

Meredith McLain

CONTACT INFORMATION	Packard Hall 210 Department of Political Science Tufts University Medford, MA 02155	<i>Email:</i> meredith.mclain@tufts.edu <i>Website:</i> meredith-mclain.com
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	Tufts University , Medford, MA Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2023—present	
EDUCATION	Vanderbilt University , Nashville, TN Ph.D., Political Science, August 2023 <i>Fields:</i> American Politics & Political Methodology <i>Dissertation:</i> “Strategic Presidential Unilateralism in the Face of Institutional and Public Sanctioning” <i>Committee:</i> Sharece Thrower (Chair), David E. Lewis, Alan Wiseman, Douglas L. Kriner <i>Graduate Student Affiliate:</i> Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions (CSDI) Vanderbilt University , Nashville, TN M.A., Political Science, December 2021 University of North Carolina- Asheville , Asheville, NC B.A., Political Science, May 2018 • <i>Summa Cum Laude</i>	
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Separation of Powers; Presidency; Unilateral Policymaking; Executive Politics; Congressional Oversight	
PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS	McLain, Meredith. 2024. “The Traceability of Presidential Policymaking in the Face of Congressional Sanctioning” <i>Political Research Quarterly</i> . 77(4): 1415-30.	
EDITOR-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS	McLain, Meredith and Sharece Thrower. 2021. “Executive Unilateralism and Individual Rights in a Federalist System.” <i>William and Mary Law Review Journal</i> . 29(3): 713-74.	
BOOK REVIEWS	Review of Scott H. Ainsworth, Brian M. Harward, and Kenneth W. Moffett. <i>Strategic Responsiveness: How Congress Confronts Presidential Power</i> (University of Michigan Press). 2025. <i>Presidential Studies Quarterly</i>	
WORKS IN PROGRESS	<i>Book Project:</i> Playing the Field: Presidents’ Strategic Choice in Unilateral Action “The Public, Congress, and Presidents’ Use of Unilateral Directives” “The Call is Coming from Inside the House: Presidents’ Strategic Use of Directives at the Risk of Non-Compliance”	

“Empowering the Court: Effective Judicial Sanctioning and Strategic Presidential Unilateralism.”
Under Review

“No Evaluation without Representation: The Influence of Student Representation on School Board Policy” (with Sara Kirshbaum)

CONFERENCE
PARTICIPATION

American Political Science Association, 2022, 2024, 2026

Midwest Political Science Association, 2022, 2024, 2025, 2026

Southern Political Science Association, 2023

President and Executive Politics Conference, Hoover Institute, 2026

INVITED TALKS

Boston University, Research in American Politics Workshop, November 2025

GRANTS, AWARDS,
AND CERTIFICATES

Tufts University Neubauer Faculty Fellow, 2023-2024

Patrick J. Fett Award for “Presidential Policymaking in the Face of Congressional Sanctioning” from the Midwest Political Science Association for the best paper on the scientific study of Congress and the presidency, 2023

Certificate in College Teaching, Center for Teaching, Vanderbilt University, 2022

J.Leiper Freeman Memorial Fund Award, 2022

TEACHING

Introduction to American Politics, Instructor (F23; F24; F26)

The American Presidency and Executive Branch, Instructor (F23; S25)

Seminar: Policymaking Under Separation of Powers, Instructor (S24)

Seminar: The American Presidency, Instructor (F24)

The American Congress, Instructor (S25; F26)

ADVISING

Senior Undergraduate Theses

Second Reader, Noah DeYoung, Department of Political Science, 2024-25

Second Reader, Ilan Werblow, Department of History, 2023-24

PROFESSIONAL
SERVICE

To the discipline

Referee for *The Journal of Politics*; *Congress & the Presidency*; *Presidential Studies Quarterly*

Discussant/Chair: MPSA (2024, 2025, 2026); APSA (2024, 2025)

Tufts University

Member, ExCollege Board, 2026-present

Faculty Advisor, Pi Sigma Alpha- Rho Omicron Chapter, 2024-present

Member, Political Science Department Awards Committee, 2025

Member, Tufts Committee on Academic Standing and Honors, 2024-25

Vanderbilt University

Secretary, Political Science Graduate Student Council, 2022-23

Mentorship Coordinator, Political Science Graduate Student, 2021-22

Representative, Graduate Student Council Representative, 2020-21

Mentor, First-Year Graduate Student Mentorship Program, 2020-21