

# CHRISTINA M. KINANE

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CONTACT INFORMATION Department of Political Science christina.kinane@yale.edu  
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77 Prospect Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06520

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS **Yale University**, New Haven, CT  
Assistant Professor, Political Science, 2019 – present  
(Medical leave and cancer treatment, 2022 – 2023)  
Research Fellow, Center for the Study of American Politics (CSAP), 2019 – present  
Research Fellow, Institution for Social and Policy Studies (ISPS), 2019 – present  
Faculty Director, Millstone Fellowship in Public Service, ISPS, 2022 – present

EDUCATION **University of Michigan**, Ann Arbor, MI  
Ph.D., Political Science, 2019  
Dissertation: “Control without Confirmation: The Politics of Vacancies in Presidential Appointments”  
E.E. Schattschneider Award for best dissertation in American government, 2021  
George C. Edwards III Award for best dissertation in executive politics, 2020  
M.A., Political Science, 2018  
**London School of Economics and Political Science**, London, UK  
M.P.A., Public and Economic Policy, with Merit, 2010  
**University of California, Los Angeles**, Los Angeles, CA  
B.A., Political Science, with Highest Honors, 2007  
B.A., Economics-International Area Studies, 2007

BOOK *Unconfirmed Power: Unilateral Governance at the Pleasure of the President*

ARTICLES “Serving the Law or Playing Politics? The Strategic Use of U.S. Attorney Appointments.”  
2022. *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 52(1), 107-139. (with Lauren Mattioli).  
“Control without Confirmation: The Politics of Vacancies in Presidential Appointments.”  
2021. *American Political Science Review*, 115(2).  
Malcolm Jewell Award, SPSA, 2020  
Founders Award, Presidents and Executive Politics, APSA, 2019

Rodriguez JM, Geronimus AT, Bound J, Wen R and **Kinane CM**, 2021. “Partisan Control of US State Governments: Politics as a Social Determinant of Infant Health.” *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*, 62(1).

Roby DH, Watson G, Jacobs K, Graham-Squire D, **Kinane CM**, Gans D, and Needleman J. 2013. “Modeling the Impact of the Affordable Care Act and the Individual Mandate on Californians.” *Journal of Family and Economic Issues*, 34(1).

WORKING PAPERS	<p>“The Irony of Inaction: Political Control of Independent Agencies” (Under Review)</p> <p>“Balancing Power and Efficiency: Dual Pathways for Reforming the U.S. Appointment Process” (Under review)</p> <p>“Delaying Democracy: Capacity and Political Control at the Federal Election Commission” (with Kevin Xiao and Julia Crainic)</p> <p>“Status Quo Power in Confirmation Bargaining” (with Lindsey Gailmard, Under Review)</p> <p>“The Political Origins of Inferior Administration” (with Jin K. Park)</p> <p>“Vacancies and Power Concentration in the Bureaucracy.”</p>
WORK IN PROGRESS	<p><i>Book Project: Administrative Ambition: The Revolving Door of Congressional Influence in the Executive Branch</i></p>
AWARDS AND RESEARCH GRANTS	<p>Institution for Social and Policy Studies Conference Grant (\$40,000), “Politics and Law in the Administrative State,” 2025</p> <p>Levin Center Oversight Fellowship (\$20,000), 2022</p> <p>E.E. Schattschneider Award for best dissertation in the field of American government, American Political Science Association, 2021</p> <p>George C. Edwards III Award for best dissertation on executive politics, APSA Presidents and Executive Politics Section, 2020</p> <p>Malcolm Jewell Award for best graduate student paper, Southern Political Science Association, 2020</p> <p>Founders Award for best graduate student paper on executive politics, APSA Presidents and Executive Politics Section, 2019</p> <p>Rackham One-Term Dissertation Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2019</p> <p>Honorable Mention, Founders Award for best graduate student paper, APSA Presidents and Executive Politics Section, 2018</p> <p>Vivian Fell Sanguett Summer Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2018</p> <p>Gerald R. Ford Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2016-2017, 2017-2018</p> <p>Thomas M. Carsey Scholar, APSA’s State Politics and Policy Section, 2017</p> <p>Ford Research Grant (\$6710), University of Michigan, 2016</p> <p>Rackham Spring/Summer Research Grant (\$9675), University of Michigan, 2016</p> <p>Roy Pierce Award (\$6000), University of Michigan, Center for Political Studies, 2014</p> <p>Graduate Merit Award, London School of Economics, 2008, 2009</p> <p>Graduate Support Scheme Scholarship (£8000), London School of Economics, 2008 - 2010</p> <p>Sylvia Sorkin Greenfield Memorial Prize for best honors thesis in Political Science, UCLA, 2007</p> <p>Phi Beta Kappa, UCLA, 2007</p>
INVITED TALKS AND SMALL CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION	<p>2026: Nuffield College Political Science Seminar, Oxford University; Philosophy, Politics, and Economics Speaker Series, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill; PEPCON 2026, Stanford University</p> <p>2025: Conference on the American Presidency, University of Virginia Miller Center; Politics and Law in the Administrative State, Yale Law School; NYU Law Forum, New York University Law School; NYU Politics Workshop, New York University</p> <p>2024: “Transitions: Planning and staffing a presidency,” Brookings Institution; Yale-Columbia Workshop on Executive Action; “Democracy in the Balance: An Examination of Biden’s Presidency, the 2024 Election, and Presidential Leadership,” University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy; Department of Political Science, University of California, San Diego</p>

