

Stephanie Ternullo

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor , Department of Government, Harvard University	2023-
Post-Doctoral Fellow , Department of Government, Harvard University	2022-2023

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

Ph.D., Sociology 2017-2022

Dissertation: “Becoming Partisans: How Place Makes Politics in the American Heartland”

Committee: Lis Clemens (chair), John Levi Martin, Eric Oliver, Robert Vargas

M.A., Sociology 2019

University of Cambridge

M.Phil, Economic & Social History 2016

Amherst College

B.A., Economics, *summa cum laude* 2015

BOOKS

How the Heartland Went Red: Why Local Forces Matter in an Age of Nationalized Politics.
Princeton University Press. 2024.

- Winner of the Distinguished Contribution to Scholarship Book Award in Political Sociology
- Winner of the Community and Urban Sociology Outstanding Book Award
- Honorable Mention for Dennis Judd Best Book Award in Urban and Local Politics
- Reviewed in *Perspectives on Politics*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *City Journal*, *International Social Science Review*, *Revue Française de Science Politique*, *Choice*, *Oxford Political Review*

Suburban Blues: The Clash of Local and National Politics in America’s Democratic Suburbs. Under Contract with Princeton University Press; due Aug 2026.

ARTICLES

Ternullo, Stephanie. 2026. “[Opinion Change in Nonpartisan Contexts: The Case of Residential Zoning Reform](#).” Conditionally Accepted at *Political Behavior*

Berg, Anna, and Stephanie Ternullo. 2025. “[Toward a Qualitative Study of the American Voter](#).” *Perspectives on Politics*.

Ternullo, Stephanie. 2025. “[The Demise of Organized Labor and the Rise of Postindustrial Populism](#).” *Contemporary Sociology* 54 (5): 362–65. (Invited essay)

Ternullo, Stephanie. 2025. "Union Decline and the Heartland's Turn to the Right." *Middle West Review* 11 (2): 287–92. Symposium on the Midwest 2024 Election Cycle, 2025. (Invited essay)

Ternullo, Stephanie. 2024. "Place-Based Partisanship: How Place (Re)Produces Americans' Partisan Attachments." *American Journal of Sociology* 130 (2): 293–343.

- Winner of the Jane Addams Award from the Community and Urban Sociology Section of ASA

Ternullo, Stephanie, Ángela Zorro-Medina, and Robert Vargas. 2024. "How Political Dynasties Concentrate Advantage within Cities: Evidence from Crime and City Services in Chicago." *Social Forces* 102 (4): 1310–31.

Ternullo, Stephanie, and Simon Yamawaki Shachter. 2024. "Old Patronage in the New Deal: Did Urban Machines Use Work Relief Programs to Benefit the Democratic Party?" *Studies in American Political Development* 38 (1): 56-69.

Ternullo, Stephanie. 2024. "The Local Politics of National Realignments: U.S. Political Transformation from the New Deal to the Religious Right." *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 4 (2): 221-253.

Ternullo, Stephanie. 2022. "'I'm Not Sure What to Believe': Media Distrust and Opinion Formation during the COVID-19 Pandemic." *American Political Science Review* 116 (3): 1096-1109.

Parker, Jeffrey Nathaniel, and Stephanie Ternullo. 2022. "Gentrifiers Evading Stigma: Social Integrationists in the Neighborhood of the Future." *Social Problems* 71 (2): 437-454.

Ternullo, Stephanie. 2022. "The Electoral Effects of Social Policy: Expanding Old-Age Assistance, 1932–1940." *The Journal of Politics* 84 (1): 226–41.

BOOK CHAPTERS

- "Rage Against the Machine: How 21st Century Political Machines Constitute Their Own Opposition" (with Jeffrey Nathaniel Parker) in *The Elgar Handbook of Urban Social Movements*, 2023.
- "Qualitative Approaches to the Study of Local Contexts & Political Behavior: Case Studies, Ethnography, and In-Depth Interviewing" in *The Handbook of American Political Geography*, Under contract with De Gruyter.

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of *Who We Are Is Where We Are: Making Home in the American Rust Belt* by Amanda McMillan Lequieu. *American Journal of Sociology* 131 (5): 1255–57.

