK.” *Electoral Studies* 86: 102677.

*Grogan, Matthew and Ellen M. Key. 2023. “Reproductive Healthcare in a Post-*Dobbs* United States.” *Journal für Medizin- und Gesundheitsrecht* [*Journal of Medical and Health Law*] 8(1): 67-72.

Farris, Emily M., Ellen M. Key, and Jane L. Sumner. 2023. “‘Wow, I Didn’t Know These Options Existed’: Understanding Tenure-Track Start-Up Packages.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 56(1): 75-81.

Kraft, Patrick, Ellen M. Key, and Matthew Lebo. 2022. “Hypothesis Testing with Error Correction Models.” *Political Science Research and Methods* 10(4): 870-878.

Rivero, Albert, Ellen M. Key, and Jeffrey Segal. 2022. "Invisible Constitutions: Concurring Opinions and Plurality Judgments under *Marks v. United States*." *Justice System Journal* 43(3): 323-338.

Donovan, Kathleen M., Paul Kellstedt, Ellen M. Key, and Matthew J. Lebo. 2020. "Motivated Reasoning, Public Opinion, and Presidential Approval." *Political Behavior* 42(4): 1201-1221.

Ondercin, Heather L. and Ellen M. Key. 2020. "Women's Political Involvement in the 100 Years since the 19th Amendment." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 53(3): 465-469.

Key, Ellen M. and Jane L. Sumner. 2019. "You Research Like a Girl: Gendered Research Agendas and Their Implications." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 52(4): 663-668.

Moyer, Laura and Ellen M. Key. 2018. "Political Opportunism, Position Taking, and Court-Curbing Legislation." *Justice System Journal*.

Alvarez, R. Michael, Ellen M. Key and Lucas Núñez. 2018. "Research Replication: Practical Considerations." *PS: Political Science and Politics* 51(2): 422-426.

Key, Ellen M. and Kathleen Donovan. 2017. "The Political Economy: Political Determinants of the Macroeconomy." *Political Behavior* 39(3): 763-786.

Bush, Carrie Blanchard, Ellen M. Key, and Robert Eskridge. 2016. "Assessing the Impact of City Manager Ideology on Local Expenditures." *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting, and Financial Management*. 28(2): 196-221.

Key, Ellen M. 2016. "How Are We Doing? Data Access and Replication in Political Science." *PS: Political Science and Politics*. 49(2): 268-272.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

Rivero, Albert H. and Ellen M. Key. 2024. "Congress and the Courts." in *Research Handbook of Judicial Politics*, Matthew Montgomery and Michael Fix, eds. Edward Elgar Publishing.

Donovan, Kathleen M., Paul Kellstedt, Ellen M. Key, and Matthew J. Lebo. 2023. "Weakened Ties: The Economy and Presidential Approval in the 21st Century United States." in *Economics and Politics Revisited: Executive Approval and the New Calculus of Support*, Timothy Hellwig and Matthew M. Singer, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

Eskridge, Robert and Ellen M. Key. 2017. "Elements of Trust in Municipal Government." in *Social Capital in Mexico and the United States: Reflections and Research*. Jose Luis Sergio Sosa-Gonzales and Carrie Blanchard Bush eds. Puebla, Mexico: BUAP Printing Press.

Carson, Jamie, Ellen M. Key, Gregory Koger, and Matthew J. Lebo. 2017. “The Electoral Costs of Party Loyalty in the House and Senate.” in *Strategic Party Government* by Matthew Lebo and Gregory Koger. Chicago: University of Chicago Press.

Other Publications

Lebo, Matthew and Ellen Key. 2022. “Can Americans be Shielded from the U.S. Supreme Court?” *The Conversation* 7/4/2022.

