

MATTHEW D. NELSEN

The University of Miami, Department of Political Science
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Race, Ethnicity, and Politics; Urban and Local Politics; Education Politics and Policy; Civic Education; Socialization; Political Behavior; Mixed-Methods Designs

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Miami

Assistant Professor (August 2022)
Department of Political Science

The University of Chicago

Postdoctoral Scholar (July 2020-July 2022)
Department of Political Science and GenForward

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Lecturer (September 2020-December 2021)
Department of Political Science

Northwestern University

Lecturer (April 2020-June 2022)
School of Education and Social Policy

EDUCATION

Northwestern University

Doctor of Philosophy, Political Science (2020)
Committee: James N. Druckman (chair), Traci R. Burch, Cathy J. Cohen, Reuel R. Rogers
Fields: American Politics, Research Methods

Northwestern University

M.A. in Political Science (2018)

The University of Chicago

M.A. in Social Sciences (2015)

St. Olaf College

B.A. in Political Science and Asian Studies (2012)

BOOK

Nelsen, Matthew D. *Democracy's Schoolhouse: Empowering Civic Education for a Multiracial America* (In-Press at Oxford University Press)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Nelsen, Matthew D. Forthcoming. "Rethinking Democratic Capacity: Historically Grounded Conversations as a Source of Political Empowerment" *The ANNALS of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*

Nelsen, Matthew D., and Christopher D. Petsko. 2021. "Race and White Rural Consciousness." *Perspectives on Politics* 19 (4): 1205–18. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592721001948>.

Nelsen, Matthew D. 2021. "Achieving Equality in a Pluralist Democracy." *Psychological Inquiry* 32 (3): 187–90. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1047840X.2021.1971457>.

Nelsen, Matthew D. 2021. "Cultivating Youth Engagement: Race & the Behavioral Effects of Critical Pedagogy." *Political Behavior* 43 (2): 751–84. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-019-09573-6>.

Nelsen, Matthew D. 2021. "Teaching Citizenship: Race and the Behavioral Effects of American Civic Education." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics*, 1–30. <https://doi.org/10.1017/rep.2019.19>.

**PUBLIC
SCHOLARSHIP**

Nelsen, Matthew D and Cathy J. Cohen. 2022. [“Reassessing the Civic Health of Chicago”](#) in *Changing the Frame: Civic Engagement Through a Racial Equity Lens* (Institute for Research on Race and Public Policy at the University of Illinois Chicago)

Cohen, Cathy et al. **(Research Lead)**. 2021. [“Promotions to Associate and Full Professor: Structurally Marginalized Faculty and the Pyramid Problem”](#) in *Task Force on Systemic Inequality in the Discipline* (The American Political Science Association).

Nelsen, Matthew D. January 28, 2021. [“Serious historians are criticizing Trump’s 1776 report. It’s how most U.S. history is already taught.”](#) *The Washington Post*.

Nelsen, Matthew D. June 22, 2020. [“America’s classrooms shut down this spring. Civics lessons shifted to the streets.”](#) *The Washington Post*.

Nelsen, Matthew D. 2019. [“Education, Unequal Policy, and Visions for Equity”](#) in *Race & Place: Young Adults and the Future of Chicago* (GenForward at the University of Chicago): 24-35

Nelsen, Matthew D. 2019. [“Places of Freedom, Safety, and Joy”](#) in *Race & Place: Young Adults and the Future of Chicago* (GenForward at the University of Chicago): 116-126

UNDER REVIEW

Nelsen, Matthew D., Kumar Ramanathan, and Tom Ogorzalek. “Experiences of Policing in Gentrifying Neighborhoods: Evidence from Chicago.” *Urban Affairs Review*.

**AWARDS AND
RECOGNITIONS**

American Political Science Association

E.E. Schattschneider Award for Best Dissertation in American Politics (2022)
Susan Clarke Young Scholar Award for the study of Urban and Local Politics (2022)
Best Dissertation Award in Political Psychology (2021)
Best Dissertation Award in Education Politics and Policy (2021)

Northwestern University

Best M.A. Thesis in Political Science (2018)

**SELECTED
CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS**

Matthew Nelsen and Tom Ogorzalek, 2021, “The Urban-Rural Divide in Comparative Perspective,” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Montreal, Canada, September 15-18

Matthew Nelsen, Kumar Ramanathan, and Tom Ogorzalek, 2022, “Political Preferences and Participation in Gentrifying Neighborhoods: Evidence from Chicago,” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 7-10

Matthew Nelsen and Monique Newton, 2022, “The Roots of Local Opinion Formation: Evanston, Illinois, and Local Reparations.”