ARTICLES IN PROGRESS & UNDER REVIEW

- [“The Politics of Concentrated Advantage”](#)
 - Winner of Best Paper in American Political Economy Award from the APE Section of APSA
- [“Pathways of Local Opinion Formation: The Case of Housing Policy”](#) (with António Câmara and Aidan Connaughton)
- [“Varieties of Suburban Politics”](#) (with Michael Shepherd and Dominic Skinnion)
- [“The Geographic Roots of Black Partisanship”](#) (with Marcel Roman and Michael Strawbridge)
- [“Cultural Dynamics of Working Class Politics in Europe and the United States”](#) (with Linus Westheuser, Koen Damhuis, and Michèle Lamont)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- [“The 2024 Election Marked the Inversion of the Electoral Map,”](#) *Time*, 2024.
- [“Local organizations have shaped the rightward turn across America’s industrial Heartland,”](#) *LSE USA Blog*, 2024.
- [“History Reveals How Donald Trump Captured the Industrial Heartland—And a Path Forward for Democrats,”](#) *Time*, 2024.
- [“Why did Motorville stay blue?”](#) *Contexts Blog*, 2024.
- [“Conservatives don’t want a bigger social safety net. But they do want to care for the needy.”](#) *Washington Post’s Monkey Cage*, 2021.
- [“The Electoral Effects of Old-Age Assistance and the Social Security Act of 1935,”](#) *Broadstreet*, 2021.
- [“Americans want to trust the experts on the coronavirus. That isn’t easy,”](#) *Washington Post’s Monkey Cage*, 2020.

AWARDS AND GRANTS

- 2025 Emerging Scholar Award from APSA’s American Political Economy Section
- 2025 Susan Clarke Young Scholar Award from APSA’s Urban and Local Politics Section
- 2025 Walter Channing Cabot Fellow from Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- 2024 Dean’s Competitive Fund from Harvard Faculty of Arts and Sciences
- 2024 Stone Research Grant from Harvard Kennedy School’s James M. and Cathleen D. Stone Program in Wealth Distribution, Inequality, and Social Policy
- 2021 Mansueto Institute Urban Doctoral Fellowship
- 2020 NSF Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant

- 2020 SSRC Social Data Dissertation Fellowship
- 2020-2021 University of Chicago Henderson Research Grant

CONFERENCES & PRESENTATIONS

- 2026 “Suburban Blues: The Clash of Local and National Politics in America’s Suburbs” *Boston University Sociology Department Colloquium; Sciences Po Cities are Back in Town Programme; Berkeley Economy and Society Initiative*
- 2024-2025 “The Politics of Concentrated Advantage.” *MPSA 2024; UC Berkeley Research Workshop in American Politics; University of Oregon American Politics Workshop; Consortium on the American Political Economy Conference 2024; APSA 2024; MIT American Politics Conference; Hoover Institution Conference on Geographic Polarization; Northwestern American Politics Speaker Series*
- 2025 “Place, Polarization, and the Future of America’s Political Divisions.” *Samuel B. Cummings Lecture at Amherst College Center for Humanistic Inquiry*
- 2023-2025 “How the Heartland Went Red.” *Princeton Center for the Study of Democratic Politics; Amherst College; University of Oregon Wayne Morse Center; Center for Race, Inequality, and Social Equity Studies at Harvard; Midwestern History Association Book Series; UPenn Sociology Department Colloquium; Rural-Urban Bridge Initiative*
- 2023-2024 “Local Political Norms & Liberal Support for Housing.” *BU Urban Inequalities Workshop; Harvard Social & Cultural Analysis Workshop; NYU Identities & Ideologies Project; UC Berkeley WARM Conference; BU American Politics Workshop; Wesleyan Media Project Post-Election Conference*
- 2021-2022 “Place and Partisanship: The Local Contexts of American Political Identity Formation.” *American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, 2021 & 2022.*
- 2021 “‘I Don’t Know What to Believe:’ Media Distrust and Opinion Formation during the COVID-19 Pandemic.” *The Great Mediation: Perspectives on Politics and the New Media*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Reviewer for *American Journal of Political Science, American Journal of Sociology, American Politics Research, American Political Science Review, American Sociological Review, British Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Perspectives on Politics, Political Behavior, PNAS, Social Problems, Theory and Social Inquiry*, Princeton University Press, Routledge, Russell Sage Foundation
- Selection Committees: CUSS Best Article Award; APE Best Article Award; Qualitative and Mixed Methods Section Best Article Award
- APSA American Political Economy Section Division Co-Chair, 2026-2027