<https://theconversation.com/can-americans-be-shielded-from-the-u-s-supreme-court-186084>

- Republished in the *National Post* 7/5/2022. <https://nationalpost.com/pmn/news-pmn/can-americans-be-shielded-from-the-u-s-supreme-court>

Key, Ellen M. 2020. “Constitutional Disfunction on Trial: Congressional Lawsuits and The Separation of Power”, by Jasmine Farrier. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2019. 188pp. Hardcover: \$115.00. ISBN: 1-501-702505. Paper \$29.95. ISBN: 1-501-74710-X.” *Law and Politics Book Review* 30(8): 128 - 131.

Key, Ellen M. and Phillip J. Ardoin. 2019. ”Students Rate Male Instructors More Highly Than Female Instructors. We Tried to Counter That Hidden Bias.” *Washington Post* 8/20/2019.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/08/20/students-rate-male-instructors-more-highly-than-female-instructors-we-tried-counter-that-hidden-bias/>.

Key, Ellen M. and Matthew J. Lebo. 2015. “Political Science, Time Series, and Pooled Cross-Sectional Time Series Analysis.” *International Encyclopedia of the Social and Behavioral Sciences*, 2nd edition.

Key, Ellen M. and Matthew J. Lebo. 2012. “Time Series Software: Stata 12 versus RATS 8.” *The Political Methodologist* 20(1): 8-9.

Invited Presentations

“The Political Causes and Consequences of MLM Participation.” University of Minnesota, 2024. [canceled due to Hurricane Helene]

“The Politics of Scandals: The Case of Supreme Court Nominations, 1877–2022.” University of Minnesota, 2023.

“You Research Like a Girl.” McMaster University, Canada, 2023.

“*Roe v. Wade* in 2022.” University of Innsbruck, Austria, 2022.

“Rate My Professor: The Determinants of Student Evaluations of Teaching.” Appalachian State Council of Chairs, 2021.

“Rate My Professor: The Determinants of Student Evaluations of Teaching.” Appalachian State University Academic Assessment Council, 2020.

“You Research Like a Girl: Gendered Research Agendas and Their Implications.” St. Norbert College, 2020.

“Motivated Reasoning, Public Opinion, and Presidential Approval.” University of Minnesota, 2019.

“You Research Like a Girl: Gendered Research Agendas and Their Implications.” GWS Distinguished Lecture Series, Appalachian State University, 2018.

“The Political Economy: Political Determinants of the Macroeconomy.” Ohio State University, 2014.

“The Politics of Abortion.” Stony Brook University, 2010.

“Introduction to Teaching Political Science.” University of Georgia, 2006.

Invited Workshops

“Economics and Politics Revisited.” Executive Approval Project, June 2021.

“Economics and Politics Revisited.” Executive Approval Project, January 2021.

Honors and Awards

UNC Board of Governors Award for Teaching Excellence, 2024.

Recognized as Most Helpful Faculty and Staff, 2018-2019; 2019-2020.

BRIDGES Academic Leadership for Women, Class of 2019.

Inducted into College of Arts and Sciences Academy of Outstanding Teachers, 2019.

Milton Lodge Award for Graduate Student with Outstanding Potential, Stony Brook University, 2011.

Political Science Graduate Student Teaching Award, Stony Brook University, 2011.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, University of Georgia, 2007.

Grants and Fellowships

Teaching Quality Framework Grant, 2024-2025.

Mountaineer Mentoring Innovation Grant, 2023

Student and Faculty Excellence Fund Grant (with Kevin Mullinix), 2017.

Pre-Law Advisors National Council Conference Scholarship, 2016.

Southern Political Science Association Artinian Travel Award, 2016.

Visions in Methodology Meeting Fellowship (NSF), 2015; 2019.

Undergraduate Research Award: Kyle McMakin; Daniel Wentworth; Lola Benfield; Felicity Kornegay; Josie Maines; Madelyn Myers (two semesters).

Political Methodology Summer Meeting Fellowship (NSF), 2011; 2013; 2014; 2016; 2017.

Presidential Fellowship, Stony Brook University, 2007-2010.

Graduate Dean's Fellowship for Professional Activities Award, Stony Brook University, 2009.