Matthew Nelsen, 2022, “Civic Education as a Source of Political Empowerment,” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 7-10

Matthew Nelsen, 2021, “Race and White Rural Consciousness,” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA, September 30-October 3

Matthew Nelsen, 2021, “Race and White Rural Consciousness,” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 15-18

Matthew Nelsen, 2021, “Experts at What They Know: How Teachers’ Attitudes Shape Their Pedagogy,” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association’s Education Conference, March 4-5

Matthew Nelsen, 2019, “Cultivating Youth Engagement: Race and the Behavioral Effects of Critical Pedagogy,” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington D.C., August 29-September 1

Matthew Nelsen, 2019, “Cultivating Youth Engagement: Race and the Behavioral Effects of Critical Pedagogy,” Poster presented at the Chicago Area Behavior Workshop, Evanston, IL, May 3

Matthew Nelsen, 2019, “Cultivating Youth Engagement: Race and the Behavioral Effects of Critical Pedagogy,” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 4-7

Matthew Nelsen, 2018, “Teaching Citizenship: Race and the Behavioral Effects of American Citizenship Education,” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA, August 30-September 2

Matthew Nelsen, 2018, “Teaching Citizenship: Race and the Behavioral Effects of American Citizenship Education,” Poster presented at the Chicago Area Behavior Workshop, Evanston, IL, May 4

INVITED TALKS

Matthew Nelsen, 2023, “Empowered: Civic Education for a Multiracial Democracy,” Presented to the Interdisciplinary Training in Education and Social Science at Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI, March 16-17, 2023

Cathy J. Cohen and Matthew D. Nelsen, “While Vulnerability Racism,” Presented to the Department of Political Science at Manchester University, Manchester, England, September 16, 2022

ONGOING RESEARCH

White Vulnerability Racism—with Cathy J. Cohen (Draft available upon request)

The Roots of Local Opinion Formation: Evanston, Illinois and Local Reparations —with Monique Newton (Draft available upon request)

There Goes the Gayborhood! Social Dominance and the Limits of Self-Affirmation (Research design available upon request)

Pre-Citizenship: Noncitizen Voting Rights and Immigrant Political Participation in Chicago—with Kumar Ramanathan (Research design available upon request)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The University of Miami

Professor, “Race, Ethnicity, and Politics in the United States” (undergraduate). Department of Political Science (Fall 2022)

Professor, “Urban Politics” (undergraduate/graduate). Department of Political Science (Fall 2022, Spring 2023)

Professor, “Introduction to American Politics” (undergraduate). Department of Political Science (Spring 2023)

School of the Art Institute of Chicago

Lecturer, “American Politics and Government” (undergraduate). Department of Political Science (Fall 2020, Fall 2021)

Northwestern University

Lecturer, “Social Studies Content for Teachers” (undergraduate/graduate). School of Education and Social Policy (Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022)

Teaching Assistant, “Parties and Elections” (undergraduate). Tabitha Bonilla, Department of Political Science (April 2019-June 2019)

Teaching Assistant, "U.S. Environmental Politics" (undergraduate). Kim Suseeya, Department of Political Science (January 2019-March 2019)

Teaching Assistant, "American Government and Politics" (undergraduate). Thomas Ogorzalek, Department of Political Science (September 2018-December 2018)

Teaching Assistant, "Studying Public Opinion" (undergraduate). James N. Druckman, Department of Political Science (March 2018-June 2018)

Teaching Assistant, "Honors Thesis Seminar" (undergraduate). Andrew Roberts, Department of Political Science (September 2017-March 2018)

Nurturing Wisdom Tutoring

High School Entrance Exam, ACT, AP U.S. History, AP U.S. Government Tutor (September 2014-May 2021)

The Israel Program for Excellence in English

Fifth Grade Teacher (June 2014-August 2014)

San Antonio Independent School District

Fifth Grade Teacher (August 2012-June 2014)

