

# Spencer Piston

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CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Political Science 232 Bay State Road, Boston University Boston, MA 02215	(317) 670-7594 (cell) spiston@bu.edu www.spencerpiston.com
EDUCATION	Ph.D., Political Science, University of Michigan, 2014 B.A., Grinnell College, 2001	
APPOINTMENTS	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Boston University (2021-present) Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Boston University (2016-2021) Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University (2014-2016)	
AFFILIATIONS	Faculty Affiliate, Initiative on Cities, Boston University (2020-present) Faculty Affiliate, Center for Antiracist Research, Boston University (2020-present) Faculty Affiliate, African American Studies program, Boston University (2019-present) Faculty Affiliate, Hariri Institute for Computational Science and Engineering, Boston University (2016-present) Senior Research Associate, Campbell Public Affairs Institute, Syracuse University (2014-2016)	
BOOKS	Piston, Spencer. 2018. <i>Class Attitudes in American Politics</i> . Cambridge University Press. -Reviewed in <i>Perspectives on Politics</i> , <i>Public Opinion Quarterly</i> , <i>Contexts Magazine</i> , and <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> -Featured in “Author Meets Critics” Panels at both the 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association and the 2018 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. -Covered in <i>New York Magazine</i> , <i>Jacobin</i> , <i>Vox</i>  Jardina, Ashley, and Spencer Piston. <i>Dehumanizing Attitudes: The Foundation of Anti-Blackness in the United States</i> . Under advance contract with Cambridge University Press.	
PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES	Barton, Richard, and Spencer Piston. “Untrustworthy Government: How Elite Rhetoric Erodes Support for Soaking the Rich.” Forthcoming at <i>Politics, Groups, and Identities</i> .	

Clifford, Scott, Geoffrey Sheagley, and Spencer Piston. "Increasing Precision in Survey Experiments Without Introducing Bias." Forthcoming at *The American Political Science Review*.

Strother, Logan, Spencer Piston, Ezra Golberstein, Sarah Gollust, and Daniel Eisenberg. "College Roommates Have a Modest but Significant Influence on Each Other's Political Ideology." Forthcoming at *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*.

Jardina, Ashley, and Spencer Piston. "Dehumanizing Attitudes about Black People in American Electoral Politics." Forthcoming at *British Journal of Political Science*.

Hochschild, Jennifer, Spencer Piston, and Vesla Weaver. "Race, Education, and Choice: How Blacks, Whites, and Latinos Navigate Personal and Political Decisions." Forthcoming at *Perspectives on Politics*.

Hutchings, Vincent L., Vanessa Cruz Nichols, LaGina Gause, and Spencer Piston. "Whitewashing: How Obama Used Implicit Racial Cues as a Defense Against Political Rumors." Forthcoming at *Political Behavior*.

Weaver, Vesla, Gwen Prowse, and Spencer Piston. "Withdrawing and Drawing In: Political Discourse in Policed Communities." Forthcoming at *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*.

Einstein, Katherine Levine, Luisa Godinez Puig, and Spencer Piston. "The Pictures in Their Heads: How U.S. Mayors Think About Racial Inequality." Forthcoming at *Urban Affairs Review*.

Ogorzalek, Thomas, Spencer Piston, and Luisa Godinez Puig. 2020. "Nationally Poor, Locally Rich: Income and Local Context in the 2016 Presidential Election." *Electoral Studies* 67: 1-10.

Yadon, Nicole, and Spencer Piston. 2019. "Examining Whites' Anti-Black Attitudes After the Obama Presidency." *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 7: 794-814.

Chudy, Jennifer, Spencer Piston, and Joshua Shipper. 2019. "Guilt by Association: Collective Guilt in American Politics." *Journal of Politics* 81: 968-981.

Weaver, Vesla, Gwen Prowse, and Spencer Piston. 2019. "Too Much Knowledge, Too Little Power: An Assessment of Political Knowledge in Highly-Policed Communities." *Journal of Politics* 81: 1153-1166.

-Covered in *The Washington Post*, *Vox*, *The Appeal*

Piston, Spencer, Yanna Krupnikov, John Barry Ryan, and Kerri Milita. 2018. "Clear as Black and White: The Effects of Ambiguous Rhetoric Depend on Candidate Race." *Journal of Politics* 80: 662-674.

