

Hunter C. Smith, M.P.A., M.A.

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[LinkedIn](#)

Education

2027 (exp.): Doctor of Philosophy, Political Science, University of California – Santa Barbara

Qualifying Fields: American Politics, Environmental Politics

2025: Master of Arts, Political Science, University of California – Santa Barbara

2022: Master of Public Administration, University of Washington

Emphases: Analysis & Evaluation, Environmental Policy

2020: Bachelor of Arts, Political Science & Economics, Christopher Newport University

Research & Teaching Interests

Public opinion; environmental politics & policy; methodology; political psychology; political behavior; political economy.

Publications | Peer-Reviewed

Smith, H. (2020). An analysis of decarbonization efforts in Iceland and Finland. *The Cupola*, 14(1), 220-229. <https://issuu.com/cnuocpr/docs/2020cupola>.

Publications | Public Scholarship

Smith, H. (2019, Mar. 18). *The Trump economy in context*. Wason Center for Public Policy. <https://web.archive.org/web/20190319163300/http://wasoncenter.cnu.edu/the-trump-economy-in-context/>.

Smith, H. (2018, Nov. 24). Hunter Smith OpEd on birthright citizenship. *The Daily Press*. <https://www.dailypress.com/2018/11/24/hunter-smith-oped-on-birthright-citizenship/>.

Smith, H. (2018, Nov. 15). *Immigration and executive authority: Could Trump really end birthright citizenship?*. Wason Center for Public Policy. <https://web.archive.org/web/20190227194312/http://wasoncenter.cnu.edu/immigration-and-executive-authority-could-trump-really-end-birthright-citizenship/>.

Smith, H. (2018, Oct. 6). *With agreement in place, Trump closes one front of his trade war before the midterms*. Wason Center for Public Policy. <https://web.archive.org/web/20181116072453/http://wasoncenter.cnu.edu/with-agreement-in-place-trump-closes-one-front-of-his-trade-war-before-the-midterms/>.

Research in Progress

Smith, H. C. “Information overload: The relationship between complexity of policy information and carbon trading policy attitudes.”

Smith, H. C. “Review responsiveness: Examining the relationship between regulatory review requirements & legislative action in the U.S. Congress.”

Smith, H. C. “Partisan pricing: The effect of partisan media framing on preferences for carbon pricing.”

Smith, H. C. “The climate casualty hypothesis.”

Conferences

- 2025: Occasional Workshop in Environmental and Resource Economics. [Attendee].
2025: “Review responsiveness: Examining the relationship between regulatory review requirements & legislative action in the U.S. Congress.” Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association.
2020: “An analysis of decarbonization efforts in Iceland and Finland.” Paideia, Christopher Newport University. [Cancelled due to COVID-19 pandemic].

Invited Talks

- 2025: Guest lecture, POLS 106CI (Causal Inference in Political Science), UCSB Department of Political Science.
2023: Experienced TA Panel, POLS 501 (TA Training Seminar), UCSB Department of Political Science.
2022: Guest lecture, PUBPOL 528 (Quantitative Analysis II), Evans School of Public Policy & Governance, University of Washington.

Grants & Fellowships

- 2025: Department Fellowship, UCSB Department of Political Science, \$8,000.
2025: Conference Funding, UCSB Department of Political Science, \$500.
2024: Supplemental Grant, UCSB Department of Political Science, \$323.
2024: Research Fellowship, UCSB Department of Political Science. \$7,000.
2024: Department Fellowship, UCSB Department of Political Science. \$8,000.
2023: Research Fellowship, UCSB Department of Political Science. \$2,500.
2022: Department Fellowship, UCSB Department of Political Science. \$8,000.

Awards

- 2025: Adams-Lee Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award, UCSB Department of Political Science. \$2,500 honorarium.
2025: Excellence in Teaching Award, UCSB Graduate Student Association. [Nominee].
2024: Louis Lancaster Award for International Studies, UCSB Department of Political Science. \$2,500 honorarium.

Teaching Experience | Undergraduate Teaching Assistant

University of California – Santa Barbara

- Introduction to Research in Political Science: Winter 2023, Summer 2023, Winter 2024, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Winter 2025, Fall 2025.
Causal Inference in Political Science: Spring 2023, Spring 2025.
Comparative Environmental Politics: Fall 2023.
International Politics: Summer 2025.

Teaching Experience | Graduate Teaching Assistant

University of Washington

- Quantitative Analysis II: Spring 2022.
Qualitative Methods & Field Analysis: Winter 2022.
Environmental Decision Analysis: Winter 2022.

Research Experience

- 2025-2026: Graduate Student Researcher, Department of Political Science, University of California – Santa Barbara
- 2025: Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Political Science, University of California – Santa Barbara
- 2023: Graduate Research Assistant, Department of Political Science, University of California – Santa Barbara.
- 2022: Co-authored master's capstone report, "How can WDFW increase carbon sequestration to mitigate climate change?"
- 2021: Graduate Research Assistant, AI2ES Risk Communication Working Group, University of Washington.
- 2019-2020: Undergraduate Research Assistant, Department of Political Science, Christopher Newport University.
- 2019-2020: Head Research Fellow, Wason Center for Public Policy, Christopher Newport University.
- 2018-2019: Research Fellow, Wason Center for Public Policy, Christopher Newport University.
- 2018: Undergraduate Research Assistant, Department of Political Science, Christopher Newport University.

Service / Miscellaneous

- 2025: Interview, student request for course assignment ("Engage with your major department"), UCSB Department of Political Science.
- 2024: Letter of support, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award.
- 2024: Letter of recommendation, UCDC Internship Program.
- 2024: Vice President, Political Science Graduate Student Association, UCSB Department of Political Science.
- 2022-2023: Graduate Student Member, Diversity Committee, UCSB Department of Political Science.

Memberships & Affiliations

- American Political Science Association
- Midwest Political Science Association
- Southern Political Science Association
- Western Political Science Association
- Energy Governance and Political Economy (EGAPE) Lab
- Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society
- Omicron Delta Epsilon International Economics Honor Society
- Phi Alpha Theta National History Honor Society