Sarah Elizabeth James

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ACADEMIC POSITONS	**Gonzaga University** Assistant professor in American Politics	Spokane, WA August 2022-present
	Harvard University Lecturer in Government and Social Studies	Cambridge, MA July 2021-July 2022
EDUCATION	**Harvard University** PhD, Government & Social Policy Dissertation: "*When is hindsight 20/20? The politics of acknowledging and revising failed policies.*" Committee: Theda Skocpol (chair), Dan Carpenter, Jennifer Hochschild	Cambridge, MA May 2021
	Winner: **2022 Leonard D. White Award** for best dissertation in the field of public administration, American Political Science Association	
	MA, Government	May 2016
	Boston University MEd, Curriculum & Instruction	Boston, MA June 2011
	University of Texas at Austin BA in Plan II Honors & Government, *Magna cum laude* and Phi Beta Kapa Honors Thesis: *Does Content Matter: An Examination of Civics Curriculum's Effects on Political Participation*	Austin, TX May 2009
SELECTED AWARDS & HONORS	Fellow at the Summer Institute on Organizations and their Effectiveness, Center for the Advanced Study of the Behavioral Sciences, Stanford University	2023
	Certificate of Teaching Excellence, Harvard Undergraduate Education	2022
	Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study Graduate Fellow	2020-21
	Center for American Political Studies, Graduate Seed Grant	2020
	Sid Verba Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching	2019
	Graduate Student Association Peer Mentoring Award	2019
	Institute for Quantitative Social Science Travel Grant	2017, 2018
	Harvard Initiative for Teaching and Learning (HILT) Grant	2018
	Harvard College Dean's Grant	2017
	APSA State Politics and Policy Section Carsey Fellow	2017
	Tobin Project Graduate Research Fellowship	2016-2017
	GSAS Pre-dissertation Fellowship	2016
	Harvard Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy Fellow	2014-16
	William Jennings Bryan Prize for Best Honors Thesis	2009

PUBLICATIONS

"Setting Expectations: Rubrics as a Formative Tool for Communicating in the Social Sciences." With Colin Brown, Matt Reichert, George Soroka, and Aaron Wantanabe. *College Teaching*. Forthcoming.

"Institutional capacities, partisan divisions, and federal tensions in response to the COVID-19 pandemic." With Theda Skocpol & Caroline Tervo. *RSF: The Russell Sage Foundation Journal of the Social Sciences* 8.8 (2022): 154-180.

"Mea Culpa: The role of data collection in public officials acknowledging policy failure." S*tate Politics and Policy*

Quarterly. March 2022.

"Examining the Effect of Explicit Writing Instruction on the Quality of Student Writing" with Colin Brown and George Soroka. *Journal for Political Science Education*. 17:1 (January 2021): 835-861.

"Beyond the Likely Voter: An Analysis of Conservative Political Outreach" with Angie Bautista-Chavez. *Political Science Quarterly*. 134:3 (Fall 2019): 407-443.

"How Conservative Political Organizations Engage and Try to Recruit Left-Leaning Constituencies," with Angie Bautista-Chavez, Scholars Strategy Network, August 2018

"The Libre Initiative: An Innovative Conservative Effort to Recruit Latino Support," with Angie Bautista-Chavez, Scholars Strategy Network, March 2016

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Hindsight: The Politics of Failed Social Policies. Book manuscript. Under review at leading press.

"Evidence on using evidence: Partisan patterns of invoking research in national party platforms." Working paper.

"State-level data collection and transparency and its impact on policymaking during the COVID-19 pandemic." Working paper.

"Re-opening by number(s): State-level crisis policymaking and public health data." Working paper.

PRESENTATIONS

"Disease, Data and Dashboards: Explaining variation in COVID-19 data collection and analysis" *State Politics and Policy Annual Conference,* April 2022

"Disease, Data and Dashboards: Explaining variation in COVID-19 data collection and analysis" *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting,* April 2022

"Mea Culpa: The role of data collection in public officials acknowledging policy failure." *Education Politics and Policy Annual Conference,* April 2022

"The impact of capacities for data collection, analysis, and dissemination on U.S. state and local responses to the Covid-19 pandemic." With Theda Skocpol & Caroline Tervo. *The Social and Political impact of COVID-19 in the United States.* The Russel Sage Foundation. June 2021

"Re-opening by number(s): State-level crisis policymaking and public health data" Federalism Panel, *Midwest Political Science Association Conference*, April 2021

"Mea Culpa: The role of data collection in public officials acknowledging policy failure." *State Politics & Policy Section Spring Speaker Series,* April 2021

"When is hindsight 20/20? The politics of acknowledging policy failure" *American Political Science Association Conference*, September 2020

"Re-opening by number(s): State-level crisis policymaking and public health data" Federalism Panel, *Harvard Summer American Politics Conference*, August 2020

"When is hindsight 20/20? The politics of acknowledging policy failure" *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, April 2020

"Using rubrics in the political science classroom" *Teaching and Learning Conference of the American Political Science Association*, February 2020.

"Teaching Political Science by Teaching Writing." with Colin Brown & George Soroka, *American Political Science Association Conference*, Political Science Education Division, September 2018.