Clifford, Scott, and Spencer Piston. 2017. "Explaining Public Support for Counterproductive Homelessness Policy: The Role of Disgust." *Political Behavior* 39: 503-525.

-Covered in *The Guardian*, *Current Affairs*, *Mother Jones*, and *International Policy Digest*

Strother, Logan, Spencer Piston, and Thomas Ogorzalek. 2017. "Pride or Prejudice? Racial Prejudice, Southern Heritage, and White Support for the Confederate Battle Flag." *Du Bois Review* 14: 295-323.

-Covered in *Newsweek*, *The Washington Post*

Krupnikov, Yanna, and Spencer Piston. 2016. "The Political Consequences of Latino Prejudice Against Blacks." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 80: 480-509.

-Covered in the *New York Times*

Krupnikov, Yanna, Spencer Piston, and Nichole Bauer. 2016. "Saving Face: Identifying Voter Responses to Black and Female Candidates." *Political Psychology* 37: 253-273.

Klar, Samara, and Spencer Piston. 2015. "The Influence of Competing Organisational Appeals on Individual Donations." *Journal of Public Policy* 2: 171-191.

Krupnikov, Yanna, and Spencer Piston. 2015. "Racial Prejudice, Partisanship, and White Turnout in Elections with Black Candidates." *Political Behavior* 37: 397-418.

Krupnikov, Yanna, and Spencer Piston. 2015. "Accentuating the Negative: Candidate Race and Campaign Strategy." *Political Communication* 32: 152-173.

Lupia, Arthur, Logan S. Casey, Kristyn L. Karl, Spencer Piston, Timothy J. Ryan, and Christopher Skovron. 2015. "What Does it Take to Reduce Racial Prejudice in Individual-Level Candidate Evaluations? A Formal Theoretic Perspective." *Political Science Research and Methods* 3: 1-20.

Kalmoe, Nathan P., and Spencer Piston. 2013. "Is Implicit Racial Prejudice Against Blacks Politically Consequential? Evidence from the AMP." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 77: 305-322.

-Reprinted in *Public Opinion Quarterly*, Virtual Issue: "Coloring Public Opinion," 2016-2017

Piston, Spencer. 2010. "How Explicit Racial Prejudice Hurt Obama in the 2008 Election." *Political Behavior* 32: 431-451.

-Lead article

-Cited in *amicus* brief to the U.S. Supreme Court: *Fisher v. University of Texas*

Lupia, Arthur, Yanna Krupnikov, Adam Seth Levine, Spencer Piston, and Alex Von Hagen-Jamar. 2010. "Why State Constitutions Differ in their Treatment of Same-Sex Couples." *Journal of Politics* 72: 1222-1235.

-LGBT Caucus Bailey Award, APSA 2009 Annual Meeting

-State Politics and Policy Award, APSA 2009 Annual Meeting

BOOK CHAPTERS

Jardina, Ashley, and Spencer Piston. 2019. "Racial Prejudice, Racial Identity, and Attitudes in Political Decision Making." In *Oxford Encyclopedia of Decision Making*. Oxford University Press. doi:  
<http://dx.doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190228637.013.966>  
-peer-reviewed

Hutchings, Vincent L., and Spencer Piston. 2011. "The Determinants and Political Consequences of Prejudice." In James N. Druckman, Donald P. Green, James H. Kuklinski, and Arthur Lupia (Eds.), *The Cambridge Handbook of Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Hutchings, Vincent L., and Spencer Piston. 2011. "Knowledge, Sophistication, and Issue Publics." In Steven Thompson and Robert Shapiro (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook of American Public Opinion and the Media*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

ADDITIONAL  
PUBLICATIONS

Piston, Spencer. 2021. Review of *Manufacturing Decline: How Racism and the Conservative Movement Crush the American Rust Belt*, by Jason Hackworth. *Perspectives on Politics*, 19(2): 634-635.

Cheeseman, Nic, and Spencer Piston. "Four Ways Donald Trump is Already Manipulating the U.S. Elections." *The Washington Post*, Monkey Cage Blog, June 16, 2020.

Piston, Spencer. "Let's Teach Students About Whites' Genetic Inferiority." *Inside Higher Ed*, June 26, 2020.

