

# Steven W. Webster

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## Appointments

- 2020- *Assistant Professor*, Political Science, Indiana University  
2018-2020 *Postdoctoral research fellow*, Washington University in St. Louis

## Areas of specialization

Political psychology, political behavior, public opinion, elections and voting

## Education

- 2018 PhD in Political Science, Emory University  
2012 BA in History & Political Science, Oklahoma State University

## Publications

### BOOK

- 2020 Webster, Steven W. 2020. *American Rage: How Anger Shapes Our Politics*. Cambridge University Press.

### JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2020 Martin, Gregory J., and Steven W. Webster. 2020. "Does Residential Sorting Explain Geographic Polarization?" *Political Science Research & Methods* 8 (2): 215-231.
- 2019 Webster, Steven W., and Andrew W. Pierce. 2019. "Older, Younger, or More Similar? The Use of Age as a Voting Heuristic." *Social Science Quarterly* 100 (3): 635-652.
- 2018 Abramowitz, Alan I., and Steven W. Webster. 2018. "Negative Partisanship: Why Americans Dislike Parties but Behave like Rabid Partisans." *Advances in Political Psychology* 39: 119-135.
- 2018 Webster, Steven W. 2018. "It's Personal: The Big Five Personality Traits and Negative Partisan Affect in Polarized U.S. Politics." *American Behavioral Scientist* 62 (1): 127-145.
- 2018 Webster, Steven W. 2018. "Anger and Declining Trust in Government in the American Electorate." *Political Behavior* 40 (4): 933-964.

2017 Webster, Steven W., and Alan I. Abramowitz. 2017. "The Ideological Foundations of Affective Polarization in the U.S. Electorate." *American Politics Research* 45 (4): 621-647.

2016 Abramowitz, Alan I., and Steven W. Webster. 2016. "The Rise of Negative Partisanship and the Nationalization of U.S. Elections in the 21st Century." *Electoral Studies* 41: 12-22.

#### BOOK CHAPTERS & BOOK REVIEWS

2018 Review of Rosenfeld, Sam, "The Polarizers: Postwar Architects of Our Partisan Era." *Political Science Quarterly* 133 (4): 789-790.

2018 Abramowitz, Alan I., and Steven W. Webster. 2018. "The Angry American Voter: Negative Partisanship, Voter Anger, and the 2016 Presidential Election." In *The State of the Parties 2018: The Changing Role of Contemporary American Political Parties*. Edited by Green, John C., Coffey, Daniel J., and David B. Cohen. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

### Works in progress

"All (Mayoral) Politics is Local?" With Sanmay Das, Betsy Sinclair, and Hao Yan.

"Partisan Schadenfreude and the Demand for Candidate Cruelty." With Adam Glynn and Matt Motta.

"Crime and Presidential Accountability: A Case of Racially Conditioned Issue Ownership." With Ben Noble and Andrew Reeves.

"Rock the Vote."

"Through the Ideology of the Beholder: How Ideology Shapes Perceptions of Partisan Groups and Magnifies Social Distance." With Jon Rogowski, Betsy Sinclair, Michelle Torres, Jonathan Hommola, and Patrick Tucker.

"The Social Consequences of Political Anger." With Elizabeth Connors and Betsy Sinclair.

"Emotional Manipulations, Public Opinion, and the Moderating Role of Personality."

### Other publications

2020 "How Anger Shapes American Politics." In *Sabato's Crystal Ball, University of Virginia Center for Politics*. October 14, 2020.

2020 "Angry Americans: How political rage helps campaigns but hurts democracy." In *The Conversation*. September 10, 2020.

2019 "Many Americans think that climate-change deniers 'get what they deserve' when disasters strike." In *The Washington Post*. January 24, 2019.

2018 "The Real Culprit Behind Geographic Polarization." In *The Atlantic*. November 26, 2018.

2018 "Mad as Hell: How Anger Diminishes Trust in Government." In *Sabato's Crystal Ball, University of Virginia Center for Politics*. May 17, 2018.

- 2017 "Why Republicans and Democrats can no longer 'just get along'." In *London School of Economics US Centre blog*. November 23, 2017.
- 2016 "Partisan Geographic Sorting." In *Sabato's Crystal Ball, University of Virginia Center for Politics*. December 15, 2016.
- 2015 "The Angry American Voter." In *Sabato's Crystal Ball, University of Virginia Center for Politics*. August 6, 2015.
- 2015 "The Only Thing We Have to Fear Is the Other Party." In *Sabato's Crystal Ball, University of Virginia Center for Politics*. June 4, 2015.
- 2015 "Explaining the Republican 'Lock' on The House: Strong Partisanship, Not Gerrymandering, Tells Much of the Story." In *Sabato's Crystal Ball, University of Virginia Center for Politics*. April 23, 2015.

