

Matthew J. Lacombe

Contact Information	Department of Political Science Case Western Reserve University Mather House 11201 Euclid Avenue Cleveland, Ohio 44106-7109	(440) 339-3471 matthewjlacombe@gmail.com www.matthewlacombe.com
Academic Appointments	Case Western Reserve University Alexander P. Lamis Associate Professor in American Politics, Department of Political Science, 2022- Barnard College-Columbia University Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2019-2022 Faculty affiliate, Columbia University Scientific Union for the Reduction of Gun Violence (SURGE), 2020-2022 National Fellow, Jefferson Scholars Foundation, University of Virginia, 2018-2019	
Education	Northwestern University, Evanston, IL Ph.D., Political Science, 2019 Fields: American Politics (<i>with distinction</i>), Methods Dissertation: “Gunning for the Masses: How the NRA Has Shaped Its Supporters’ Behavior, Advanced Its Political Agenda, and Thwarted the Will of the Majority,” passed <i>with distinction</i> Committee: Daniel Galvin (Chair), Anthony Chen, Benjamin Page, Jason Seawright M.A., Political Science, 2015 Allegheny College, Meadville, PA B.A., <i>summa cum laude</i> , Political Science and Economics, 2011	
Books	<i>Firepower: How the NRA Turned Gun Owners into a Political Force</i> , 2021, Princeton Studies in American Politics: Historical, International, and Comparative Perspectives, Princeton University Press <i>Selected Media: New York Times, NPR, Time, U.S. News and World Report, The Trace and Daily Beast, USA Today</i> <i>Reviews: The New Yorker, Perspectives on Politics</i> <i>Billionaires and Stealth Politics</i> (with Benjamin Page and Jason Seawright), 2019, University of Chicago Press <i>Selected Media: New York Times, The Guardian, The Hill, Vox, Jacobin</i> <i>Reviews: New York Times Magazine, Perspectives on Politics, Journal of Politics, Jacobin, The Forum</i>	

Articles and
Chapters

“Power in a Union: Tracing the Creation of the Alliance Between LGBT Activists and Labor Unions in the U.S. and U.K.” (with Boris Heersink), forthcoming, *Perspectives on Politics*

“Why Do Issues ‘Whose Time Has Come’ Stick Around? Agenda Durability and the Case of Gun Control” (with Kristin Goss), forthcoming, *Perspectives on Politics*

“Social Disruption, Gun Buying, and Anti-System Beliefs” (with Matthew Simonson, Jon Green, and James Druckman), forthcoming, *Perspectives on Politics*

“Violence and Voting in the U.S.: How School Shootings Impact Elections” (with Laura Garcia and Ana Arjona), 2022, *American Political Science Review*

“Post-Loss Power Building: The Feedback Effects of Policy Losses on Group Identity and Collective Action,” 2022, *Policy Studies Journal*

“Weaponized Group Identities and the Health of Democracy: How Groups Can be Good at Democracy, but Bad for It” in *Democratic Resilience: Can the United States Withstand Rising Polarization?*, ed. Robert C. Lieberman, Suzanne Mettler, and Kenneth M. Roberts (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021)

“Do Courts Change Politics? *Heller* and the Limits of Policy Feedback Effects” (with Kristin Goss), 2020, *Emory Law Journal*

“Gun Ownership as a Social Identity: Estimating Behavioral and Attitudinal Relationships” (with Adam Howat and Jacob Rothschild), 2019, *Social Science Quarterly*

“The Political Weaponization of Gun Owners: The NRA’s Cultivation, Dissemination, and Use of a Group Social Identity,” 2019, *Journal of Politics*
Select Media: New York Times, Time, Monkey Cage, The New Yorker, Vox, Washington Monthly, FiveThirtyEight Politics Podcast, Columbia Journalism Review

Awards: 2019 Best Paper Award, APSA Political Parties and Organizations Section

“Racial and Gender Representation in the American Politics Canon: An Analysis of Core Graduate Syllabi” (with Sean Diament and Adam Howat), 2018, *PS: Political Science and Politics*

“What is the ‘Canon’ in American Politics? Analyses of Core Graduate Syllabi” (with Sean Diament and Adam Howat), 2017, *Journal of Political Science Education*

Book Reviews

Review of *Merchants of the Right* by Jennifer Carlson, 2023, *Science*

Review of *America’s Inequality Trap* by Nathan J. Kelly, 2021, *Political Science Quarterly*

Working Papers
and Works in
Progress

“Green Distractions? When Did Environmental Politics Become a Matter of Personal Responsibility?” (with Dave Karpf and Michaela Flum) (*revise and resubmit at Interest Groups & Advocacy*)

