

Sarah A. King

School of Politics and International Relations

University College Dublin

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<http://sarahaking.net/>

Education

Ph.D, Quantitative and Computational Social Science, University College Dublin

Iseult Honohan Doctoral Scholar

Since September 2022

M.A., Political Science, University of Southern Mississippi, May 2022

Thesis: *The Politicization of School Reopenings: Media Coverage of Teachers Unions during the COVID-19 Pandemic*

Committee: *Dr. Iliyan R. Iliev, Dr. Joseph Weinberg, Dr. Joshua B. Hill*

GPA: 4.0/4.0

B.A., History and Social Studies Licensure, University of Southern Mississippi, May 2020

Minor: *Political Science, Spanish*

GPA: 3.593/4.0, *with honors*

Honors and Awards

- Dean's List, University of Southern Mississippi, 2017-2019.
- President's List, University of Southern Mississippi, 2019-2020.
- Outstanding Student Teacher, University of Southern Mississippi, May 2020.
- Joseph B. Parker American Politics Award, University of Southern Mississippi, April 2021.
- 3rd Place Winner in Arts and Humanities, Susan A. Siltanen Graduate Research Symposium, University of Southern Mississippi, April 2021.
- Graduate Student Travel Award, \$500, University of Southern Mississippi, April 2022
- Graduate Student Hall of Fame, University of Southern Mississippi, April 2022.
- Graduate Student of the Year, Political Science, University of Southern Mississippi, April 2022.
- Iseult Honohan Doctoral Scholarship, €118,500 (to date), School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin, September 2022
- Postgraduate and Early Career Travel Funding Support Scheme, €400, Political Studies Association of Ireland, October 2023.

Research Interests

- Public Policy and Political Behavior
 - Education Policy/Labor Policy
 - Social media/Agenda-Setting
 - Comparative Public Policy
 - Legislative Behavior
- Research Methodology
 - Content Analysis
 - Natural Language Processing
 - Machine learning
 - Computational Methods

Research Experience

NexSys, University College Dublin

October 2023 - 2024

Assisted principle investigator with hand coding tasks related to classifying policy recommendations.

University College Dublin, in collaboration with the Swiss National Science Foundation

July 2023 - 2024

Supported the principal investigator with hand coding tasks and maintained regular communication with colleagues to track project progress.

Text and Policy Research Group, University College Dublin

Since January 2023

Assisted colleagues on projects and worked on solo research related to the application of computational text analysis methods to address substantive research questions related to policy.

The Connected Politics Lab, University College Dublin

Since September 2022

Lab Manager (Since January 2025)

Assisted faculty with research, edited manuscripts for publication, and attended and organized workshops focusing computational methods to study politics and society.

Institute for Advanced Analytics and Security, University of Southern Mississippi

June 2020 - May 2022

Collaborated on research with supervising faculty, conducted NLP and quantitative analysis, managed student projects, and presented findings at conferences.

Publications

2024. "Catalysts for progress? Mapping policy insights from energy research." (with Brian Boyle, Yen-Chieh Liao, Robin Rauner, and Stefan Müller) (*Accepted at Energy & Social Science*)

Working Papers

2023. "Higher Education Issue Saliency and Definition: Differing Policy Dimensions." (*manuscript in progress*)

2024. "From Consensus to Contestation: The Politicization of Higher Education in Congressional Rhetoric." (*manuscript in progress*)

2025. "Issue Ownership in Committee: Partisan Patterns in Higher Education Policy Proposals." (*manuscript in progress*)

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

"The Depiction of Teachers in the News: Relationship Between Media Discourse and Policy," *Susan A. Siltanen Graduate Research Symposium*, April 9th, 2021, **3rd Place, Arts and Humanities**, Presented at *Midwest Political Science Association*, April 14-17, 2021, pp. 1-30.

"The Politicization of School Reopenings: Media Coverage of Teachers Unions during the COVID-19 Pandemic" *3MT Competition*, November 3-5th, 2021.