2023: Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley; Department of Political Science, Stanford University; “*Politics of Unconfirmed Power* Book Conference” (organizer); American Politics Colloquium, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, Princeton University; American Politics Conference, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Presidents and Executive Politics Conference, Chapman University; Levin Center for Congressional Oversight Fellows Webinar, Wayne State Law School; American Politics Speaker Series, Columbia University; American Politics Workshop, Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley; Politics Across Borders, Department of Political Science, Yale University

2022: Future of the Senate Roundtable, The Brookings Institution; Executive Politics Conference, University of Michigan; American Politics Speaker Series, Department of Politics, University of Virginia (canceled due to cancer treatment); Evaluating the Presidency in the Twenty-First Century, Presidents & Executive Politics Conference (could not attend due to health)

2021: President Biden’s First 100 Days: The Future of the Administrative Presidency, Presidential Appointments, and Administrative Reform, University of Southern California Sol Price School of Public Policy; Political Institutions and Political Economy (PIPE) Workshop, University of Southern California; Department of Health Policy and Management, University of Maryland School of Public Health; American Politics Workshop, Washington University in St. Louis; Responding to the Attack on the US Capital, Invited Panel, Junior Americanist Workshop Series

2020: American Politics Workshop, The Ohio State University (virtual); American Politics Conference, University of California, San Diego (canceled due to COVID-19); The Imperial Presidency in the Twenty-First Century, University of Texas Law School (canceled due to COVID-19)

2019: Political Economy Workshop, University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy; American Politics Speaker Series, Center for American Political Studies, Harvard University; Interdisciplinary Workshop on Politics and Policy, Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan; Governance Lunch Workshop, University of Michigan Law School

2018: Department of Political Science, Yale University; Department of Government, Georgetown University; CSAP Annual American Politics Conference, Yale University; Political Appointments Roundtable, UC Berkeley School of Law; Frontiers of Formal Political Theory Conference, Vanderbilt University; American Political Economy Workshop, Columbia University

2017: Varieties of Backlash: Distributional Conflict and Political Order in the New World of Work, University of Michigan

ASSOCIATION	American Political Science Association	2014, 2015, 2017-2021, 2023, 2024
CONFERENCE	Midwest Political Science Association	2015, 2017-2019, 2023-2026
PRESENTATIONS	Southern Political Science Association	2018, 2019, 2020, 2025
	State Politics and Policy Conference	2017

TEACHING	Yale University
	The Chief and the Bureaucrats: Power Dynamics in the U.S. Executive Branch (U) Research and Writing (G)
	Policymaking under Separation of Powers (UG/G)
	Introduction to American Politics (UG)

University of Michigan

Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, Mentor, 2015-2017  
Advanced Game Theory (ICPSR), Graduate Student Instructor, 2016  
Introduction to American Politics, Graduate Student Instructor, 2015  
Politics of Income Inequality in the U.S., Graduate Student Instructor, 2014

ADVISING AND  
MENTORING

Ph.D. Dissertations: Collin Schumock, Reader, 2024; Jack Greenberg, Committee Member, 2025

Undergraduate Year-long Senior Thesis Advisor: Kyle Thomas Ramos, 2025-2026; Jasmine Garcia, 2025-2026; Sita Kottlilil, 2024-2025 (honorable mention, Frank M. Patterson Prize); Patrick Chappel, 2022-2023; Nader Granmayeh, 2022-2023; Kevin Xiao, 2022-2023 (winner of the Frank M. Patterson Prize for the most outstanding senior essay on the American political system); Kate Kushner, 2020-2021

