Leah Rosenstiel

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Academic Appointments

Vanderbilt University

Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2021–present
Anonymous Family C Dean's Faculty Fellow, 2026–2028

Affiliations

Faculty Affiliate, Center for Effective Lawmaking, 2022–present
Faculty Affiliate, Vanderbilt Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, 2021–present

Education

Princeton University

Ph.D., Politics and Social Policy, 2016–2021
Committee: Nolan McCarty (chair), Brandice Canes-Wrone, Frances Lee

M.A., Politics, 2018

Carleton College

B.A., Political Science, 2014
Magna Cum Laude

Book

Rosenstiel, Leah. 2026. *Politics by Formula: How Congressional Policymaking Creates Disparities.* Chicago: The University of Chicago Press.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Rosenstiel, Leah. "Federalism, Geography, and the Representation of Cities in the U.S. Congress." Forthcoming at *Legislative Studies Quarterly.*

Curry, James M. and Leah Rosenstiel. 2026. "Unorthodox Lawmaking and the Value of Committee Assignments." *Journal of Politics* 88(2): 716–731.

Furnas, Alexander C., Nic Fishman, Leah Rosenstiel, and Dashun Wang. 2025. "Partisan disparities in the funding of science in the United States." *Science* 389(6766): 1195–1200.

Rosenstiel, Leah. 2025. "The Distributive Politics of Grants-in-Aid." *American Political Science Review* 119(1): 152–164.

Rosenstiel, Leah. 2023. "Congressional Bargaining and the Distribution of Grants." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 48(3): 471–501.

Hammond, Ben and Leah Rosenstiel. 2020. "Measuring the Influence of Political Actors on the Federal Budget." *American Political Science Review* 114(2): 603–608.

Works in Progress

"The Southern Roots of Social Welfare Programs"

- *Winner of the CQ Press Award for the best paper on legislative studies presented at the American Political Science Association's 2025 meeting*

"The Politicization of Congressional Capacity" with Nathan Gibson and Ben Hammond

Other Publications

"Allocation of Funds Under Title I-A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act" with Rebecca R. Skinner. *Congressional Research Service.* September 17, 2018.

"Analysis of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act Title I-A Allocation Formulas: Factors, Design Elements, Allocation Patterns" with Rebecca R. Skinner. *Congressional Research Service.* May 22, 2018.

"FY2016 State Grants Under Title I-A of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act (ESEA)" with Rebecca R. Skinner. *Congressional Research Service.* July 21, 2017.

"History of the ESEA Title I-A Formulas" with Rebecca R. Skinner. *Congressional Research Service.* July 17, 2017.

Teaching Experience

PSCI 2256: Politics of Public Policy (Undergraduate)
Vanderbilt University, Spring 2022–2024

PSCI 2244W: Congress, the President, and Public Schools (Undergraduate)
Vanderbilt University, Spring 2022–2024, Fall 2025

PSCI 2260: Politics of Government Assistance (Undergraduate)
Vanderbilt University, Fall 2025

PSCI 3244: The Legislative Process (Undergraduate)
Vanderbilt University, Fall 2021–2023, Fall 2026

Awards and Fellowships

Deans Faculty Fellowship, Vanderbilt University, 2026–2028
CQ Press Award for the Best Paper on Legislative Studies, Legislative Studies Section of the American Political Science Association, 2026
Robert H. Birkby Award for Teaching Excellence in Political Science, Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science, 2025
Prize Fellowship in the Social Sciences (formerly known as the Fellowship of Woodrow Wilson Scholars), Princeton University, 2019-2021
Center for the Study of Democratic Politics Graduate Student Research Grant with Ben Hammond, Princeton University, 2021
Princeton University Fellowship, 2016-2019
Center for the Study of Democratic Politics Graduate Student Research Grant with Nathan Gibson and Ben Hammond, Princeton University, 2018

Selected Invited Talks and Conferences

Chambers of Democracy Conference, University of Notre Dame, 2026
Women in Legislative Studies Conference, University of Illinois, 2025
American Politics Research Group, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2025
Congress and History Conference, Brown University, 2025
Center for the Study of American Politics (CSAP) Conference, Yale University, 2025
Women in Legislative Studies Conference, University of Wisconsin, 2024
Congress and History Conference, Princeton University, 2024
American Politics Workshop, George Washington University, 2024
American Politics and Public Policy Workshop, Yale University, 2023
Parties in American Legislatures Conference, University of Houston, 2023
Women in Legislative Studies Conference, Rice University, 2022
National Budget Roundtable, Brookings Institution, 2021
American Politics Workshop, Columbia University, 2021
Junior Americanist Workshop Series, 2020
American Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2020–2025
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2019, 2021, 2023, 2024
Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2024
European Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2024

Advising

PhD Dissertation Committee Member: Lucas Helms (2023 PhD), Shelby Shumard (2025 PhD), Patrick Buhr (in progress)

Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor: Dylan Garwick, Stanley Zhao, Malik Clarke

Service

Department and University

Political Science Department at Vanderbilt University: Graduate Committee (Fall 2022); American Politics Faculty Coordinator (Spring 2023); Undergraduate Committee (2021–2024); Faculty Research Workshop Coordinator (Fall 2025)

Vanderbilt University Committee Member: Rogers Center Steering Committee (2021-2022)

Panelist/Guest at Vanderbilt University: Post-Midterm Election Panel for Vanderbilt College Democrats (2022); Explore Nashville Guest Speaker (2023); Affirmative Action Panel for Vanderbilt College Democrats (2023)

Discipline

Program Committee, Southern Political Science Association, 2027 Conference
Program Committee, Midwest Political Science Association, 2024 Conference

Journal Referee: *American Political Science Review*; *American Journal of Political Science*; *Journal of Politics*; *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*; *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting, and Financial Management*; *Journal of Women, Politics and Policy*; *Legislative Studies Quarterly*; *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*

Discussant: American Political Science Association Annual Conference (2020, 2023–2025); Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (2023, 2024); Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference (2024); The Evolving Executive Conference at Vanderbilt University (2022); Women in Legislative Studies Conference at Brown University (2023); Women in Legislative Studies Virtual Workshop (2025); Women in Legislative Studies Conference at Randolph-Macon College (scheduled)

Other Professional Experience

Congressional Research Service

Education Policy Analyst, Summer 2017
Research Assistant, 2014-2016