Piston, Spencer. 2019. Review of *American Oligarchy: The Permanent Political Class*, by Ron Formisano. *Political Science Quarterly*, 134(1): 169-170.

Strother, Logan, Thomas Ogorzalek, and Spencer Piston. "What Nikki Haley gets wrong about the Confederate flag." *The Washington Post*, Monkey Cage Blog, December 7, 2019.

Piston, Spencer. 2019. Review of *Unequal and Unrepresented: Political Inequality and the People's Voice in the New Gilded Age*, by Kay Lehman Schlozman, Henry E. Brady, and Sidney Verba. *Political Science Quarterly*, 134(2): 329.

Ogorzalek, Thomas, Luisa Godinez Puig, and Spencer Piston. "White Trump Voters are Richer than They Appear." *The Washington Post*, Monkey Cage Blog, November 12, 2019.

Bergom, Inger, and Spencer Piston. "Are Universities Political?" *Inside Higher Ed*, February 7, 2019.

Piston, Spencer. "Stop Blaming Poor People for their Poverty." *Jacobin*. March 12, 2018.

Piston, Spencer. 2018. "Charlottesville Remarks." *Impact: The Journal of the Center for Interdisciplinary Teaching and Learning* 7(2): 15.

McElwee, Sean, and Spencer Piston. "How Do Politicians Get Away with Cutting Taxes for the Rich?" *The Nation*, December 15, 2017.

Clifford, Scott, and Spencer Piston. "Americans Want to Help the Homeless – as Long as They Don't Get Too Close. This Explains Why." *The Washington Post*, Monkey Cage Blog, July 14, 2017.

Strother, Logan, Spencer Piston, and Tom Ogorzalek. "Those who support the presence of Confederate symbols of public spaces in the South tend to have less knowledge of Civil War history, negating a commonly used defense that the emblems represent 'heritage not hate.'" *The London School of Economics' daily blog on American Politics and Policy*, July 3, 2017.

Strother, Logan, Tom Ogorzalek, and Spencer Piston. "The Confederate flag largely disappeared after the Civil War. The fight against civil rights brought it back." *The Washington Post*, Monkey Cage Blog, June 12, 2017.

McElwee, Sean, and Spencer Piston. "Latino voters will reshape American politics as we know it – and here's the proof." *Salon*, December 8, 2016.

Jardina, Ashley, Sean McElwee, and Spencer Piston. "How do Trump supporters describe black people? 'Less evolved,' our survey shows." *Slate*, November 7, 2016.

Piston, Spencer. "To be, or not to be (objective when teaching this election)?" *Boston University Medium*, November 3, 2016.

Piston, Spencer, and Logan Strother. "White Support for the Confederate Flag Really Is about Racism, not Southern Heritage." *The Washington Post*, Monkey Cage Blog, July 1, 2015.

Piston, Spencer. "Lighter-skinned Minorities are More Likely to Support Republicans." *The Washington Post*, Monkey Cage Blog, September 17, 2014.

#### AWARDS/GRANTS

##### External

Social Science Research Council Rapid-Response Grant on Covid-19 and the Social Sciences (\$4,500, with Katherine Levine Einstein and Lauren Mattioli), 2020

National Science Foundation, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (\$5,000, with Ashley Jardina), Data Collection Grant, 2015

American National Election Studies, 2016 Pilot Survey Module, "The Political Consequences of White Sympathy and Guilt"

Sloan Grant for Data Publication (\$4,000), Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences, Center for Effective Global Action, and the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation, 2015

APSA Political Psychology Distinguished Junior Scholars Award, 2012

National Science Foundation, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (\$12,500, with Yanna Krupnikov and Nichole Bauer), Data Collection Grant, 2012

American National Election Studies, 2012 EGSS-5 Survey Module, “Perceptions of Group Conflict with the Rich and Poor”

National Science Foundation, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (\$12,500, with Yanna Krupnikov), Data Collection Grant, 2011

LGBT Caucus Bailey Award for Best Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, for “Why State Constitutions Differ in their Treatment of Same-Sex Couples,” 2009

State Politics and Policy Award for Best Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, for “Why State Constitutions Differ in their Treatment of Same-Sex Couples,” 2009

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Honorable Mention, 2008

#### Internal

Summer 2022 Online BU Hub Course Development Grant (\$13,000), Boston University, 2021

