Curtis Bram

CONTACT INFORMATION

Curtis Bram
The University of Texas at Dallas
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RESEARCH FIELDS

American politics; political behavior; public opinion; political psychology; democratic institutions; survey and experimental methods; AI

ACADEMIC POSITION

The University of Texas at Dallas

Assistant Professor, Economic, Political and Policy Sciences, 2023 —

EDUCATION

Duke University

Ph.D., Political Science, 2023

M.A., Political Science, 2020

The University of Chicago

M.A. (with honors), International Relations, 2016

Tulane University

B.A. (*cum laude*), Economics and Political Science, 2014

REVISE AND RESUBMITS

Bram, C. The Out-Group Penalty in Rights Judgments: Evidence from Public Respondents and Elected Officials. Revised and resubmitted, *Political Behavior*.

Bram, C., and Lee, N. U.S. local officials rate polarization as worse for the country than for their communities. Revised and resubmitted, *PNAS Nexus*.

Bram, C. Assistance Without Rule: Democracy After Human Superiority. Revised and resubmitted, *Philosophy & Technology*.

MONOGRAPH

Bram, C. *Elitism versus Populism: Experiments on the Dual Threat to American Democracy*. Cambridge University Press, Elements in Experimental Political Science series (2025).

Discussed on the *Not Another Politics Podcast*
Discussed on KERA's *Think*
Featured as the *2,000th Cambridge Element*
Reviewed by Rafael Jacob in *Party Politics* (2026).

Refereed Journal Articles

Marble, W., Lee, N., and **Bram, C.** Stepping Up the Political Ladder: How the Burden of Fundraising Limits Candidate Entry. *Political Behavior* (2026).

Lee, N., Chen, K., Marble, W., and **Bram, C.** Voice and Value: How Elected Officials Evaluate Online and Offline Constituent Feedback. *Public Opinion Quarterly* (2025).

Krishnamurthy, A., **Bram, C.**, and Nathan, C. The Punitive Public? Exploring the Opinion–Election Connection in Criminal Justice Policy. *American Politics Research* (2025).

Nathan, C., Krishnamurthy, A., **Bram, C.**, and Todd, J. The Donor Went Down to Georgia: Out-of-District Donations and Rivalrous Representation. *Political Behavior* (2025).

Todd, J., **Bram, C.**, and Krishnamurthy, A. Do At-Large Elections Reduce Black Representation? A New Baseline for County Legislatures. *Electoral Studies* (2024).

Bram, C. Beyond Partisan Filters: Can Underreported News Reduce Issue Polarization? *PLOS ONE* (2024).

Bram, C. Expectations for Policy Change and Participation. *Public Opinion Quarterly* (2023).

Bram, C. The Most Important Election of Our Lifetime: Focalism and Political Participation. *Political Psychology* (2023).

Bram, C. A Professional Development Course for Political Science Undergraduates. *PS: Political Science and Politics* (2023).

Bram, C., and Munger, M. Where You Stand Depends on Where You Live: County Voting on the Texas Secession Referendum. *Constitutional Political Economy* (2022).

Bram, C. When a Conspiracy Theory Goes Mainstream, People Feel More Positive Toward Conspiracy Theorists. *Research & Politics* (2021).

Book Chapter

Bram, C. Transaction Costs and Authoritarian Institutions: Early Coalition Size and Regime Party-Building. In *Political Processes and Political Order*. Rowman & Littlefield / Lexington Books, 2025.

Book Review

Bram, C. Review of *Democratic Elitism: The Founding Myth of American Political Science*. *Contemporary Sociology: A Journal of Reviews* 55(2): 171–172 (2026).

