

DR. KATHERINE E. KNUTSON

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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Professor, Political Science, Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, MN (2017-present)
Kendall Center for Engaged Learning Faculty Associate for Teaching and Advising (2024-25)
Chair, Political Science Department (2019-2024)
Director, First-Term Seminar Program (2012-2018)
Associate Professor, Political Science, Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, MN (2011-2017)
Interim Director, Center for Academic Resources and Enhancement (2017)
Assistant Professor, Political Science, Gustavus Adolphus College, Saint Peter, MN (2005-2011)
Instructor, Political Science, University of Washington, Seattle, WA (2003-2005)

EDUCATION

Ph. D., Political Science, University of Washington, Seattle, WA (2005)
Major Field: American Politics; Minor Fields: Political Communication and Public Policy
M.A., Political Science, University of Washington, Seattle, WA (2001)
BA, Political Science and Sociology, Linfield College, McMinnville, OR (1999)

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

U.S. Politics	Interest Groups	Political Communication
Religion and Politics	Public Policy	Political Institutions

COURSES TAUGHT

U.S. Government and Politics (POL 110)	Interest Groups in American Politics (POL 344)
Analyzing Politics (POL 200)	Fast Food and Society (First Term Seminar)
Public Policy (POL 220)	Hawaii, Beyond Tourism (January Term)
Politics and Media (POL 244)	Inauguration Politics: Washington, DC (POL 111)
Women, Gender, and U.S. Politics (POL 225)	Minnesota Politics and Government (POL 115)
U.S. Congress (POL 312)	The Politics of Same-Sex Marriage (POL 202)
The American President (POL 318)	Internship Supervision
Child Welfare Policy (POL 344)	

PUBLICATIONS

An Introduction to U.S. Public Policy: Theory and Practice (Open-Access Publication)
<https://mlpp.pressbooks.pub/introtouspublicpolicy/>

Educational consultant for children's books: *Michelle Obama: Get to Know the Influential First Lady and Education Advocate* by Lakita Wilson, Capstone Press (2020); *Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez: Get to Know the Rising Politician* by Leticia Gonzales, Capstone Press (2020).

"From Identity to Issue: Policy Agenda and Framing Shifts within Interest Group Coalitions," *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, (2018) Vol. 6, Issue 2: 281-302.

Review: "U.S. Government Textbook Review," *PS: Political Science and Politics*, (April 2017) Vol. 50, Issue 2: 536-541.

Review: "Political Religion and Religious Politics," *Politics and Religion*, Vol 9, No. 3 (September 2016).

"Interfaith Advocacy Groups in American Politics," *The Changing World Religion Map: Sacred Places, Identities, Practices, and Politics*, Stanley Brunn (Ed.). Springer Press, 2015 (pgs. 3585-3600).

Interfaith Advocacy: The Role of Religious Coalitions in the Political Process. (2013) Routledge Press. (Released in paperback edition in 2015).

"Women, Religion, and the 2008 Presidential Elections," *Religion, Race, and Barack Obama's New Democratic Pluralism*, Gaston Espinosa (Ed.). (2012). Routledge Press.

"Adding an Integrated Library Component to an Undergraduate Research Methods Course," with Chris Gilbert (Political Science) and Julie Gilbert (Library), *PS: Political Science and Politics*, Vol 45, No. 1 (January 2012).

"Sharing the Faith: How Religious Interest Groups Build Media Strategies," with Mikka McCracken '09, *The Journal of Communication and Religion*, Vol 34, No 2 (November 2011): 157-180.

"Breaking the Chains: Constraint and the Political Rhetoric of Religious Interest Groups," *Politics and Religion*, Vol. 4, No. 2, (2011): 312-337.

"Religion and Public Policy," In *Religion and Politics: Classic and Contemporary Perspectives*, Amy E. Black, Douglas L. Koopman and Larycia Hawkins (Eds.), New York: Pearson Longman, 2011.

