



Institute for Public Policy
and Social Research
MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY

IPPSR Public Policy Forum Series Winter 2021 – February 25, 2021

EXTREMISM IN POLITICS AND THE PUBLIC DISCOURSE



Sam Jackson, Associate Professor, College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity, State University of New York at Albany

Sam Jackson is an assistant professor in the College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity at the State University of New York at Albany.

His research focuses on antigovernment extremism in the U.S., conspiracy theories, extremism online, and contentious activity on the internet more broadly.

His first book, *Oath Keepers: Patriotism and the Edge of Violence in a Right-Wing Antigovernment Group*, is now out from Columbia University Press.



Jakana Thomas, Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, College of Social Science, Michigan State U

Jakana Thomas is associate professor in the Department of Political Science at Michigan State University and a faculty affiliate of the university's Center for Gender in the Global Context.

Her research focuses on political violence with an emphasis on the behavior of violent political actors. Her recent projects examine women's participation in rebel and terrorist organizations, how violence influences conflict resolution, the correlates of terrorist lethality and the determinants of successful peace processes. Her research has been published in the *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *International Organization*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Security Studies* and *Conflict Management and Peace Science*.

Thomas was recently awarded a Presidential Visiting Scholars Fellowship from Princeton University for the 2020-2021 academic year. She earned her Ph.D. from Pennsylvania State University in 2012 and a B.A. from the University of Maryland Baltimore County in 2007.



Dustin Carnahan, Assistant Professor, Department of Communications, College of Communication Arts and Sciences, Michigan State University

Dustin Carnahan is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Communication in MSU's College of Communication Arts and Sciences.

He received his Doctorate in Political Science from The Ohio State University. His research focuses on political information-seeking behavior (with an emphasis on selective exposure), the role of communication processes in propagating and correcting misinformation on political and health-related issues, the influence of cognitive and affective factors on information-processing strategies, and innovative approaches in experimentation.

Sponsor Leadership – Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR), College of Social Science, Michigan State University



Matt Grossmann, Director, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research, and Professor of Political Science

Dr. Matt Grossmann is Director of Michigan State University’s Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. He is also a Professor of Political Science at MSU. A nationally known political scientist, Grossmann is an expert on American politics and government whose research spans national and state policymaking, election campaigns, interest groups, and political parties. Dr. Grossmann has authored numerous journal articles on policy change, political party networks, the legislative process and public opinion. His latest book, *Red State Blues* was recently made available through Cambridge University Press. He is also editor of the volume *New Directions in Interest Group Politics*, from Routledge.



Arnold Weinfeld, Associate Director, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research

Arnold Weinfeld is Associate Director of the Institute for Public Policy and Social Research at Michigan State University as well as Director for Workforce and Economic Development Partnerships for the Office of Public Engagement and Scholarship within University Outreach and Engagement. Prior to joining MSU, Weinfeld served as CEO of the Prima Civitas Foundation, a community and economic development non-profit organization. He also has worked for the Michigan Municipal League where he served in a number of roles and co-founded the Michigan Sense of Place Council. Arnold began his career with the Michigan House of Representatives where he worked as a legislative aide, policy analyst and policy director.

**Upcoming 2021 Forum Dates
Wednesday, March 24, 2021
Wednesday, April 7, 2021**

Presentations and additional resources can be found at ippsr.msu.edu

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