

# EmiLee Smart

Curriculum Vitae

## Contact Information

University of Kentucky  
Department of Political Science  
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Lexington, KY 40506

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## Education

*University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, Expected May 2024*

Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science  
Major Field: American Politics  
Minor Field: Political Institutions

*Dissertation:* Ruling in the Shadows: The Supreme Court's Use of the 'Shadow Docket' and its Effects

*Abstract:* The Supreme Court has increased its policy making ability through a shadow docket built of cases that do not follow normal court procedures. My research asks what explains this institutional process and its impact. Using a variety of approaches, such as computer text analysis, a survey experiment, and other causal inference methods, I seek to understand the legal and extralegal factors that influence judicial decision making on the shadow docket as well as the justifications provided for these abnormal yet influential decisions. In my survey experiment, I found decreased public support for decisions made on the shadow docket as well as an increased support to diminish the power of the Supreme Court when the Justices utilize this docket. This research demonstrates the important implications that the shadow docket has for democratic governance in the United States.

*Committee:* Justin Wedeking (Chair), Michael Zilis, Jilliene Haglund, and Mark Lauersdorf (Dept. of Linguistics)

*University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, 2022*

Master of Arts, Political Science

*University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY, Summer 2023*

Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning

*Idaho State University, Pocatello, ID, 2019*

BA, English Professional Writing  
Minor, Political Science

## Research Interests

Institutions  
Gender and Politics  
Judicial Decision-Making

Textual Analysis  
Law and Policy

## Relevant Courses Completed

American Political Institutions  
American Political Behavior  
Judicial Process  
College Teaching and Learning

Preparing Future Faculty  
College Teaching  
Instructional Technology

## Publications

### Peer Reviewed

Shane A. Gleason, EmiLee Smart. "You Think; Therefore I Am: Gender Schemas & Context in Oral Arguments at the Supreme Court, 1979-2016." *Political Research Quarterly* 2023.

### Other

EmiLee Smart. "Part-of-Speech Tagging: Basics and Application." *Law and Courts Newsletter, Newsletter of the Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association*, Pages 15-19. Volume 32, Number 1, Spring 2022.  
Article was part of a larger 2-part symposium on "Text Analysis Tips and Tricks."

### Under Review

Smart, EmiLee. "A Shadow's Influence: How the Supreme Court's use of the Shadow Docket Influences Public Opinion." *Return and Resubmit at American Political Research*

### Working Papers

Smart, EmiLee., Jake Truscott. "Canary in the Coal Mines: Sentiment of Tweets In Response to Nontransparent Government Outcomes."

Smart, EmiLee., Abbie Wood. "Women Robed in Independence: How Women Judges Influence Perceptions of Judicial Independence in Europe."

Barnes, Tiffany., Gregory Saxton, EmiLee Smart. "Women Prosecutors and Perceptions on Punishment"

Smart, EmiLee., Justin Wedeking. "Connecting News of Native American Court Decisions Across Space."

Smart, EmiLee "Oyez! Hear Ye the Silence: Supreme Court Justices Using Silence to Learn."

Smart, EmiLee "Workload and Participation: A Causal Analysis of Oral Argument Participation."

## Research Experience

### Graduate Research Assistant

Dr. Justin Wedeking & Dr. Michael Zilis  
Political Science Dept., University of Kentucky 2020-2023  
NSF Sponsored Research on Media Coverage of the US Supreme Court

### Trio McNair Research Project

Dr. Shane Gleason  
Social Sciences Dept., Texas A&M University Corpus Christi 2018

### Conference Presentations

“Statements of Opinions: Changes in Language on the Shadow Docket” Accepted for *American Political Science Association* Los Angeles, CA September 2023

“Statements of Opinions: Changes in Language on the Shadow Docket” Accepted for *Western Political Science Association* San Francisco, CA April 2023

“Statements of Opinions: Changes in Language on the Shadow Docket” *Southern Political Science Association* Saint Petersburg, FL January 2023

“Public Perceptions of the Supreme Court’s Shadow Docket on Social Media” *Southern Political Science Association* Saint Petersburg, FL January 2023

“A Shadow’s Influence: How Citizens View the Supreme Court’s Use of the Shadow Docket” *Midwestern Political Science Association* Chicago, IL April 2022

Discussant/Chair Judicial Decision Making Panel  
*Kentucky Political Science Association* Lexington, KY, March 2022

“An analysis of Supreme Court Majority Opinions” *UMASS New Directions in Law and Society*, Virtual, October 2021.