"Women, Religion, and the American Presidency," In *Religion, Race, and the American Presidency*, Gaston Espinosa (Ed.), Lanham: Rowman and Littlefield, 2008: 101-126. (Published as Katherine Stenger)

"Same-Sex Marriage: The Impact of Religiously-Motivated Political Action on Public Policy," *Church and State Issues in America Today*, Steven Jones and Ann Duncan (Eds.), Praeger Publishers, 2007: 37-74. (Published as Katherine Stenger)

"The Underrepresentation of Liberal Christians: Mobilization Strategies of Religious Interest Groups," *The Social Science Journal* 43 (2006): 391-403. (Published as Katherine Stenger)

"Forensics as Preparation for Participation in the Academic World," *The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta* (Summer 1999): 13-23. (Published as Katherine Stenger)

"Male Generic Language in the Forensics Community: Definition, Usage and Harms," with Daniel Roth, *The Forensic of Pi Kappa Delta* (Summer 1998): 19-24. (Published as Katherine Stenger)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"What Am I Reading? How Teaching Genre Improves Civic Skills"

"Assessing the Effectiveness of Pedagogical Strategies in Political Science"

"Child Protection Policy in Minnesota"

"On the Front Lines: Domestic Violence and Child Protection"

"Conflict in Advocacy Coalitions: The Benefit to Coalitions and Coalition Members."

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“What Am I Reading: How Teaching Genre Improves Civic Skills.” Accepted for presentation at the 2025 *American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference*, Alexandria, VA, January 2025. With Rachel Flynn.

“Using Peer Mentors for Advising in the First Term Seminar.” Workshop presentation at the *Annual Conference on The First-Year Experience*, Atlanta, GA, February 2017. With Sarah Ruble.

“From Identity to Issue: Maintaining Coalition Stability While Changing Policy Priorities.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Western Political Science Association*. Las Vegas, NV, April 2015.

“Speak Now or Forever Hold Your Peace: Managing Conflict in Advocacy Coalitions.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Western Political Science Association*. Seattle, WA, April 2014.

“Teaching Research by Doing Research.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL, April 2013.

“Minnesota's Joint Religious Legislative Coalition: An Experiment in Interfaith Advocacy.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL, March 2011. With Jacqueline Schwerm '11 (student co-author).

“With One Voice? Religious Advocacy Groups at the State and National Level.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL, April 2010.

“Women, Religion, and the 2008 Presidential Election.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL, April 2009. With Mikka McCracken '09 and Amy Erickson '09 (student co-authors).

“Sharing the Faith: How Religious Interest Groups Build Media Strategies.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL, April 2008. With Mikka McCracken '09 (student co-author).

“Teaching U.S. Government,” Workshop Co-Facilitator at the biennial meeting of *Christians in Political Science*, Wheaton, IL, June 2007.

“One God, Many Arguments? Examining Argument Frame Diversity in Religious Group Rhetoric.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL, April 2007. With Kathryn L. Johnson '07 (student co-author).

“Breaking the Chains? Constraint and the Political Rhetoric of Religious Interest Groups.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL, April 2006.

“Sex, Faith, and Presidential Politics: The Role of Religious Women in American Politics.” Presented at the *Religion and the American Presidency conference*, Claremont McKenna College, CA, April 2005.

“Defining Right and Wrong: Religious Interest Groups and the Creation and Promotion of Morality-Based Arguments in Policy Debates.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL, April 2005.

“A Voice in the Wilderness: Media Coverage of Religious Groups in Political Debates.” Presented at the

annual meeting of the *American Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL, September 2004.

“Representing Religious Voices: Media Coverage of Religious Groups in Political Debates.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL, April 2004.

“Religious Groups as Sources: Media Coverage of Religious Groups in Political Debates.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Society for the Scientific Study of Religion*, Norfolk, VA, October 2003.

“Selling Arguments: Interest Group Strategy and Success in the Process of Issue Development.” Presented at the biennial meeting of *Christians in Political Science*, St. Paul, MN, June 2003.

“Defining the Issue: Discovering an Alternate Indicator of Group Influence.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL, April 2003.