Selected Conference Presentations

“The Effect of State Judicial Selection Method on Public Support for the US Supreme Court.” (with Alixandra Yanus and Jack Spencer). Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, January 2025.

“Bad Blood: The Changing Nature of Specific and Diffuse Judicial Support.” (with Alixandra Yanus and Heather Ondercin). Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, January 2025.

“The Political Causes and Consequences of MLM Participation.” (with Jane Sumner). Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 2024.

“The Political Causes and Consequences of MLM Participation.” (with Jane Sumner). Joint meeting of the North Carolina Political Science Association/North Carolina Public Administration Alliance, March 2024.

“Democracy Labs: Teaching Polarizing Issues in Introduction to American Politics.” (with Joseph Anthony and Emily Farris). Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 2023.

“Weakened Ties: The Economy and Presidential Approval in the 21st Century United States.” (with Kathleen Donovan, Paul Kellstedt, and Matthew Lebo). Annual Meeting of the European Political Science Association, June 2023.

“How to Demonstrate Long-run Relationships: the Case of PM Approval and Vote Intentions in the UK.” (with Matthew Lebo and Michael Driggers). Harold Clarke Commemorative Conference, March 2023.

“Democracy Labs: How To Teach Polarizing Issues in Introduction to American Politics.” (with Joseph Anthony and Emily Farris). Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, January 2023.

“The Costs of Doing Research.” (with Emily Farris and Jane Sumner). Annual Society for Political Methodology Summer Meeting, July 2021.

“Presidential Approval in the United States.” (with Kathleen Donovan, Paul Kellstedt, and Matthew Lebo). Economics and Politics Revisited, June 2021.

“Presidential Approval in the United States: Does Anything Matter Anymore?” (with Kathleen Donovan, Paul Kellstedt, and Matthew Lebo). Economics and Politics Revisited: Government Popularity in Europe in the 21st Century, January 2021.

“Rate my Professor: The Determinants of Student Evaluations of Teaching.” (with Phillip Ardoin). Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, January 2021.

“Bench Trials in Felony Cases: A Viable Alternative to Jury Trials in an Era of Expediency?” (with Marian Williams). Annual Meeting of the Southern Criminal Justice Association, Nashville, TN September 2019.

“Gender Bias in Teaching Evaluations: Can Recognizing Biases Serve as a Step in Addressing Them?” (with Phillip Ardoin). Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Austin, TX January 2019.

“Scandals, Presidential Approval, and Motivated Reasoning” (with Scott Basinger). Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA January 2018.

“You Research Like a Girl: Gendered Research Agendas and their Implications” (with Jane Lawrence Sumner). Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA January 2017.

“Has Polarization Killed the Study of Presidential Approval?” (with Kathleen Donovan, Paul Kellstedt, and Matthew Lebo). Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA September 2016.

“Why’s Everybody Always Picking on Me?” Court Curbing Legislation and the Ninth Circuit” (with Laura Moyer). Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL April 2016.

“Dynamic Economic Voting: Partisanship and Polarization.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, San Juan, PR January 2016.

“Raising your Professional Profile: A Roundtable on Networking and Professional Development for Women in the Discipline.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, San Juan, PR January 2016.

“Dynamic Economic Voting: What Makes the Economy Matter?” Visions in Methodology, Lexington, KY May 2015.

“Roundtable on Women in Methodology: Challenges and Solutions.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA January 2015.

“The Effects of Party Unity in Primary Elections.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL April 2014.

“Separation of Powers, Pivotal Players, and Judicial Review: An Examination of When and How the Supreme Court Invalidates Federal Laws” (with Naser Javaid and Andrew O’Geen). Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL April 2013.

“The Dynamic Relationship Between Media Sentiment and Presidential Approval.” Annual Society for Political Methodology Summer Meeting, Chapel Hill, NC July 2012.

“The Causes and Consequences of Instability in Consumer Sentiment.” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL April 2012.