### Invited talks

- 2020 "Anger and Political Psychology." Washington University in St. Louis (Fall 2020)
- 2020 Roundtable participant, "Election 2020: Post-Election Dialogue," Arizona State University Center for the Study of Race and Democracy (Fall 2020)
- 2020 "Intergroup Psychology and Politics." Oklahoma State University (Fall 2020)
- 2020 "American Rage: How Anger Shapes Our Politics." **Hot Politics Lab** (Fall 2020)
- 2019 "Research Design and Experimentation." United States Air Force, Center for Strategy and Technology, Blue Horizons (Fall 2019)
- 2019 "American Rage: Anger and Declining Trust in Government." Indiana University (Fall 2019)
- 2019 "Anger in American Politics." East Central College (Missouri) (Summer 2019)

### Conference presentations

- 2020 "The Dispositional Antecedents of Affective Polarization in the United States." Paper to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 10, 2020. *Declined due to COVID-19 pandemic.*
- 2020 "How Race Influences the Impact of Anger on Trust in Government." Paper to be presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 10, 2020. *Declined due to COVID-19 pandemic.*
- 2019 "American Rage: Anger and Weakening Commitment to Democratic Norms and Values." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 29, 2019.
- 2019 "Anger and Voter Loyalty in Nationalized U.S. Politics." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 4, 2019.
- 2018 "Trait-Based Anger and American Political Behavior." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 6, 2018.

- 2017 “Taking it to a New Level: Negative Partisanship, Party Loyalty and the Triumph of Trump.” With Alan I. Abramowitz. Paper presented at the State of the Parties Conference, Akron, OH, November 9, 2017.
- 2017 “Anger and Overconfidence in the American Electorate.” With Kyle L. Saunders. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 31, 2017.
- 2017 Participant, roundtable on Extreme Political Polarization and Legitimacy. Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 30, 2017.
- 2017 “It’s Personal: The Big Five Personality Traits and Negative Partisan Affect.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 8, 2017.
- 2017 “Anger and Declining Trust in Government in the American Electorate.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 8, 2017.
- 2016 “The Ideological Foundations of Affective Polarization.” With Alan I. Abramowitz. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 9, 2016.
- 2015 “All Politics is National: The Rise of Negative Partisanship and the Nationalization of U.S. House and Senate Elections in the 21st Century.” With Alan I. Abramowitz. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 6, 2015.
- 2015 “All Politics is National: The Rise of Negative Partisanship and the Nationalization of U.S. House and Senate Elections in the 21st Century.” With Alan I. Abramowitz. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 18, 2015.
- 2013 “Descriptive Representation, Voter Age and Vote Choice: The Use of Age as a Heuristic.” Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 14, 2013.

## Teaching

### INDIANA UNIVERSITY

POLS Y661: Political Psychology and American Political Behavior (Fall 2020; graduate; [syllabus](#))

POLS Y205: Analyzing Politics (Spring 2021; undergraduate)

POLS Y576: Political Data Analysis II (Spring 2021; graduate)

### LEIBNIZ UNIVERSITÄT (HANNOVER, GERMANY)

American Political Behavior, Elections, and the Presidency (Summer 2017)

- Visiting scholar, funded by the German Academic Exchange (DAAD)

## Departmental and discipline service

- 2020 Coordinator and facilitator, “Pizza and Politics” series for undergraduates
- 2020 Committee member, APSA Best Political Psychology Paper

## Referee service

### JOURNALS

*American Journal of Political Science, American Politics Research, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Election Law Journal, Electoral Studies, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, IU Journal of Undergraduate Research, Journal of Experimental Political Science, Journal of Politics, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Nature Human Behavior, Perspectives on Politics, Political Behavior, Political Psychology, Political Research Quarterly, Political Science Research & Methods, Public Opinion Quarterly, Review of Economics and Statistics, Science Advances*

### BOOKS

*Columbia University Press, Cornell University Press*

## Media coverage

### PRINT

*The Associated Press, The Washington Post, The New York Times, The Los Angeles Times, Politico, National Journal, Vox.com, The Christian Science Monitor, The Atlanta Journal Constitution, New York Magazine, Pacific Standard, Folha de São Paulo, The Atlantic, The Walrus, FiveThirtyEight, Voice of America, Morning Consult.*

### RADIO & PODCASTS

Sirius XM POTUS Channel (10/2015), NPR: St. Louis on the Air (1/2019), Yle, Finnish Broadcasting Company (8/2020), The Public Morality (10/2020), The Curiosity Hour Podcast (10/2020), NPR: WFIU – Indiana (11/2020)

### TV

WISH-TV Indianapolis, Fox 59 Indianapolis, NBC (WTHR) Indianapolis