

# David A. Hughes, Ph.D.

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science  
and Public Administration  
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## EMPLOYMENT

Associate Professor, *Auburn University at Montgomery*, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, 2021 to present

Assistant Professor, *Auburn University at Montgomery*, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, 2016 to 2021

## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, University of Georgia, 2016 (with distinction). Dissertation committee: Richard L. Vining, Jr. (chair), Scott Ainsworth, Keith Dougherty, and Teena Wilhelm

B.S., Political Science and History, University of Montevallo, 2011 (*summa cum laude*)

## RESEARCH/TEACHING INTERESTS

Public law, American courts, judicial institutions, judicial elections, the separation of powers, political communication, southern politics, positive political theory, statistics and data analysis

## PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Howard, Nicholas O. and **David A. Hughes**. Forthcoming. "Revisiting Senatorial Courtesy and the Selection of Judges to the U.S. Courts of Appeals." *Political Research Quarterly*.

**Hughes, David A.** 2021. "Judicial Institutions and the Political Economy of Retirements." *Political Behavior*, 43: 1–27.

**Hughes, David A.** 2020. "Does Local Journalism Stimulate Voter Participation in State Supreme Court Elections?" *Journal of Law and Courts*, 8(1): 95–126.

Vining, Richard L. Jr., Teena Wilhelm, and **David A. Hughes**. 2019. "The Chief Justice as Effective Administrative Leader: The Roles of Policy Scope and Interbranch Relations." *Social Science Quarterly*, 100(4): 1358–68.

**Hughes, David A.** 2019. "New-Style Campaigns in State Supreme Court Retention Elections." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*, 19(2): 127–54.

**Hughes, David A.**, Richard L. Vining Jr., and Teena Wilhelm. 2017. "The Politics of the U.S. Federal Judiciary's Requests for Institutional Reform." *Social Science Quarterly*, 98(5): 1277–95.

**Hughes, David A.**, Teena Wilhelm, and Richard L. Vining Jr. 2015. "Deliberation Rules and Opinion Assignment Procedures in State Supreme Courts: A Replication." *Justice System Journal*, 36(4): 395–410.

Haire, Susan, Barry Edwards, and **David A. Hughes**. 2013. "The Voting Behavior of President Obama's Appointees on the U.S. Courts of Appeals." *Judicature*, 97(3): 137–143.

**BOOK  
CHAPTERS**

**Hughes, David A.** Forthcoming. “Alabama: Polarized and Uncompetitive.” In *The New Politics of the Old South: An Introduction to Southern Politics*, Seventh Edition. Edited by Charles S. Bullock, III and Mark J. Rozell. Roman and Littlefield: Lanham, Maryland.

**Hughes, David A.** 2018. “Alabama: Race, Realignment, and One-Party Politics.” In *The New Politics of the Old South: An Introduction to Southern Politics*, Sixth Edition. Edited by Charles S. Bullock, III and Mark J. Rozell. Rowman and Littlefield: Lanham, Maryland.

**BOOK  
REVIEWS**

**Hughes, David A.** 2019. “*Judicial Elections in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century*, 2017, Edited by Chris W. Bonneau and Melinda Gann Hall, New York: Routledge Press.” *Law and Politics Book Review*, Vol. 29 (3): 31-3.

**Hughes, David A.** 2014. “*The Behavior of Federal Judges: A Theoretical and Empirical Study of Rational Choice*, 2013, Lee Epstein, William M. Landes, and Richard A. Posner, Cambridge: Harvard University Press.” *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 76 (2).

**UNDER  
REVIEW**

**Hughes, David A.** “Local Media Coverage of Candidates for State Supreme Courts.” *Justice System Journal*. Invited to revise and resubmit.

**TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE**

Auburn University at Montgomery

- Undergraduate courses
  - Introduction to American Politics
  - Research Design and Methodology
  - Judicial Politics
  - Southern Politics
  - Constitutional Law: Rights and Liberties
  - Constitutional Law: Institutional Powers
  - Survey Research Methodology
  - Introduction to Game Theory
- Graduate courses
  - Southern Politics
  - Judicial Politics
  - Linear Regression Analysis
  - Maximum Likelihood Estimation
  - Survey Research Methodology

University of Georgia

- Undergraduate
  - Honors Introduction to American Government
- Graduate
  - Graduate Teaching Assistant Seminar

**OTHER  
TEACHING  
EXPERIENCE**

University of Georgia

- Teaching assistant
  - Legislative Process, Charles S. Bullock, III
  - Southern Politics, Charles S. Bullock, III
- Guest lecturer
  - Criminal Justice Administration, Richard L. Vining, Jr.
  - Constitutional Law: Institutional Powers, Teena Wilhelm
  - Special Topics in Law and Judicial Process, Richard L. Vining, Jr.

