

Steven W. Webster

Department of Political Science
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Appointments

2025-	<i>Warner O. Chapman Professor</i> , Political Science, Indiana University
2025-	<i>Director</i> , Center on American Politics, Indiana University
2024-	<i>Associate Professor</i> , Political Science, Indiana University
2020-2024	<i>Assistant Professor</i> , Political Science, Indiana University
2018-2020	<i>Postdoctoral research fellow</i> , 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. <i>American Rage: How Anger Shapes Our Politics</i> . Cambridge University Press.
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- Winner, 2021 International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) Juliette and Alexander L. George Outstanding Political Psychology Book Award
- Reviewed in *Perspectives on Politics* (5/2021), *Political Science Quarterly* (12/2021), and *Public Opinion Quarterly* (8/2022).

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Forthcoming	Connors, Elizabeth C., and Carlson, Taylor N., and Steven W. Webster. Forthcoming. "You're Making Us Look Bad: Can Partisan Embarrassment Dampen Partisanship and Polarization?" <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i> .
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- 2024 Webster, Steven W., and Glynn, Adam N., and Matthew P. Motta. 2024. "Partisan Schadenfreude and Candidate Cruelty." *Political Psychology* 45 (2): 259-277. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12922>
- 2023 Homola, Jonathan, and Rogowski, Jon C., and Sinclair, Betsy, and Torres, Michelle, and Tucker, Patrick D., and Steven W. Webster. 2023. "Through the Ideology of the Beholder: How Ideology Shapes Perceptions of Partisan Groups and Magnifies Social Distance." *Political Science Research & Methods* 11 (2): 275-292. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2022.4>
- 2022 Noble, Benjamin S., and Reeves, Andrew, and Steven W. Webster. 2022. "Crime and Presidential Accountability: A Case of Racially Conditioned Issue Ownership." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 86 (1): 29-50. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1093/poq/nfab074>
- 2022 Webster, Steven W., and Connors, Elizabeth C., and Betsy Sinclair. 2022. "The Social Consequences of Political Anger." *The Journal of Politics* 84 (3): 1292-1305. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1086/718979>
- 2022 Webster, Steven W., and Bethany Albertson. 2022. "Emotion and Politics: Noncognitive Psychological Biases in Public Opinion." *Annual Review of Political Science* 25: 401-418. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1146/annurev-polisci-051120-105353>
- 2022 Das, Sanmay, and Sinclair, Betsy, and Webster, Steven W., and Hao Yan. 2022. "All (Mayoral) Politics is Local?" *The Journal of Politics* 84 (2): 1021-1034. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1086/716945>
- 2021 Webster, Steven W. 2021. "The Role of Political Elites in Eliciting Mass-Level Political Anger." *The Forum* 19 (3): 415-437. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1515/for-2021-0023>
- 2020 Martin, Gregory J., and Steven W. Webster. 2020. "Does Residential Sorting Explain Geographic Polarization?" *Political Science Research & Methods* 8 (2): 215-231. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2018.44>
- Winner, award for "best paper published in 2020" by *Political Science Research & Methods*.
- 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. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.12604>
- 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. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1111/pops.12479>
- 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. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/0002764218756925>
- 2018 Webster, Steven W. 2018. "Anger and Declining Trust in Government in the American Electorate." *Political Behavior* 40 (4): 933-964. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-017-9431-7>
- 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. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1177/2F1532673X17703132>

- 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. doi: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.electstud.2015.11.001>

BOOK CHAPTERS & BOOK REVIEWS

- Forthcoming Webster, Steven W. Forthcoming. "Anger." In *Elgar Encyclopedia of Political Communication*. Edited by Nai, Alessandro, and Grömping, Max, and Wirz, Dominique. Edward Elgar Publishing.
- 2022 Review of Ulbig, Stacy, "Angry Politics: Partisan Hatred and Political Polarization among College Students." *Public Opinion Quarterly*.
- 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

"Partisan Linked Fate in the American Mass Public." With Betsy Sinclair.