“Green Distractions: The Personal Responsibility Frame of Environmental Protection” (with Dave Karpf and Michaela Flum) (ongoing book project)

“Unexpected Alliances in American Politics” (with Boris Heersink) (ongoing book project)

“Covid-19, Gun Buying, and Gun Politics” (with James Druckman, Jon Green, and Matthew Simonson) (ongoing multi-paper project)

“APD and ‘Group-Party Fit’: Insights from the NRA’s Alignment with the GOP”

“Dynamic Group Partisanship in the U.S.” (with Katherine Krimmel)

“Promoting the Right Ideas: Think-tank Funding and Scholarly Research” (with Benjamin Page and Jason Seawright)

Other
Writing and
Commentary

“A Culmination and a Crossroads: The NRA’s Past and Future in Light of the Events of 2020,” Brennan Center for Justice Symposium on Protests, Insurrection, and the Second Amendment, June 2021

“What Boulder shooting means for the future of the NRA,” *USA Today*, 24 March 2021

“Wayne LaPierre Looks Like the Corrupt Elites He Rails Against,” *The Daily Beast*, 7 August 2020

“What gun control activists can learn from the NRA,” *Los Angeles Times*, 7 August 2019

“Trump is at the NRA today. It didn’t used to be a Republican ally,” *Washington Post* Monkey Cage blog, 26 April 2019

“What Gun Control Advocates Can Learn from Citizen Mobilization by the National Rifle Association,” SSN Key Findings Brief, November 2018

“What billionaires want: the secret influence of America’s 100 richest” (with Benjamin Page and Jason Seawright), *The Guardian*, 31 October 2018

“This is how the NRA ‘politically weaponized’ its membership,” *Washington Post* Monkey Cage blog, 11 October 2017

“Applying for Federal Grant Funding: An Interview with Sophia Jordán Wallace,” *The Legislative Scholar*, Spring 2017

“Young Voters and the ‘Rally for Sanity,’” guest post for Inside Higher Ed, November 2010

“Allegheny College Survey of Civility and Compromise in American Politics” (with Daniel M. Shea, Melissa S. Kovacs, Maya Brod, Katherine Janocsko, and Richard Shafranek), April 2010

Conference
Papers and
Presentations

Invited Talks/Conferences:

“Armed and Political: Understanding Gun Cultures in Canada and the United States,” The University of Winnipeg Criminal Justice Department Seminar, November 2022

“The NRA: Past, Present, and Future,” CWRU Center for Policy Studies Public Affairs Discussion Group, October 2022

“Social Disruption, Gun Buying, and Anti-System Beliefs,” Columbia University Center for Injury Science and Prevention Works-in-Progress Seminar, March 2022

“APD and ‘Group-Party Fit’: Insights from the NRA’s Alignment with the GOP,” Placing Parties in American Political Development Workshop, virtual, November 2021

“Power in a Union: Tracing the Creation of the Alliance Between LGBT Activists and Labor Unions in the U.S. and U.K.,” Fordham Brown Bag Lunch Series, November 2021

“Firepower: How the NRA Turned Gun Owners into a Political Force,” P3 Research Lab meeting guest speaker, Johns Hopkins University, March 2021

“Guns in Crisis: The Edge of Democracy” panel discussion participant, University of Arizona March 2021

“The NRA, Gun Owners, and Politics,” The Commonwealth Club, March 2021

“A Culmination and a Crossroads: The NRA’s Past and Future in Light of the Events of 2020,” Brennan Center for Justice Workshop on Gun Rights and Regulation, February 2021

“Firepower: How the NRA Turned Gun Owners into a Political Force,” University of Maryland American Politics Workshop, November 2020

“Firepower: How the NRA Turned Gun Owners into a Political Force,” University of Virginia American Politics Seminar, October 2020

“Political Parties and the Decline of Democratic Accountability in the U.S.” Columbia World Projects Convening on Political Parties, New York, NY, December 2019

“Weaponized Group Identities and the Health of Democracy: How Groups Can be Good *at* Democracy, but Bad *for* It,” Conference on Democratic Resilience in the U.S., Ithaca, NY, November 2019

“Billionaires and Gun Owners in U.S. Politics,” Danish parliamentarian delegation event hosted by Ambassador Anne Riggelsen, New York, NY, November 2019

“The NRA and Identity-Based Political Mobilization,” Columbia American Politics Workshop, New York, NY, September 2019

“Billionaires and Stealth Politics,” Evanston Literary Festival, Evanston, IL, May 2019

“The NRA’s Political Weaponization of Gun Owners,” University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, February 2019