“Framing Charitable Choice: Interest Group Influence on Issue Evolution.” Presented at the biennial *Henry Institute Symposium on Religion and Politics*, Grand Rapids, MI, May 2002.

“Mobilizing Potential Members: Comparing the Christian Left and the Christian Right.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *American Political Science Association*, San Francisco, CA, August 2001.

“Targeting Moms: Politics of Fragmentation in the Million Mom March.” Poster session at the annual meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL, August 2001.

“Selling Sexuality: The Presentation of Self in the Cammermeyer Campaign.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Pacific Sociological Association*, Portland, OR, April 1999.

“Talking Like a Woman: Gendered Political Communication.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Northwest Communication Association*, Coer’d Alene, ID, April 1999.

“Recruiting Representatives of Marginalized Groups to the Russian Regional Legislatures.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *Midwest Political Science Association* with Dr. Dawn Nowacki. Chicago, IL, April 1998.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- “Political News and the Contemporary Media Environment,” ELCA Civic Life Task Force, online, April 21, 2023.
- “Threats to Democracy,” Barbara and Justin Simpson Forum, Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Peter, MN, February 2, 2023.
- “First-Term Seminar and the Fifth Semester,” Mellon Grant January Term Workshop, June 2015, 2016.
- “Interfaith Advocacy in Minnesota: The Story of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition,” Soup and Sandwich Seminar, Linnaeus Arboretum, Gustavus Adolphus College, April 2016.
- “Using Rubrics,” New Faculty Orientation Luncheon, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016.
- “Education and Public Policy,” Career Orientation to Teaching, Gustavus Adolphus College, January 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016.
- “Didn’t They Learn that in High School? Teaching First Year Students,” Teachers Talking, Gustavus Adolphus College, October 2014.
- “Religion, Politics, and Abortion,” MAYDAY! Conference, Gustavus Adolphus College, May 2013.

- “Interfaith Advocacy in Minnesota,” Partners in Education, First Lutheran Church, LeSueur, MN, April 2013.
- “Interfaith Advocacy in Minnesota,” Learning is Forever Adult Education Program, Rochester, MN, January 2013.
- “Supporting Student Engagement with Challenging Classroom Topics,” Teachers Talking, Gustavus Adolphus College, December 2012.
- “Religion and the 2012 Election,” Partners in Education, Trinity Lutheran Church, St. Peter, MN, November 2012.
- “American Politics: Dysfunctional by Design?,” Partners in Education, Faith-Lilac Way Lutheran Church, Robbinsdale, MN, November 2012.
- “FAIR, FTS, and the First Year Experience at Gustavus,” Student Life Division, Gustavus Adolphus College, October 2012.
- “Media and Politics,” Learning is Forever Adult Education Program, Rochester, MN, October 2012
- “American Politics: Dysfunctional by Design?,” Learning is Forever Adult Education Program, Rochester, MN, October 2012
- Heritage Partnership Luncheon, Gustavus Adolphus College, May 2011.
- “Forty Years of Interfaith Advocacy,” Joint Religious Legislative Coalition Banquet Keynote Speaker, St. Paul, MN, January 2011
- “Free Speech and Civility,” Campus Forum on Civility, Gustavus Adolphus College, November 2010
- “With One Voice? Religious Advocacy Groups at the State and National Level,” Political Science Department Friday Forum, Gustavus Adolphus College, April 2010
- “Religion in American Politics,” The U.S. and the Abrahamic Faiths (Judaism, Christianity and Islam): The Public Role of Religion, Gustavus Adolphus College, October 2009
- “Religion and the 2008 Presidential Election,” St. John’s Lutheran Church, Northfield, MN, October 2008
- “The Political Rhetoric of Religious Interest Groups: Agenda Advancement and Frame Development,” Women’s Studies Explorations, Gustavus Adolphus College, March 2007 (with Kathryn L. Johnson)
- “The Politics of Immigration,” Continuing Education, Gustavus Adolphus College, 2006
- Chapel Homily, Gustavus Adolphus College, 3/6/06, 9/15/06, 4/13/10
- “Question 84: Immigration Reform and the Bill of Rights,” Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society Banquet, Gustavus Adolphus College, 2006