Teaching Experience

Appalachian State University

American National Government and Politics
Judicial Process
Issues in Judicial Politics
Law and Politics
Judicial Decision-Making
Constitutional Law
The Washington Experience
Washington at Work
Politics of Sport, *Honors*
Law and Society
Law, Power, and Equity, *Honors*
Gender and the Law
Political Science Capstone
Research Methods and Statistics, *Graduate level*
Foundations of American Politics, *Graduate level*

Stony Brook University, Instructor of Record

Civil Liberties and Civil Rights
Introduction to American Government

Stony Brook University, Teaching Assistant

Research Methods in Sociology
Political Economy: Government and Market Failures
Intermediate Statistics for Public Policy, *Graduate level*

University of Georgia, Teaching Assistant

Introduction to American Government

Teaching Workshops

Participant, University of Colorado Law School's Mini Law School, Fall 2018.
Participant, Road to Online, Spring 2018.

Student Mentorship and Thesis Direction

Appalachian State University

Director, University Honors Thesis: Emma Hay, 2024.
Director, Department Honors Thesis: Jack Spencer, 2024.
Director, Department Honors Thesis: Caleb Osborne, 2022.
Director, Department Honors Thesis: Paige Skinner, 2021.
Director, Department Honors Thesis: Abby Hord, 2019.
Director, Department Honors Thesis: Mallory Block, 2018.

– Published in Fall 2018 edition of *The Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics*

Director, Department Honors Thesis: Ryan Doval, 2018.

Director, University Honors Thesis: Aaron Walker, 2016.

– Published in Spring 2017 edition of *Ramapo Journal of Law & Society*

Director, Departmental Honors Thesis: Courtney Bradway, 2014.

Director, Departmental Honors Thesis: Emily Oswald, 2014.

Second Reader, University Honors Thesis: Gracie Lundrum, 2025.

Second Reader, Departmental Honors Thesis: Zane Prusia, 2025.

Second Reader, University Honors Thesis: Timothy Sasser, 2016.

Second Reader, University Honors Thesis: Kyle McMakin, 2016.

Second Reader, University Honors Thesis: Ayako Nakano, 2016.

Second Reader, Departmental Honors Thesis: Magdalene Blunk, 2014

Stony Brook University

Faculty Mentor, New York Redistricting Project Competition, 2011.

Advisor, Intel Talent Search, 2010.

Professional Activities

Conference Co-Organizer

SPSA 2018, SPSA Women Conference-within-a-Conference

SPSA 2017, SPSA Women Conference-within-a-Conference

SPSA 2016, SPSA Women Conference-within-a-Conference

Panel Chair

NCPSA 2024, “Judicial Politics”

SPSA 2021, “Innovating Teaching and Student Outcomes”

APSA 2019, “Mentoring: Challenges and Strategies in the Contemporary University”

SPSA 2018, “Mentoring Across Genders”

SPSA 2017, “Roundtable on Academic Self-Promotion: Problems and Strategies”

APSA 2011, “Health, Law, and Policy”

Discussant

NCPSA 2024, “Judicial Politics”

SPSA 2021, “Gender and Campaigns”

SPSA 2019, “Inclusion and Diversity in Academia: Bias and Student Teaching Evaluations”

PolMeth 2014, “Text Analysis”

MSPA 2014, “Street Fighting Man: Candidates in Elections”

Ad Hoc Reviewer

American Political Science Review; American Journal of Political Science; British Journal of Political Science; Data Intelligence; European Journal of Political Research; Journal of Law and Courts; Journal of Politics; Justice System Journal; Oxford University

Press; Political Analysis; Political Behavior; Political Research Quarterly; Politics and Gender; PS: Political Science and Politics; Public Opinion Quarterly; Research and Politics; Social Science Journal; Social Science Quarterly; Studies in American Political Development