“The NRA’s Political Weaponization of Gun Owners,” University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, February 2019

“Billionaires and Stealth Politics,” Scholars Strategy Network Leadership Convening, Washington, DC, January 2019

“How the NRA ‘Politically Weaponized’ Gun Owners and What Others Can Learn From It,” Allegheny College, Meadville, PA, October 2018

Conference Presentations and Workshops:

“Greens Distractions? When Did Environmental Politics Become a Matter of Personal Responsibility?” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Montreal, QC, September 2022

“Why Do Issues ‘Whose Time Has Come’ Stick Around? Agenda Durability and the Case of Gun Control,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Montreal, QC, September 2022

“Exploring Unexpected Group Alliances: Early Partnerships Between Gay and Lesbian Activists and Unions,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Montreal, QC, September 2022

“Greens Distractions? When Did Environmental Politics Become a Matter of Personal Responsibility?” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2022

“Power in a Union,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle/Virtual, September 2021

“Gun Law, Politics, and Policy” Roundtable Participant, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Virtual, April 2021

“The Party-Group Alignment of the Republican Party and the National Rifle Association,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, August 2019

“Gun Ownership as a Social Identity: Estimating Behavioral and Attitudinal Relationships” (with Adam Howat and Jacob Rothschild), Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2019

“The Political Weaponization of Gun Owners: The NRA’s Group Social Identity,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA, September 2018

“The Right Ideas: The Impact of Koch Brothers’ Funding on Scholarly Research” (with Benjamin Page and Jason Seawright), Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA, September 2018

“The National Rifle Association and Mass Channels of Interest Group Power,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2018

“Creating the Right Ideas: The Effects of Ideologically Motivated Think Tank and Foundation Funding on Scholarly Research” (with Benjamin Page and Jason Seawright), Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2018

“The National Rifle Association and Mass Channels of Interest Group Power,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, September 2017

“Mass Channels of Interest Group Power: The Case of National Rifle Association, 1930-2008,” Comparative-Historical Social Science Workshop, Northwestern University, May 2017

“The National Rifle Association’s Political Self-Image: An Analysis of the *American Rifleman*, 1930-2008,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2017

“Social Identity and Ideology in the *American Rifleman*, 1930-2008.” American Politics Workshop, Northwestern University, January 2017

“What Do U.S. Billionaires Want from Government? A Look at Social Issues” (with Benjamin Page and Jason Seawright), Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2016

“Racial and Gender Representation in the American Politics Canon: An Analysis of Core Graduate Syllabi” (with Sean Diament and Adam Howat), Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2016

“Stealth Politics by U.S. Billionaires” (with Benjamin Page and Jason Seawright), Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, September 2015

“What Is the ‘Canon’ in American Politics? Analyses of Core Graduate Syllabi” (with Sean Diament and Adam Howat), Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, September 2015

“Boundary Control by Major Campaign Donors” (with Benjamin Page), Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2015

“What Comprises the ‘Canon’ in American Politics? An Analysis of Core Graduate Seminar Syllabi” (with Sean Diament and Adam Howat), American Politics Workshop, Northwestern University, November 2014

Grants,
Fellowships, and
Awards

External Grants and Fellowships:

Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Research Grant for “Strange Bedfellows: The Foundations and Potential of Unexpected Group Alliances in American Politics” (with Boris Heersink), 2023-2025

APSA Centennial Center Research Grant, American Political Science Association, 2021

National Fellowship, Jefferson Scholars Foundation, 2018-2019 (formerly the Miller Center National Fellowship)

Robert and Elizabeth Dole Archive and Special Collections Travel Grant, 2018

Moody Research Grant for the Lyndon Johnson Presidential Library, LBJ Foundation, 2016

Gerald Ford Foundation Travel Grant, Gerald Ford Presidential Library, 2016

APSA Centennial Grant for Supplementary Research Support, American Political Science Association Second Century Fund, 2016

Jefferson Graduate Fellowship, Jefferson Scholars Foundation, University of Virginia (declined)

Internal Grants and Fellowships:

American Politics Research Grant, Northwestern University, 2017

TGS Conference Travel Grant, Northwestern University, 2017, 2015

Summer Methods Training Grant, Northwestern University, 2017, 2016, 2015

Political Science Department Conference Travel Grant, 2017, 2015

Graduate Research Grant, Northwestern University, 2016

Minar Memorial Summer Award Grant, Northwestern University, 2016, 2015

University Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2013-2014, 2016-2017

Awards:

Best Paper Award, APSA Political Parties and Organizations Section, 2019

Phi Beta Kappa, 2011

John L. Porter Prize (for best senior thesis on a topic in political economy), Allegheny College, 2011