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- “Teaching Race and Ethnicity in Times of COVID and Black Lives Matter,” Kendall Center for Engaged Learning, August 2020.
- “Teaching Poverty 101 Workshop,” University of Wisconsin-Madison, June 12-15, 2018.
- “Writing to Learn and Writing to Communicate,” FTS Refresher Workshop facilitated by Rebecca Fremo, Summer 2018
- “Developing, Implementing, or Re-Envisioning a First-Year Seminar,” Preconference workshop facilitated by Stephanie M. Foote, Dan Friedman, and Stuart Hunter at the Annual Conference on the First Year Experience, February 10, 2018.
- “Best Practice in the First College Year: Defining What Works and Why,” Preconference workshop facilitated by John N. Gardner and Betsy O. Barefoot at the Annual Conference on the First Year

Experience, February 11, 2017.

- “Implicit Bias Workshop,” Kendall Center for Engaged Learning, Summer 2016.
- “Values, Critical Thinking, and Advising,” FTS Refresher Workshop, Summer 2016 (Co-facilitator with Sarah Ruble).
- “First Term Seminar Faculty Workshop,” Summer 2013, 2015, 2017 (organizer).
- “Thinking Out Loud and Critically: Class Discussions and Oral Presentations in FTS,” FTS Refresher Workshop facilitated by Leila Brammer and Rob Kendrick, Summer 2014.
- “Summer Professional Development Seminar on Vocation, Teaching, and Learning in the Liberal Arts,” Center for Vocational Reflection, Summer 2010
- “Writing and Oral Communication for Today’s Student,” Summer Workshop on Teaching and Learning, Gustavus Adolphus College, Summer 2009
- Presidential Classroom Volunteer Instructor, Washington, D.C., Summer 2007
- “Educating for Civic Engagement: Making Democracy an American Reality,” Faculty Resource Network Summer Seminar, New York University, Summer 2007
- First Term Seminar Training Workshop, Gustavus Adolphus College, Summer 2006
- Pew *Civitas* Program in Faith and Public Affairs, Summer Scholar, Washington, D.C., Summer 2002
- Pollsters and Parishioners: Seminar on Survey Research and American Religion, Calvin College, Grand Rapids, MI, Summer 2001

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS AND SERVICE

- Editorial Board, *Politics and Religion* (2017-2022)
- American Political Science Association
 - o Religion and Politics Section (Executive Committee 2008-2010)
- Midwest Political Science Association
 - o Religion and Politics Section
 - o Harrell Rogers Graduate Student Scholarship Committee Member 2011
- Western Political Science Association
- Christians in Political Science

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- Honorary Gustie Award (2025)
- Minnesota Young Emerging Leadership Program (2025)
- Swenson-Bunn Memorial Award for Teaching Excellence (2024)
- Faculty Service Award (Faculty Task Force), Gustavus Adolphus College (2023)
- Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Grant, Gustavus Adolphus College, 2023 (\$991.80)
- Curriculum Revitalization Grant, Gustavus Adolphus College, 2022 (\$1,750)
- Edgar M. Carlson Award for Distinguished Teaching, Gustavus Adolphus College (2020)
- Faculty Service Award, Gustavus Adolphus College (2018)
- Presidential Faculty-Student Collaboration Grant, Gustavus Adolphus College, Summer 2018 (\$9,125)
 - o *Research on the history of child welfare policy in Minnesota with Kayla Mortenson ('19).*
- Community-Based Learning Mini Grant, Spring 2018 (\$850)
 - o *Honorariums for six guest speakers in Child Welfare Policy and a field trip to the Minnesota State Capitol to advocate for child welfare policy reforms with the nonprofit advocacy group, Safe Passage for Children.*
- Kendall Center for Engaged Learning Mini Grant, 2016 (\$400)
 - o *Development of POL 244: Women and Gender in U.S. Politics.*
- Coca-Cola Educational Partnership Grant, 2016 (\$1,500)