University of Michigan's Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research

- Teaching assistant
  - Introduction to Game Theory, Scott Ainsworth

**RESEARCH  
POSITIONS**

University of Georgia

- Research assistant
  - Keith L. Dougherty: Tracking the Development of the First U.S. Political Parties through Thomas Jefferson's Correspondence, 1787–1803 (with Brittany Leach)
  - Robert Grafstein: Treating Global Political Parties as Economic Assets and Investments
  - Susan B. Haire: Phase III, U.S. Circuit Courts of Appeals Database, 2003–2010 (with Barry Edwards and Phil Marcin)
  - Richard L. Vining, Jr.: Measuring the Newsworthiness of U.S. Supreme Court Decision-Making
  - Richard L. Vining, Jr.: Examining the American Bar Association's Ratings of U.S. District Court Nominees
  - Richard L. Vining, Jr.: Gathering the Proceedings of the Federal Judicial Conferences of the United States
- Graduate resident
  - University of Georgia at Oxford Program, Associate Member with Keble College, University of Oxford

**HONORS,  
AWARDS,  
& GRANTS**

Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee Award (2020): A \$1,500 award to host a distinguished scholar's keynote address for Auburn University at Montgomery's 2020 recognition of Constitution Day.

Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee Award (2019): An \$1,800 award to host a mini-conference on Auburn University at Montgomery's campus in recognition of Constitution Day 2019.

Auburn University at Montgomery Faculty Grant in Aid (2018): A nearly \$4,000 grant to interview members of the Alabama judiciary.

Southern Political Science Association Artinian Travel Award (2017): A \$500 travel grant for untenured university faculty to attend the association's annual meeting.

American Political Science Association Travel Grant (2015): A \$300 travel grant for graduate students to attend the association's annual meeting.

University of Georgia Travel Grant (2015 & 2014): Travel awards of \$250 each for graduate students to attend academic conferences to present research relating to the student's dissertation.

University of Georgia Department of Political Science Excellence in Teaching Award (2014)

Reed Graduate Fellowship (2011): A research position including a \$5,000 grant for a University of Georgia graduate student admitted into the Department of Political Science.

Peter Mekis Scholarship (2011): A \$1,500 scholarship for a University of Georgia graduate student who conducts research in the field of political theory.

#### **CONFERENCE PAPERS**

"Separation of Powers, Court Curbing, and Judicial Legitimacy in American States." Presented at the 2022 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Teena Wilhelm.

"Chief Justice Selection and Ideology: An Update." Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Teena Wilhelm and Richard L. Vining, Jr.

"Information Heuristics in Judicial Elections Using an Experimental Design." Presented at the 2021 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

"Local Media Coverage of Candidates for State Supreme Courts." Presented at the 2020 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.

"Local Media and the Unraveling of Democratic Linkages in Judicial Politics." Presented at the 2019 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.

"Court Curbing as Environmental Position-Taking." Presented at the 2019 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Nicholas O. Howard.

"Judicial Representation in Alabama." Presented at the 2019 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.

"The Separation of Powers, Court Curbing, and Judicial Legitimacy in American States." Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. With Teena Wilhelm.

"Covering the Courts: Journalism and the Electoral Connection in State Supreme Courts." Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the State Politics and Policy Conference.

"Court Curbing as Environmental Position-Taking." Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. With Nicholas O. Howard.

"Patterns of Descriptive Representation in Alabama's Judiciary." Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the Alabama Political Science Association. With Rania Marwan.

- “Court-Curbing as Environmental Position-Taking.” Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Nicholas O. Howard.
- “Ideology on the U.S. Courts of Appeals.” Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Nicholas O. Howard.
- “The Political Economy of State Supreme Court Retirements.” Presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.”
- “Presidential Leadership Strategy and Legislative Relations in International Agreement-Making.” With Kiki Caruson. Presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.”
- “Judicial Polarization on State Supreme Courts.” With Christopher Hare and Ryan Bakker. Presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
- “Judicial Visibility and Accountability on State Supreme Courts.” Presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
- “The Medium is Not the Message: Judicial Accountability, Visibility, and Posturing.” Presented at the 2016 annual meeting of the Public Choice Society.
- “Interbranch Politics and Federal Court Reform.” With Richard L. Vining, Jr. and Teena Wilhelm. Presented at the 2016 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
- “An Information-Based Theory of Judicial Choice with an Application to State Supreme Courts.” Presented at the 2015 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.
- “Judicial Visibility as a Form of Accountability” Presented at the 2015 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.
- “Constraint at the Ideological Extremes: Testing Attitudes and Legal Regimes.” With Gordon Ballingrud. Presented at the 2015 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.
- “Judicial Visibility, Information Asymmetries, and Voter Welfare: Do Electorally Accountable Judiciaries Promote Voter Welfare?” Presented at the 2014 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.
- “Are Amicus Briefs Still a Reliable Signaling Device?: An Examination of Certiorari Decisions and Amicus Citations at the U.S. Supreme Court.” With Daniel J. Hoppe. Presented at the 2014 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.
- “An Economic Analysis of State Supreme Court Retirements.” Presented at the 2014 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
- “U.S. Supreme Court Doctrine and the Role of the Chief Justice.” Presented at the 2013 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