**RESEARCH
EXPERIENCE**

Institute for Democracy and Higher Education

Research Consultant (April 2022-Present)

iCivics

Research Consultant (November 2019-June 2020)

Chicago Democracy Project

Graduate Researcher for Tom Ogorzalek (June 2017-June 2020)

The American Bar Foundation

Graduate Researcher for Traci Burch (June 2017-September 2019)

The Obama Foundation

Civic Learning Consultant (July 2018-April 2019)

GenForward Survey

Graduate Researcher for Cathy J. Cohen (June 2017-February 2019)

Northwestern University

Experimental Research Pool Coordinator, Political Science Research Laboratory, Department of Political Science (September 2017-June 2018)

Research Assistant for James N. Druckman (September 2017-June 2018)

Research Assistant for Reuel R. Rogers (January 2017-April 2017)

NPV Advisors, Inc.

Research Associate (August 2015-August 2016)

The University of Chicago

Research Assistant for Micere Keels, Department of Comparative Human Development (March 2015-June 2015)

Research Assistant for Betty Farrell, The Cultural Policy Center-The Harris School of Public Policy (September 2014-June 2015)

**RESEARCH
FUNDING**

Northwestern University

Research Grant, The Center for the Study of Diversity and Democracy, Summer 2019 (\$1,000)
Graduate Teaching Fellowship, Searle Center for Advancing Teaching and Learning, Spring 2019 (\$3,000)
Minar Research Grant, Spring 2019 (\$1,000)
Summer Research Grant, Spring 2019 (\$600)
Minar Prize for Best Second Year Paper, 2017-2018 (\$1,000)
Graduate Research Grant from The Graduate School, Spring 2018 (\$3,000)
Minar Research Grant, Spring 2018 (\$500)
Summer Research Grant, Spring 2018 (\$1,075)
Minar Research Grant, Spring 2017 (\$1000)
Summer Research Grant, Spring 2017 (\$500)

**SOFTWARE
PROFICIENCY**

R, NVivo, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office Suite

**ADDITIONAL
TRAINING**

Teach For America

Elementary Education (2012-2014)

Texas Teacher Orientation and Preparation Program

Elementary Education (2012-2013)

**JOURNAL
REVIEWER**

American Political Science Review (3)
Citizenship, Social, and Economics Education (1)
John Hopkins University Press (1)
Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties (1)
Journal of Politics (2)
Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics (2)
Perspectives on Politics (2)
Political Behavior (4)
Political Communication (1)
Political Psychology (2)
Politics, Groups, and Identities (2)
State and Local Government Review (1)

**PROFESSIONAL
MEMBERSHIPS**

American Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association

**SERVICE TO THE
DISCIPLINE**

American Political Science Association

Best Dissertation Award Committee (Political Psychology, 2022)

Best Dissertation Award Committee (Education Politics and Policy, 2022)

Working Group on Hiring and Promotion (July 2020-September 2021)

Midwest Political Science Association

Panel Chair (MPSA Annual Conference), "Identity, Vote Choice, and Turnout" (April 9, 2022)

Panel Chair (MPSA Annual Conference), "Partisanship, Composition, and Selection" (April 14, 2021)

**DEPARTMENT
SERVICE**

Northwestern University

Chair, Graduate Teaching Committee, Department of Political Science (2019-2020)

Co-Chair, Graduate Student Association, Department of Political Science (2018-2019)
Secretary, Graduate Student Association, Department of Political Science (2017-2018)

LANGUAGES

English: Speaking, reading, and writing (Fluent)
Spanish: Speaking, reading, and writing (Conversational)
Japanese: Speaking, reading, and writing (Limited working proficiency)

**ACADEMIC
REFERENCES**

James N. Druckman, Professor
Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
Scott Hall, 601 University Place, Evanston, IL 60208
(847) 491-7450 druckman@northwestern.edu

Cathy J. Cohen, Professor
Department of Political Science, The University of Chicago
Pick Hall, 5828 S. University Ave. Chicago, IL 60637
(773) 702-8051 cjcohen@uchicago.edu

Traci R. Burch, Associate Professor
Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
Scott Hall, 601 University Place, Evanston, IL 60208
(847) 491-4848 t-burch@northwestern.edu

Reuel R. Rogers, Associate Professor
Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
Scott Hall, 601 University Place, Evanston, IL 60208
(847) 491-2644 r-rogers@northwestern.edu