"Anger, Negative Partisanship, and Joy in the Suffering of Political Others." With Mary Adams.

Collectively Partisan: Linked Fate and Partisan Ties in American Politics. Book project. With Betsy Sinclair.

Other publications

- 2023 "How Schadenfreude Is Poisoning U.S. Politics." In *Scientific American*. September 15, 2023.
- 2022 "American voters are angry – that is a good thing for voter turnout, bad thing for democracy." In *The Conversation*. October 28, 2022.
- 2022 "Not all Asian Americans vote Democratic – and the political leanings of different Asian ethnic groups vary." In *The Conversation*. October 20, 2022.
- 2022 "Political Anger and Division." In *Political Violence @ A Glance*. October 10, 2022.
- 2022 "Fractured domestic politics hamstrings US foreign policy." In *East Asia Forum*. March 11, 2022.
- 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

- 2025 *Collectively Partisan: Linked Fate and Partisan Ties in American Politics*. Texas A&M University (Spring 2025)
- 2025 "Anger, Negative Partisanship, and Joy in the Suffering of Partisan Others." Yale University (Spring 2025)
- 2024 "Anger and American Politics." Washington University in St. Louis (Fall 2024)
- 2021 "Partisan Schadenfreude and the Demand for Candidate Cruelty." University of Illinois (Fall 2021)
- 2021 "Negative Partisanship and Anger." University of Massachusetts—Amherst (Spring 2021)
- 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

- 2023 "Partisan Linked Fate in the American Mass Public." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. September 1, 2023.

- 2023 "Partisan Schadenfreude and Candidate Cruelty." Paper presented at the Society for Affective Sciences pre-conference on "emotions in a political world." March 31, 2023.
- 2022 "Partisan Schadenfreude and Candidate Cruelty." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. September 22, 2022.
- 2021 "Partisan Schadenfreude and the Demand for Candidate Cruelty." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. September 28, 2021.
- 2021 Roundtable participant, "Polarization, Animosity, and Violence in American Politics." Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April 15, 2021.
- 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 Y205: Analyzing Politics (undergraduate)

- Spring 2021, Fall 2021; Fall 2022; [syllabus](#)

POLS Y317: Voting, Elections, and Public Opinion (undergraduate)

- Spring 2022; Fall 2022; Fall 2024; [syllabus](#)

POLS Y319: The United States Congress (undergraduate)

- Fall 2021; Fall 2023 [syllabus](#)

POLS Y570: Introduction to the Study of Politics (graduate)

- Fall 2023; Fall 2024

POLS Y576: Political Data Analysis II (graduate)

- Spring 2021, Spring 2022; Spring 2025; [syllabus](#)

POLS Y661: Political Psychology and American Political Behavior (graduate)

- Fall 2020; Spring 2024; [syllabus](#)

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

2023-	Director of Graduate Studies, Admissions, and Placement
2023	Committee member, Markwell Media Award, International Society of Political Psychology
2022-2023	Committee member, IU Graduate Committee
2022-2023	Faculty sponsor, IU undergraduate political science club
2021-2022	Committee member, IU Political Science Personnel Committee
2020-2021	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; American Sociological Review; British Journal of Political Science; Comparative Political Studies; Election Law Journal; Electoral Studies; European Journal of Political Research; International Journal of Public Opinion Research; IU Journal of Undergraduate Research; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties; Journal of Experimental Political Science; Journal of Politics; Journal of Social & Political Psychology; Legislative Studies Quarterly; Nature Human Behavior; Party Politics; Perspectives on Politics; PLOS One; Political Behavior; Political Psychology; Political Research Quarterly; Political Science Research & Methods; Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America; PS: Political Science & Politics; 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 Economist, 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, Roll Call, U.S. News & World Report, The Guardian.

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), America Explained (5/2021), NPR: Here and Now (8/2024)

TV

WISH-TV Indianapolis, Fox 59 Indianapolis, NBC (WTHR) Indianapolis, ABC 57 South Bend, WEHT Evansville, WDRB Louisville, CNA Singapore, CBC News (Canada)