"Measuring policy diffusion: An examination of teacher evaluation practices" with NaLette Brodnax, *Political Methodology XXXV Conference*, Women in Political Methodology Section, July 2018

"What happens to bad policy? Identification and Response to Policy Failure in State Social Policy." *State Politics and Policy Conference,* graduate student poster presentation, May 2017.

"Beyond their Comfort Zone: Koch Network Outreach to Latinos & Millennials" with Angie Bautista-Chavez. *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting,* April 2016.

TEACHING & MENTORING	**Courses as lead instructor** POLS 309: Political Parties in the Historical and Organizational Perspective (Fall 2023) POLS 101: Introduction to American Politics (Fall 2023, Spring 2023, Fall 2022) POLS 325: A Dream Deferred: The promise, politics, and pitfalls of American Education (Fall 2022) GOV 94SD: A Dream Deferred: The promise, politics, and pitfalls of American Education (Spring 2022); 4.9/5.0 average rating on student evaluations SocStd 98SE: America's racial history and its impact on public policy (Spring 2022); 5.0/5.0 average rating on student evaluations GOV 94BC: How did we get here? America's history with race and its impact on public policy (Fall 2021); 4.9/5.0 average rating on student evaluations GOV 99: Senior Government Thesis Tutorial, Harvard College (2018-21) GOVT P 16100: How did we get here? America's history with race and its impact on public policy, Harvard Pre-College Program (Summer 2015-19, 2021); 4.8/5.0 average rating on student evaluations over 7 sessions STAT P 16115: The Science of Politics: Coding and Statistics in Political Science, Harvard Pre-College Program (Summer 2017, 2019-21); 4.7/5.0 average rating on student evaluations over 4 sessions

Derek C. Bok Center for Teaching and Learning

Departmental Pedagogy Fellow   2018-20
- Developed and implemented a new 8-session curriculum to prepare graduate students to teach
- Developed, implemented, and refined the Government Department's first-ever session on active learning and inclusive teaching
- Average teaching evaluation in the department increased from a 4.1 to 4.3 out of 5, through a rise in the bottom quartile of scores

Harvard Government Department

Teaching Fellow
- *Presidential Politics,* Harvard Extension School (Spring 2021)
- *Presidential Elections,* Harvard Extension School (Fall 2020)
- *USW 15: Race, Ethnicity and Immigration: From Obama to Trump,* Harvard College (Spring 2018); Received 4.4/5.0 average rating for teaching effectiveness from student evaluations
- *GOV 1010 Introduction to Survey Methods*, Harvard College (Fall 2017); 4.6/5.0 average rating for teaching effectiveness from student evaluations
- *GOV 97: Government Sophomore Tutorial*, Harvard College (Spring 2017); 4.8/5.0 average rating for teaching effectiveness from student evaluations
- *USW 31: American Society & Public Policy*, Harvard College (Fall 2016); 4.6/5.0 average rating for teaching effectiveness from student evaluations

Advisor and Mentor
- Concentration Advisor, Lowell House (2016-present)
- Government Undergraduate thesis advisor (2016-present)
- Social Studies undergraduate thesis advisor (2017-18, 2020-21, 2021-22)

SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS	Trustee, Outcomes Committee Chair, Anti-racism Committee Co-Chair at Boston Prep Charter School Reviewer, *Journal of Political Science Education* Member, Harvard Government Department Climate Change Committee (2018-2019) Member, Harvard Government Department Diversity Working Group (2015-2019) Co-Coordinator, Harvard Graduate Student Workshop on Political Economy (2015-16) Affiliate, Harvard Institute for Quantitative Social Science Affiliate, Scholar Strategy Network

Member, American Political Science Association (APSA); Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA); Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education (POD)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	**Boston Prep Charter School**	Boston, MA

High School Principal   2013-14
- Refined and implemented school-wide vision for a rigorous, engaged high school culture focused on college preparation and ethical decision-making
- Analyzed academic and cultural data to inform decisions and coaching strategies
- Led school-wide effort to support students in achieving 100% college acceptance for fourth year in a row
- Efforts resulted in inaugural Pozen Prize for long-term academic excellence among Greater Boston charter schools

History Department Chair   2012-14
- Supervised team of 5 history teachers, completed regular observations, provided curricular and assessment feedback based on data
- Assisted school leadership team in directing school vision, instructional goals and strategy, and culture

Teacher   2009-13
- Led curriculum revision to Advanced Placement U.S. History curriculum for 11th grade from 2011-2013, including incorporating more active learning opportunities and additional primary sources
- Planned and implemented 8th grade Algebra I and 9th grade geometry curriculum for teaching team of 3 from 2009-2011

Beacon Instructional Partners   Boston, MA
Senior Instructional Coach   2018-22
- Evaluate strengths and areas of growth for undergraduate and graduate school instructors
- Collaborate with more than a dozen instructors from four different countries to develop strategies for improving instructional strategies, which led to multiple awards for excellence in instruction

Charles Sposato Graduate School of Education   Boston, MA
External Evaluator & Instructional coach   2014-18
- Evaluated teacher effectiveness for rookie K-12 teachers based on unannounced classroom observation
- Observed student-teachers and offered actionable feedback focused on achieving student learning

SKILLS

Proficient in statistical analysis and software (R and R Studio)

Basic use of Geographic Information Systems (QGIS and ArcGIS)

Fluent Spanish (reading, writing, and conversation)