Initiative on Cities Early Stage Urban Research Award (\$10,000), Boston University, 2021

Institute for Health System Innovation & Policy Summer Research Project (\$4800), Boston University, 2021

Social Sciences Undergraduate Internship in Social Justice and Sustainability (\$2000), Boston University, 2020

Virginia Sapiro Academic Enhancement Fund (\$500), Boston University, Spring 2019

Virginia Sapiro Academic Enhancement Fund (\$890), Boston University, Fall 2019

Summer Term Curriculum Development Grant (\$3000), Boston University, 2018

Inaugural Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Faculty Learning Community (\$1000), Center for Teaching and Learning, Boston University, 2017

BU Hub Course Development Institute Stipend (\$1000), Boston University, 2017

BU Hub Course Revision Institute Stipend (\$1000), Boston University, 2017

Initiative on Cities Early Stage Urban Research Award (\$10,000), Boston University, 2017

Conference Travel Award (\$750), Boston University, 2016

Maxwell Summer Project Assistantship Program (\$1,800), Syracuse University, 2015

Appleby-Mosher Award (\$1,100 – declined), Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, 2015

Campbell Institute Research Grant (\$4,000), Syracuse University, 2015

Campbell Institute Public Engagement Grant (\$400 – declined), Syracuse University, 2015

Appleby-Mosher Award (\$1,200), Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, 2014

Clark & Robin Chandler Award (\$3,000), Rackham Graduate School, University of Michigan, 2013

Summer Collaboration Grant (\$1,500, with Vincent L. Hutchings), University of Michigan, 2013

Thesis Grant (\$1,500), Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, 2012, 2013

Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy's Research Grant through the Center for Public Policy in Diverse Societies (\$6,000), University of Michigan, 2011, 2013

William Zimmerman Award (\$3,000), Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, 2012

Rackham Centennial Spring/Summer Fellowship Award (\$6,000), University of Michigan, 2012

University of Michigan Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, Faculty Supplementary Research Funding (\$1,500), 2011-2012, 2012-2013, 2013-2014

University of Michigan Department of Political Science Gerald R. Ford Research Grant (\$5,000), 2011

Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant for Ph.D. Candidates (\$3,000), 2011

Rackham Interdisciplinary Research Grant (\$5,952, with Nathan P. Kalmoe and Pam Clouser McCann), 2009

Rackham Graduate Student Research Grant for Ph.D. Pre-Candidates (\$1,500), 2009

Rackham Spring/Summer Research Grant (\$6,000, with Vincent L. Hutchings), 2009

Institute for Women and Gender Community of Scholars Fellowship (\$7,000), 2009

John W. Kingdon Teaching Award Nominee, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan, 2008

Bobbe and Jon Bridge Summer Fellowship (\$1,500, with Gregory B. Markus), 2007, 2008

University of Michigan Department of Political Science Graduate Fellowship, 2006

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

Johns Hopkins University, 2019; Brown University, 2019; University of Arizona, 2019; Harvard, 2018; University of Southern California, 2018; Nebraska, 2018; Michigan State University, 2018; University of Michigan, 2017; University of California, Los Angeles, 2017; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2016; Northwestern University, 2016; SUNY-Geneseo, 2016; Grinnell College, 2016; Stony Brook University, 2015; University of Maryland, 2015; Michigan State University, 2015; Boston University, 2015; University of Washington, 2015; University of Michigan, 2015; Boston University, 2014; St. Olaf, 2014; Villanova University, 2014; Soka University of America, 2014; Syracuse University, 2014; University of Maryland, 2014; University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, 2014; Washington University, St. Louis, 2014

Conferences

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2011-2016, 2018

Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2009-2017

Annual Meeting of the International Society for Political Psychology, 2010, 2013

Annual Meeting of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, 2013

Annual Meeting of the International Society of New Institutional Economics, 2009

Co-hosted PRIEC meeting at Boston University, 2019

TEACHING

Race and the Politics of Criminal Justice Policy (PO 316; cross-listed with African American Studies as AA 319), undergraduate, Boston University, Spring 2019, Fall 2019

Public Opinion (PO 307), undergraduate, Boston University, Spring 2019, Summer 2018, Spring 2018, Spring 2017 (taught as a special topics course: PO 300)