“The Impact of Attorney & Justice Gender on Attorney Success at Oral Arguments, 1956-2016” *Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Austin, TX, January 2019.

## Teaching

### Courses Taught as Instructor of Record

American Presidency PS 484

In-Person Fall 2023

Course examines the historical and modern institutional office of the American Presidency.

### Diversity and the Courts PS 391

Online Summer 2023, In-Person Fall 2023

Course focuses on how different aspects of diversity such as age, gender, race and ethnicity influence the legal system at the citizen, attorney, and judicial levels.

### Introduction to Political Analysis PS 372

Online Summer 2022, In-Person Fall 2022, Spring 2023

Course focuses on research design, methods of research collection, and historical, quantitative, and comparative techniques of analysis

### Politics of Law and Courts PS 360

Online Summer 2021, In-Person Spring 2022

Course examines the American Judiciary including the structure and processes of both state and federal courts.

### Intro to American Government PS 101

Fall 2021

Course details the creation of and rules, regulations, and impacts of the Institutions of the American Government.

## **Instructional Training and Experiences**

Graduate Certificate in College Teaching and Learning  
University of Kentucky, Summer 2023

A 12-hour certificate providing a rich integration of the theory and practice of teaching to develop the skills needed for the full range of faculty responsibilities at a range of institutions of higher education.

Head Teaching Assistant  
Department of Political Science, 2022-2023

Mentored graduate teaching assistants and organized biannual trainings for the Department of Political Science on Using Primary Source Documents in the Classroom and a Panel discussion on different teaching methodologies.

Microteaching Group Leader  
University of Kentucky, Fall and Spring 2022 & 2023

Trained incoming graduate teaching assistants in different departments in a two day workshop focused on instruction, mentoring, and course development.

## **Workshops**

UK Teaching in Excellence Symposium Participant, Fall 2023

Teaching With AI, Fall 2023

Assessments Fulfilling Learning Objectives, Spring 2023

Inclusive and Equitable Pedagogy: A Mindful Practice, Fall 2022

Group Activities for Synchronous, Virtual Classes, Spring 2021

Inclusive and Student-Centered Teaching, Fall 2020

## Awards and Honors

*Prestige-Cook Travel Award*

Southern Political Science Association, 2023

*First Gen Scholar Grant*

American Political Science Association, 2023

*Graduate Student Support Grant*

American Political Science Association, 2023

*Malcolm E. Jewell Outstanding Graduate Student*

University of Kentucky, 2023

*Crum Outstanding Graduate Student Award Honorable Mention*

University of Kentucky, 2023

*Woman in Political Science Award*

University of Kentucky, 2023

*Woman's Club Fellowship*

University of Kentucky, 2022

*Crum Emerging Scholar Award in American Politics*

University of Kentucky, 2022

*Graduate Student Congress Research Award*

University of Kentucky 2021-2022

*Ken and Mary Sue Coleman Summer Fellowship*

University of Kentucky, 2020-2023

*S. Sidney and Margaret L. Ulmer Endowed Scholarship*

University of Kentucky, 2019-2020,2022-2023

*Wimberly C. Royster Graduate Excellence Award*

College of Arts and Science, University of Kentucky, 2020

*Emerging Scholar Research Stipend*

University of Kentucky 2019-2020

*Trio McNair Scholar*

Idaho State University, 2017- 201

## **Professionalism**

### **Professional Activities**

Graduate Student Congress Representative  
University of Kentucky, 2023-2024

Student Government Graduate Policy Coordinator  
University of Kentucky, 2022-2023

Editorial Assistant  
Journal of Law and Courts, Summer 2020

CITI Training  
Social/Behavior Indicators and Key Personnel  
Responsible Conduct of Research

### **Service**

Organized and Led Training for Responsible Conduct of Research  
University of Kentucky, Spring 2023

Mentor, Start to Finish Program  
Center for Graduate and Professional Diversity Initiatives,  
University of Kentucky, 2022-2024

Head Teaching Assistant  
University of Kentucky, 2022-2023

Graduate Student Secretary  
University of Kentucky, 2022-2023

Peer Mentor Committee  
University of Kentucky, 2022-2023

Graduate Handbook Committee  
University of Kentucky, Fall 2020

### **Computing Skills and Training**

Winter Institute in Computational Social Sciences  
University of Arizona, 2020

Stata, R, Python, & LaTeX

### **Language**

Portuguese: proficient reading, writing, & speaking

Spanish: intermediate reading