Media

Celebrating our 2000th Element: Elitism versus Populism. *Cambridge Core Blog*

Work cited in *The Dallas Morning News* "Inflation, traffic are among top concerns for North Texans, early survey results show"

Interviewed for "Trustworthy" documentary on polarization and media

Work cited in MediaPost op-ed "Media Bias Is A Fact Of Life - But Polarization Need Not Be"

UFOs exist, and might come from beyond Earth, the U.S. said. Will that encourage conspiracy theorists? *The Washington Post* (Monkey Cage)

Teaching

The University of Texas at Dallas

- Political Surveys (Undergraduate, Fall 2025)
- State and Local Government (Spring 2025, Spring 2026, Fall 2026 in progress)
- Survey Research (Graduate, Fall 2023 & Fall 2025)
- Political Behavior (Spring 2024, 2025, and 2026)
- Political Polarization in America (Fall 2024; Fall 2026 in progress)

Duke University (Instructor of Record):

- The Psychology of Political Participation (Fall 2022)
- Professional Development in Political Science (Fall 2018 & 2019, Spring 2021 & 2022)

Duke University (Teaching Assistant):

- Political Psychology (Fall 2020)

Certificate in College Teaching, Duke University, 2023

Teaching Politics Certificate, Duke University, 2021

Conference Presentations

BYU Initiative for Peacemaking Conference (2026)

American Political Science Association (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025)

Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication (2023)

NYU C.E.S.S. Conference (2023)

Online News Association (2022) (Audio recording)

Harvard Experiments Conference (2021)

Midwest Political Science Association (2021, 2024)

Southern Political Science Association (2019, 2020)

Research Support

Mercatus Center Research Grant, 2026 ($6,000)

Pew Research Center Global Religious Futures Research Agreement, 2026 ($3,000)

Institute for Humane Studies Research Grant, 2026 ($2,400)

Hayek Fund Grant, Institute for Humane Studies, 2024 ($7,000)

UTD Economic, Political and Policy Sciences Faculty Research Enhancement Grant, 2023 ($10,000)

J. Peter Euben Research Grant, Worldview Lab at Duke University, 2022 ($6,000)

Publication Accelerator, Institute for Humane Studies, 2022 ($5,000)

Research Grant, Worldview Lab at Duke University, 2022 ($1,000)

Research Grant, Hayek Fund at the Institute for Humane Studies, 2021 ($2,000)

Institutions and Political Economy Research Grant, Duke University, 2019 ($6,000)

Fellowships and Awards

Founders Fellow, Philadelphia Society, 2025 ($1,000)

Institute for Humane Studies Symposium, 2024 ($300)

Media, Polarization, and Democracy Research Symposium, Institute for Humane Studies, 2023 ($300)

Research Fellowship, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, 2022 – 2023 ($7,500)

Frontiers in Polarization Research Symposium, Institute for Humane Studies, 2022 ($800)

Kenan Institute for Ethics Graduate Research Fellowship, 2021 – 2022 ($3,000)

Aleane Webb Dissertation Fellowship, Duke University, 2021 and 2022 ($1,000 total)

Don Lavoie Fellowship, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, 2020 – 2021 ($1,500)

Adam Smith Fellowship, Mercatus Center at George Mason University, 2019 – 2020 and 2021 – 2022 ($10,000 total)

Academic Exchange, University of Erlangen-Nuremberg, 2018

Full M.A. Tuition Scholarship, The University of Chicago, 2015 – 2016

Dissertation Committees

Ryan Rynbrandt (Ph.D., 2026)

Maria Islam

Maitreyi Pillai

Hanna Shin (Ph.D., 2025)

Jacob Anton (Ph.D., 2025)

Furkan Zengin (Ph.D., 2025)

Rebecca Larsen (Ph.D., 2026)

Katie Sanchez (Ph.D., 2026)

Haruna Minoura (Ph.D., 2026)

Service

UT Dallas Political Science Ph.D. Program Review Committee (2025)

UT Dallas Political Science Program Committee (2024-)

UT Dallas Graduate Admissions Committee (2024-)

University of Texas Archer Program Selection Advisory Committee (2024, 2025, 2026)

UT Dallas Undergraduate Research Competition Judge (2024, 2025)

Faculty Sponsor, UTD Civic Coalition Student Group (2025)

Advisor, William C. Short Quality-of-Life Survey (2023-)

Cengage Next Gen Advisory Board (2026)

Editorial Board Member: *Political Psychology*

Grant Reviewer: European Research Council (2026)

Reviewer for:

> *Public Opinion Quarterly (3), Political Research Quarterly (3), Political Psychology (8), PLOS ONE (2), Journal of Political Science Education (1), American Politics Research (1), Populism and Politics (1), PNAS Nexus (1), PNAS (1)*; Cambridge University Press (1); Routledge (1)