- “The Obligation to Try: Presidential Rhetoric, Public Opinion, Mass Shootings, and State-Level Legislation.” *Presented at Academy of Criminal Justice Sciences*, March 15-19, 2022 (with Joshua Hill and Iliyan R. Iliev)
- “The Politicization of School Reopenings: Media Coverage of Teachers Unions during the COVID-19 Pandemic,” *Presented at Midwest Political Science Association*, April 7-10, 2022, *Presented at Southwestern Social Science Association*, April 21-23, 2022, *Susan A. Siltanen Graduate Research Symposium*, April 14, 2022.
- “Introduction to Webscraping with R,” *Connected Politics Lab Workshop Series, University College Dublin*, March 23, 2023 and November 30, 2023.
- “Higher Education Issue Saliency and Definition: A Covid-19 Case Study,” *School of Politics and International Relations PhD Workshop*, May 10, 2023.
- “Introduction to Keyword Assisted Topic Models”, *ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan*, August 1, 2023.
- “Individual Determinants of Higher Education Policy: Legislative Communication on Twitter”, *Presented at Political Studies Association of Ireland*, October 20, 2023.
- “Webscraping for Social Scientists”, *Geary Institute for Public Policy, University College Dublin*, December 8, 2023.
- “From Campus to Congress: Analyzing the Impact of Legislator and Constituency Attributes on Higher Education Policy Discourse”, *Presented at Political Studies Association of Ireland*, October 18, 2024.
- “Representing Prestige and Debt: How do Local Attributes Impact Legislator Saliency and Stance on Student Loans?” *Presented at COMPTTEXT*, April 2025.
- “From Consensus to Contestation: The Politicization of Higher Education in Congressional Rhetoric” *Presented at Midwest Political Science Association*, April 2026.

Teaching Experience

Graduate Tutorial Instructor

Since September 2022

School of Politics and International Relations, University College Dublin

Assisted faculty lecturers and module coordinators with grading in addition to independently preparing weekly tutorial materials for group sessions of 15-25 students that complimented the lecture topics throughout the term. Additionally acted as Head Tutor for Foundations of International Relations and Research Methods in Political Science as well as a Teaching Assistant for a master’s level Applied Data Wrangling and Visualization course.

Teaching Assistant

July 2023 - August 2023; June 2024 - July 2024, June 2025 - July 2025

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, University of Michigan

Assisted the instructors of Introductory Matrix Algebra, Calculus, and Probability Review, Data Visualization, Introduction to L^AT_EX, and Introduction to Python with student communication, classroom management, and technology as well as hosting office hours.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

August 2020 - May 2022

School of Social Sciences and Global Studies, University of Southern Mississippi

Assisted faculty with grading, classroom management, and communications with students, held tutoring sessions, designed and implemented engaging introductory curriculum for and American Government undergraduate course.

Courses Taught and Assisted

Course Name	Course Number	Sections	Enrollment
<i>Taught</i>			
Intro to American Government	PS 101	1	23
<i>Assisted</i>			
Introduction to American Government	PS 101	4	111
State and Local Politics	PS 301	4	110
Basic Economics	ECO 101	2	120
Data Stats for Social Scientists	SSGS 501	1	11
Intro to Political Theory and International Relations	INRL10010	4	65
Research Methods in Political Science	PS20050	6	120
Matrix Algebra, Calculus and Probability Review	ICPSR	1	100
Introduction to Python	ICPSR	3	200
Foundations of International Relations	INRL10020	6	40
Data Visualization	ICPSR	2	150
Applied Data Wrangling and Visualization	POL42540	1	60
Introduction to L ^A T _E X	ICPSR	1	60

Professional Memberships and Service

- American Political Science Association
- Midwest Political Science Association
- Southern Political Science Association
- Political Studies Association of Ireland, Postgraduate Representative, December 2023 - January 2026
- School of Politics and International Relations PhD Representative, October 2023 - July 2025

Academic References

- Iliyan Iliev (iliyan.iliev@usm.edu)
– *Associate Professor of Political Science, University of Southern Mississippi*
- Stefan Müller (stefan.muller@ucd.ie)
– *Associate Professor and Ad Astra Fellow, University College Dublin*

Computer Skills

- R
– Natural Language Processing (Tidyverse, SentimentR, Quanteda), Time Series Analysis, Machine Learning, ANOVA, Multiple Regression.
- Python
– Numerical Computing, Statistics, Machine Learning, Data Visualisation, Textual data, Geographical Data.
- L^AT_EX
– Prepared professional documents, prepared academic manuscripts for journal submission.