Other Activity

Member, SPSA Executive Council, 2023-present.
Chair, SPSA Committee on the Status of Women, 2023-2024.
Member, APSA Law & Courts Section Teaching and Mentoring Award Committee, 2023.
Member, *PS: Political Science and Politics* Editorial Board, 2020–2022.
Member, APSA Law & Courts Section Lasting Contribution Award Committee, 2022.
Member, Society for Political Methodology Summer Meeting Program Committee, 2020.
Co-editor, *PS* Symposium on the 19th Amendment, 2020.
Co-organizer, APSA Short Course: #MeTooPoliSci, 2018.
Member, Erika Fairchild Award Committee, 2017.
President, Southern Political Science Association Women’s Caucus, 2017.
Vice President, Southern Political Science Association Women’s Caucus, 2016.
Secretary, Southern Political Science Association Women’s Caucus, 2015.

University and Departmental Service

Appalachian State University

Member, Honors College Council, 2024-present.
Co-organizer, Elect Her, Fall 2023.
Organizer, Power of the Badge speaker, Spring 2023.
Member, College of Arts and Sciences Dean Search Committee, 2022-2023.
Judge, Student Organization Leadership Awards, 2020; 2021.
Organizer, Choosing a Law School, Spring 2021.
Participant, Mid-Career ReVisions, 2020-2021.
Faculty Champion, 2020–2022.
Member, Departmental Honors Council, 2019–2024.
Transfer Mentor, 2019–present.
Co-organizer, 19th Amendment Speaker Series, 2019.
Panelist, Women, Law, and Activism, Fall 2018.
Panelist, The Ramifications of the Kavanaugh Appointment for the U.S. Supreme Court and Beyond, Fall 2018.
Co-organizer, Lawapalooza, Fall 2018.
Participant, Road to Online Teaching Workshop, Spring 2018.
Co-organizer, ERA Day, Spring 2018.
Co-organizer, Elect Her, Spring 2018.
Faculty Co-Advisor: Phi Alpha Delta, 2017-2022.
Facilitator, Student/Faculty Exchange, 2016; 2017.
Coordinator, Law School Mock Admission Session, 2016
Coordinator, Law School Fair, Fall 2016.

Panelist, Faculty Fireside Chat, Fall 2016.
Faculty Advisor: Turning Point USA, 2015-2018.
Faculty Co-Advisor: Pi Sigma Alpha, 2016-2017.
Coordinator, Law School Admissions Workshop, 2015.
University Representative, DC State Authorization Workshop, 2014.
Coordinator, Law School Forum, Spring/Fall 2014.

Department of Government and Justice Studies

Department Liaison, ADVANCE Appalachian Mentoring Grant, 2022–present.
Member, MAPS Data-Literacy Curriculum Subcommittee, 2024-2025.
Member, GJS Scholarship Committee, 2023-2024.
Member, Dan German Endowed Professorship Committee, 2020-2024.
Director, Honors Program, 2019–2024.
Member, GJS Faculty Team at ASU Open House, 2013; 2014; 2015; 2016; 2018; 2019; 2022; 2023.
Member, Department Personnel Committee (DPC), 2014–2015; 2015–2016; 2017–2018; 2018–2019; 2019–2020; 2020–2021; 2022-2023.
Panelist, Sexism in the 21st Century, 2019.
Member, Edward Allan and David Sutton Scholarship Committees, 2014; 2016; 2019; 2023.
Member, Promotion to Full Guideline Revision Committee, 2018–2019.
Participant, GJS in DC, 2018.
Member, Political Science VAP Search Committee, 2013; 2014; 2018.
Member, MA Curriculum Mapping Committee, 2018.
Member, MA Strategic Planning Committee, 2018
Author, Law School Student Survey, 2017
Member, Pre-Professional Legal Studies Search Committee, 2015.
Member, Political Science Search Committee, 2014; 2015; 2018.
Undergraduate Student Advisor, GJS Department, 2013-present.
Member, Political Science Curriculum Committee, 2012-present.
Member, Pre-Professional Legal Studies Curriculum Committee, 2012-present.