Undergraduate Senior Essay Advisor: Coby Yang (Spring 20216); Fatou M'Baye (Spring 2026); Reece Kirkpatrick (Spring 2025, winner of the Percival Wood Clement Prizes for the most outstanding senior essay on the U.S. Constitution and its first ten amendments); Sean Guyton (Spring 2025); Michelle Girouard (Spring 2025); Chris Lyons (Spring 2025); Katie Donahey (Fall 2024); Sari Kaufman (Spring 2024); Ana Capiro (Spring 2024); Brett Jennings (Spring 2022); Paola Jimenez-Read (Spring 2022); Dav Lindo (Spring 2022)

Dahl Scholar Advisor: Kyle Thomas Ramos, 2024-2025; Kevin Xiao, 2021-2022; Paolo Jimenez-Read, 2020-2021

ADDITIONAL  
EXPERIENCE AND  
TRAINING

*Mentoring Faculty-in-Residence*, Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models 2018, University of Michigan  
*Student*, Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models 2015, University of Michigan

SERVICE

To the discipline

Referee for *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *Journal of Politics: Political Science Research and Methods*; *Political Science Quarterly*; *Congress & The Presidency*; *Presidential Studies Quarterly*  
Co-Organizer, PEPCON at Stanford University (Presidency & Executive Politics Conference), 2026  
Editorial Board Member, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 2026-2029  
Founders Award Committee Member, APSA PEP Section, 2024, 2025  
Herbert Simon Award Committee, Midwest Caucus on Policy Administration, 2023  
Bureaucratic Politics Section Head, 2023 MPSA Annual Conference, 2022  
Legacy Award Committee Member, APSA PEP Section, 2021  
Founders Award Committee Member, APSA PEP Section, 2020  
Member, APSA PEP Section Steering Committee, 2018-2020

Yale University

Co-Organizer, Yale Conference on Politics and Law in the Administrative State, 2025  
American Politics Search Committee, Political Science, 2024-2025  
Co-Organizer, Yale-Columbia Workshop on Executive Action, 2024

Faculty Co-Organizer, American Politics and Public Policy Workshop, Center for the Study of American Politics, 2023-2024  
 American Politics Graduate Exam Committee, Political Science, 2023-2024  
 Selection Committee, James C. Gaither Junior Fellowship at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2022  
 American Politics Graduate Exam Committee, Political Science, 2021-2022  
 Graduate Admissions Committee, Political Science, 2021-2022  
 Faculty Organizer, American Politics and Public Policy Workshop, Center for the Study of American Politics, 2020-2021  
 Selection Committee, Henry Fellowship, 2020  
 Selection Committee, Class of 1960 John Heinz Government Service Fellowship, 2020

University of Michigan

Co-President, Women’s Caucus, Political Science, 2018-2019  
 Coordinator, American Institutions Group, 2016-2018  
 Co-President, Graduate Association of Political Scientists, 2016-2017  
 Undergraduate Senior Honors Thesis Committee (Jake Rothenberg, 2016; Emma Benninghoff, 2019)  
 Graduate Admissions Committee, Political Science, 2015  
 Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Workshop on American Politics, 2014-2015  
 Graduate Affairs Committee, Political Science, 2012-2013

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Assessing Pent-Up Demand in California’s Uninsured Population: Preliminary Findings.” California Program on Access to Care, August 2012. (Coauthored).  
 “Achieving Equity by Building a Bridge from Eligible to Enrolled.” UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, February 2012. (Coauthored).  
 “Newly Insured Californians Would Fall by More than 1 Million under the Affordable Care Act without the Requirement to Purchase Insurance.” UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, January 2012. (Coauthored).  
 “Proposed Regulations Could Limit Access to Affordable Health Coverage for Workers’ Children and Family Members.” University of California, Berkeley Center for Labor Research and Education, December 2011. (Coauthored).  
 “Who Can Participate in the California Health Benefit Exchange? The Profile of Subsidy-Eligible Uninsured and Individually Insured.” UCLA Center for Health Policy Research, May 2011. (with Naderah Pourat and Gerald F. Kominski).

NON-ACADEMIC PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Center for Health Policy Research, University of California, Los Angeles**  
*Research Associate and Project Manager* 2010 - 2012  
**Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)**  
*Consultant* 2009 - 2010  
**Hillary Clinton for President Primary Election Campaign**  
*Campaign Staff - Regional Field Director* 2007 - 2008  
**Sumitomo Electric Industries**  
*International Intern* 2006  
 Overseas Contracts and Legal Affairs Department, Osaka, Japan  
 International Sales and Marketing Department, Itami, Japan