- *Development of a day-long workshop for Gustavus student orientation leaders, which helped them prepare to lead advising-related discussions in First Term Seminar courses.*
- Innovations in Student Development Award, November 2013
 - *Award from the Minnesota College Personnel Association "for outstanding contribution to Minnesota higher education" in connection with first-year students through the Faculty/ Administrator in Residence (FAIR) Program*
- Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Grant, Gustavus Adolphus College, Summer 2013 (\$1,800)
 - *Research of the response of coalition partners in the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition to the debate over the proposed Minnesota marriage amendment.*
- Community Service Center Fellow, Gustavus Adolphus College, 2010-2011
- Presidential Faculty-Student Collaboration Grant, Gustavus Adolphus College, Summer 2010 (\$7,000)
 - *Research of the Joint Religious Legislative Coalition, an interfaith advocacy group in Minnesota. During the summer of 2010, Jackie Schwerm ('11) and I conducted interviews with group members and leaders, conducted a content analysis of group documents and media coverage, and engaged in participant observation of the group. The data collected was used in Interfaith Advocacy: The Role of Religious Coalitions in the Political Process*
- Bush Teaching and Learning Mini Grant, Gustavus Adolphus College, Summer 2007 (\$800)
 - *Research and preparation of a scholarly article on the rhetorical strategies of politically liberal and conservative religious advocacy groups. During the summer of 2007, I conducted in-depth interviews with representatives from seven religious interest groups who are directly responsible for the media strategies of their group.*
- Research, Scholarship, and Creativity Grant, Gustavus Adolphus College, Summer 2007 (\$2,000)
 - *Participation as a volunteer instructor for the Presidential Classroom program in the summer of 2007. Presidential Classroom is a non-profit educational program based in Washington, D.C. that provides high school students with the opportunity to visit the nation's capital and to participate in seminars and other experiential learning opportunities.*
- Political Science Graduate Student Teaching Prize. University of Washington, 2002
- National Council of State Legislatures / Sprint Scholarship Winner, 1999

SERVICE

Service to Department:

- Department chair, 2019-2024
- Coordinated inaugural Lindau Residency in Conservative Thought, 2016
- Co-coordinated Minnesota Gubernatorial Candidate Forum, Fall 2009
- Co-organizer of the Midwest Political Science Undergraduate Research Conference, Spring 2010
- Faculty Advisor to Pi Sigma Alpha Honorary Society, 2006-present

Service to Faculty:

- Signature Experience Working Group (2024-25)
- Faculty Task Force, Chair (2023)
- Faculty Admissions Liaison (2022-2024)
- Board of Trustees StudentX Working Group (2023)
- Board of Trustees Student Experience Committee (2022-2025)
- First Term Seminar Advisory Board (2021-2024)
- Curriculum Committee, 2019-2022 (Chair 2019-2022)
- Curricular revision summer logistics working group (2016 & 2017)
- Director, First Term Seminar Program, 2012-2018
- Faculty Review Committee (2013-2017)
- Program Assessment and Development Committee, 2010-2011

- Grade Appeals Board, 2009-2011
- Gustavus 150 Student Life Task Force, 2009
- Learning Living Communities Task Force, 2007-2008
- Faculty Committee on Student Life, 2007-2009 (Chair 2008-2009)

Service to the College:

- Search Committee member (Chief Marketing Officer, 2024; Academic Support Center Director, 2017; Vice President for Student Life, 2011; Counseling Center Director, 2009; Service Learning Center Director, 2008; Area Coordinator in Residential Life, 2010, 2008.
- Coordinated and facilitated summer workshop for Gustie Greeters, 2016
- Faculty-in-Residence for the First Year Experience, 2012-2015
- Student organization faculty advisor: Proclaim, 2007-present; Democracy Matters, 2005-2011; Community Service House, 2006-2007
- Boundary Waters Wilderness Experience Program Leader, 2006
- Head Resident, Rundstrom Hall, 2005-2012
- College Judicial Board Member, 2007-2011

REFERENCES

Available upon request