Doane Award for Distinguished Scholarship (top 10 GPA in graduating class), Allegheny College, 2011

Rhodes Scholarship Candidate, Allegheny College, 2010

Outstanding Junior Major Award in Political Science, Allegheny College, 2010

Pi Sigma Alpha, 2010

Teaching
Experience

Case Western Reserve University

The American Presidency (undergraduate), spring 2023

The Politics of Guns in the U.S. (undergraduate), spring 2023

Barnard College, Columbia University

Interest Group Politics in the United States (undergraduate), fall 2021

Inequality and Power in the United States (undergraduate), spring 2020, 2021, & 2022

The American Presidency (undergraduate), spring 2020, fall 2020, spring 2021, spring 2022

Gun Politics in the United States (undergraduate), fall 2019, 2020, & 2021

Northwestern University:

Introduction to American Politics (undergraduate), summer 2018

Pedagogical Training:

Participant, Teaching Certificate Program, Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, Northwestern University, 2015-2016

Participant, Department Teaching Certificate Program, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University, 2015-2016

Service-Oriented
Presentations,
Panels, and
Workshops

Panelist, "Critical Conversation: Politics & Democracy," Provost's Office Critical Conversation Series, Case Western Reserve University, October 2022

Panelist, "Networking and Professional Development - Getting involved in gun violence research and advocacy," Columbia Gun Violence Prevention Week, October 2021

Panelist, "Gun Politics & Policy," Columbia Gun Violence Prevention Week, October 2020

Panelist, "How to Lobby Like the NRA," Columbia Teachers College, December 2019

Panelist, “Running the Gauntlet: Expectations vs. Experiences on the Job Market,” APSA Annual Meeting, August 2019

Panelist, “The Academic Job Search,” Beyond the PhD: Political Science Placement Workshop, Northwestern University, June 2019

Panelist, “Experienced Humanities & Social Sciences Graduate Student Panel Session,” Northwestern University New TA Conference, September 2018

Panelist, “Preparing for Comprehensive Exams,” Northwestern University Department of Political Science, April 2017

Panelist, “President Obama’s Judicial Legacy,” Northwestern News Network’s *Politicat* Program, April 2016

Workshop Leader, “Essay Grading: Tools and Strategies for Fair Assessment in Classrooms with Diverse Skill Sets,” Northwestern University New TA Conference, September 2015

Workshop Leader, “TAing in Political Science,” Northwestern University New TA Conference, September 2015

Participant, “University Seminar: A Higher Education Leadership Dinner Series,” Northwestern University, 2014-2015

Panelist, “Thriving in Graduate School” discussion, Graduate School Orientation, Northwestern University, September 2014

Workshop Leader, “Concrete Steps to Improve the Tone of Politics,” Pathway to Civility Conference, Allegheny College, May 2010

Participant, “National College Conference for Political Engagement,” Harvard University, September 2008

Service

Chair, Best Paper Award committee, APSA Section on Political Organizations and Parties, 2023

Member, Executive Council, APSA Section on Political Organizations and Parties, 2022-present

Faculty Member, Columbia Faculty Athletics Committee, 2020-2022

Faculty Member, Columbia Scientific Union for the Reduction of Gun Violence, 2019-2022

Mentor, New TA Mentorship Program, 2018-2019

Co-Chair, Political Science Department Student Organization, 2016-2017

Mentor, Northwestern University Student Enrichment Services for first generation and low socioeconomic status students, 2016-2017

Member, Political Science Department Teaching Committee, Northwestern University, 2015-2016

Co-Chair, Northwestern American Politics Student Workshop, 2014-2015

Conference Discussant/Chair: APSA 2019

Referee: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *PLOS One*, *Political Behavior*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Studies in American Political Development*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, *Mobilization*, *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, *Social Currents*, *Social Problems*, *Social Forces*, *Politics and Policy*, *Sociological Perspectives*, *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy*, University of Toronto Press

Professional
Affiliations

American Political Science Association; Midwest Political Science Association;
APSA organized sections: Political Organizations & Parties, Politics & History;
Scholars Strategy Network

Additional
Training

IQMR Summer Institute, Center for Qualitative and Multi-Method Inquiry,
Syracuse University, 2017

ICPSR Summer Methods Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research,
University of Michigan, 2015, 2016

Non-Academic
Employment

Business Analyst, Deloitte Consulting, Minneapolis, MN, 2011-2013

Intern, U.S. Department of Defense, Alexandria, VA, 2010

Student Fellow, Allegheny College Center for Political Participation, 2008-2011

Last updated: 3 April 2023