Introduction to Public Policy (PO 141), undergraduate, Boston University, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Fall 2019

Theories of American Politics (PO 711), graduate field seminar, Boston University, Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2018, Fall 2019

Theories of American Politics (PSC 621), graduate proseminar, Syracuse University, Fall 2015

The Logic of Political Inquiry (PSC 202), undergraduate, Syracuse University, Spring 2015, Fall 2015, Spring 2016

Public Opinion (PSC 300.m104), undergraduate, Syracuse University, Spring 2015

Race & American Politics (PSC 300.m101), undergraduate, Syracuse University, Fall 2014

Instructor, Undergraduate Research Opportunity Program, University of Michigan, 2011-2012, 2012-2013

SERVICE

Member, American politics search committee, 2020-present

Member, Maxwell Chair search committee, 2020-present

Member, College of Arts & Sciences Diversity and Inclusion Action Team, 2020-present

Editor, *The Washington Post's* Monkey Cage Blog, 2020

Chair, Undergraduate Senior Honors Thesis and Master's Thesis: Anthony Aguirre, 2020-2021

Chair, Master's Thesis: Samira Saran, 2020-2021

Chair, Undergraduate Senior Honors Thesis, Rebecca Mitchell, 2020-2021

Member, Best Book Committee, Race, Ethnicity, and Politics Section of the American Political Science Association, 2018-2019

Co-chair (with Lauren Mattioli), Research in American Politics Workshop, Department of Political Science, Boston University, 2018-2019

Member, Building Intellectual Life in the Department Committee, Department of Political Science, Boston University, 2019

Second-year paper advisor, Department of Political Science, Boston University, Olivia Britton, 2019

Co-organizer, Urban Inequalities Workshop, Department of Sociology, Boston University, 2018-2019

Member, Search Committee, African-American Studies, Boston University, 2018

Section Co-chair (with Alexandra Scacco), American Political Science Association 2018 Annual Meeting, Political Psychology

Chair, Comprehensive Exam Committee, American Politics, Department of Political Science, Boston University, 2018, 2019

Chair, Undergraduate Senior Honors Thesis, Cameron Adajian, 2018-2019

Chair, Undergraduate Senior Honors Thesis, Omolara Adekeye, 2018-2019 (Winner of the Best Honors Program Thesis Award)

Chair, Undergraduate Senior Honors Thesis, Madeline Terlap, 2018-2019 (Winner of the Best Honors Program Poster Award)

Chair, Master's thesis, Mark Haddad, 2018-2019

Chair, Master's thesis, Anima Anwar, 2017-2018

Chair, Master's thesis, Christopher Remillard, 2017-2018

Second Reader, Master's thesis, Rachel Bennett (Winner of the Best MA Thesis Award)

Member, American Politics Search Committee, 2017

Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, 2018

Member, Dissertation committee, Logan Strother (Syracuse University). Defended in 2017; now an assistant professor (tenure-track) at Purdue University. Ioana Panaitiu (Northeastern University), expected to defend in 2020).

Fourth Reader, Dissertation committee, Jillian Jaeger (Boston University). Defended in 2017; now an assistant professor (tenure-track) at St. Lawrence University

Member, Honors Thesis Defense Panel, Julia Cohen, 2017

Member, John Sullivan Committee, Elections, Public Opinion and Voting Behavior Section, American Political Science Association, 2016

Member, Honors Thesis Defense Panel, Christian Unkenholz, Syracuse University, 2016

Member, Honors Thesis Defense Panel, Christopher Pulliam, Syracuse University, 2016

Roscoe Martin Committee, Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs, Syracuse University, 2015-2016

Section Chair, Midwest Political Science Association, 2015, Race, Class, and Ethnicity

Principal Investigator, Syracuse Module, 2014 Cooperative Congressional Election Study

Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Political Science, Syracuse University, 2014-2015

Article Reviewer, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Politics Research*, *Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy*, *Journal of Black Studies*, *Journal of Communication*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Communication*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*

Book Reviewer, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, University of Michigan Press

Grant Reviewer, Time Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences

Member, Experiments Section Outreach Committee, 2011-2012, American Political Science Association

Discussant, American Political Science Association, 2010, 2013, 2018; Midwest Political Science Association, 2009, 2010, 2014, 2018

Member, American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association