- “Civil Liberties and the Determinants of Local Newspaper Coverage of State Supreme Courts.” With Sara Hiers. Presented at the 2013 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.
- PAPERS IN PREPARATION** “Separation of Powers, Court Curbing, and Judicial Legitimacy in American States.” Presented at the 2022 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Teena Wilhelm.
- “Chief Justice Selection and Ideology: An Update.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Teena Wilhelm and Richard L. Vining, Jr.
- “Updating PAJID Scores for State Supreme Court Justices, 1970-2020.” With Teena Wilhelm.
- OTHER WRITING** “In Many States, Simple Elections to Keep or Fire Judges Have Become a Partisan Mess.” *London School of Economics U.S. Centre*. 27 February 2019. [goo.gl/tDe7tS](https://www.lse.ac.uk/USCentre/2019/02/27/in-many-states-simple-elections-to-keep-or-fire-judges-have-become-a-partisan-mess/).
- “How Republican Missteps Turned Alabama Blue.” *The Conversation*. 13 December 2017. [goo.gl/HkDkeu](https://www.theconversation.com/how-republican-missteps-turned-alabama-blue/2017/12/13).
- “Defying Trump, Alabama GOP Picks Roy Moore and Embraces the Same Old Politics of Rage.” *The Conversation*. 27 September 2017. [goo.gl/DzxtHV](https://www.theconversation.com/defying-trump-alabama-gop-picks-roy-moore-and-embraces-the-same-old-politics-of-rage/2017/9/27)
- INVITED TALKS** “Local Media and Democratic Linkages in State Supreme Courts.” University of Texas at Arlington, Department of Political Science, 22 November 2019.
- “Political Institutions and Democracy in the Alabama Judiciary.” Leadership Montgomery, Alabama Department of Archives and History. 9 July 2019.
- JOURNAL REFEREE** *American Journal of Political Science*
- American Political Science Review*
- Journal of Law and Courts*
- Journal of Political Science Education*
- Political Research Quarterly*
- Publius: The Journal of Federalism*
- OTHER PROFESSIONAL SERVICE** Co-webmaster (with Shane Gleason and Allison Trochesset), American Political Science Association’s organized section for Law and Courts, 2021 to present.
- Panel Discussant and Chair, “Federal Judicial Selection.” Annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. 2022.
- Panel Participant, “Transitioning from Graduate School to Academia.” Annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. 2022.

Panel Discussant and Chair, “Judicial Elections in the U.S. States.” Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. 2021

Panelist, “Navigating the Academic Job Market as a Junior Scholar.” Southern Studies Conference at Auburn University at Montgomery. 2021.

Panelist, “Navigating the Academic Job Market as a Junior Scholar.” Southern Studies Conference at Auburn University at Montgomery. 2020.

Panel Chair, “Food Narratives of an Evolving South.” Southern Studies Conference at Auburn University at Montgomery. 2020.

Panel Chair, “The Politics of the South.” Southern Studies Conference at Auburn University at Montgomery. 2019.

Panel Chair. “Technology and Teaching.” Southern Studies Conference at Auburn University at Montgomery. 2019.

Panel Chair, “Initiatives, Referenda, and Money in State Politics.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2017.

Panel Discussant, “Spatial Models of Politics.” Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, 2017.

Panel Discussant, “Political Representation.” Annual meeting of the Public Choice Society, 2016.

Panel Discussant, “State Politics and Policy: Electoral Rules and Voting Behavior.” Annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2015.

**SOFTWARE** STATA, R, WinBUGS, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X

**PROFESSIONAL** American Political Science Association, Law and Courts Section

**MEMBERSHIPS**

Midwest Political Science Association

Southern Political Science Association.

**REFERENCES** Available upon request

Last Updated: January 2022