

David A. Hughes, Ph.D.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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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

American politics, political institutions, law and courts, the separation of powers, political communication, state politics, southern politics, applied game theory, statistics and data analysis

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Vining, Richard L., Teena Wilhelm, **David A. Hughes**, and Aidan Gonzales. Forthcoming. "Selecting Diverse Chief Justices in the American States." *Polity*

Hughes, David A., Teena Wilhelm, and Xuan Wang. Forthcoming. "Updating PAJID Scores for State Supreme Court Justices (1970-2019)." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*.

Wilhelm, Teena, Richard L. Vining, Jr., and **David A. Hughes**. 2023. "Chief Justice Selection Rules and Judicial Ideology." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*, 23(3): 267-82.

Hughes, David A. 2023. "Local Media Coverage of Candidates for State Supreme Courts." *Justice System Journal*, 43(3): 238-59.

Howard, Nicholas O. and **David A. Hughes**. 2022. "Revisiting Senatorial Courtesy and the Selection of Judges to the U.S. Courts of Appeals." *Political Research Quarterly*, 75(1): 61-75.

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. "Decision Making on U.S. State Courts." In *The Research Handbook on Judicial Politics*. Edited by Michael P. Fix and Matthew Montgomery. Elgar Publishing.

Hughes, David A. 2022. "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. Rowman 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. 2022. "US Supreme Court Doctrine in the State High Courts, 2020, Michael P. Fix and Benjamin J. Kassow, New York: Cambridge University Press." *Law and Politics Book Review*, Vol. 32 (8).

Hughes, David A. 2019. "Judicial Elections in the 21st 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).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Undergraduate courses
 - Introduction to American Politics
 - State and Local Government
 - Research Design and Methodology
 - Judicial Politics
 - Southern Politics
 - Constitutional Law: Rights and Liberties
 - Constitutional Law: Institutional Powers
 - Legal Issues in Civil Rights
 - Survey Research Methodology
 - Introduction to Game Theory

- Graduate courses
 - Southern Politics
 - Judicial Politics
 - Linear Regression Analysis
 - Maximum Likelihood Estimation
 - Survey Research Methodology
 - Research Design
 - Capstone Seminar

DISSERTATION COMMITTEES

- Troy Chen. 2023. *Examining the Causes of Variation among States' Safe Drinking Water Act Violations*. Auburn University. In fulfillment of a doctoral degree in Public Administration and Public Policy. Role: Committee Member.

MASTER'S CAPSTONES (THESES)

- Katelyn Brewton. 2023. "Financial Literacy and Its Impact on Economic Well-Being." Auburn University at Montgomery. In fulfillment of a master's degree in Public Administration. Role: Principal Advisor.
- Christal Chapman. 2023. "The CROWN Act: A Movement for Hair Justice." Auburn University at Montgomery. In fulfillment of a master's degree in Public Administration. Role: Principal Advisor.
- Teraney Eatmon. 2023. "The Effect of Education Funding and Crime in Communities." Auburn University at Montgomery. In fulfillment of a master's degree in Public Administration. Role: Principal Advisor.
- Emmanuel Tieku. 2023. "What Explains the Variability of Inflation in Ghana?" Auburn University at Montgomery. In fulfillment of a master's degree in Public Administration. Role: Principal Advisor.
- Shabrittany Williams. 2023. "A Sober Drive Can Save Lives." Auburn University at Montgomery. In fulfillment of a master's degree in Public Administration. Role: Principal Advisor.

HONORS, AWARDS, & GRANTS

Auburn University at Montgomery Undergraduate Research and Creative Activity Grant (2024): A \$3,000 award to conduct research on the racial integration of Alabama's Circuit Courts with an undergraduate student.

Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee Award (2024): A \$3,000 award to host distinguished scholars' keynote addresses for Auburn University at Montgomery's 2024 Southern Studies Conference.

Alabama Humanities Alliance (2023): A \$1,500 award to host a distinguished scholar's keynote address for Auburn University at Montgomery's 2023 Southern Studies Conference.

Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee Award (2023): A \$4,000 award to host distinguished scholars' keynote addresses for Auburn University at Montgomery's 2023 Southern Studies Conference.

Auburn University at Montgomery Lectures Committee Award (2021): A \$2,000 award to host a distinguished scholar's keynote address for Auburn University at Montgomery's 2022 recognition of Constitution Day.

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

"The Evolving Role of Local Journalism and State Supreme Court Decision-Making in Death Cases." Presented at the 2024 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association.

"Separation of Powers, Court Curbing, and Judicial Legitimacy in American States." Presented at the 2023 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Teena Wilhelm and Aidan Gonzalez.

"Selecting Diverse Chief Justices in the American States." Presented at the 2023 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. With Teena Wilhelm, Richard L. Vining, Jr., and Aidan Gonzalez.

"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.” With Teena Wilhelm and Aidan Gonzalez.

“Voter Support for Dual Incumbents in an Alabama Republican Primary: Evidence using Survey Data.” With M. V. Hood III and Seth McKee.

“The Racial Integration of the Alabama Circuit Bench.” With Nathan Jordan.

“Senatorial Courtesy and Appointments to U.S. District Courts.” With Nicholas O. Howard and Philip Warncke.

“The Evolving Role of Local Journalism and State Supreme Court Decision-Making in Death Cases.” With Xuan Wang.

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/news/press-releases/2019/02/27/2019-02-27-01).

“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/2017-09-27)

SELECTED UNIVERSITY/ DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Southern Studies Conference Director, 2022 to present

Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2022

Graduate Student Research Council, 2021 to present

AUM Poll Director, 2020 to present

AU/AUM Joint Doctoral Program Comprehensive Exam Committee, 2018 to present

University Core Curriculum Committee, 2020 to 2023

Constitution Day Coordinator, 2016 to 2022

**JOURNAL
REFEREE**

<i>American Journal of Political Science</i>	<i>Political Research Quarterly</i>
<i>American Political Science Review</i>	<i>Politics, Groups, and Identities</i>
<i>Journal of Law and Courts</i>	<i>Publius: The Journal of Federalism</i>
<i>Journal of Political Science Education</i>	<i>Social Science Quarterly</i>
<i>Political Behavior</i>	<i>Social Science Review</i>

**RECENT PRO-
FESSIONAL
SERVICE**

- Panel Chair, “The Doctrines of the Roberts Court.” Annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. 2024
- Co-webmaster (with Shane Gleason and Allison Trochesset), American Political Science Association’s organized section for Law and Courts, 2021 to 2023.
- Panel Discussant and Chair, “Appellate Procedure and Selection in the Nation.” Annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. 2023.
- 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.

REFERENCES Available upon request

Last Updated: January 2024