

Matthew P. Hitt

Department of Political Science
Colorado State University
C338A Clark Building
Fort Collins, CO 80523

Phone: 720-934-3083

Email: matthew.hitt@colostate.edu

URL: <http://www.matthewphitt.com>

Appointments

2026-	Professor, Colorado State University
2020-2026	Associate Professor, Colorado State University
2016-2020	Assistant Professor, Colorado State University
2014-2016	Assistant Professor, Louisiana State University

Education

2014	Ph.D., Political Science, The Ohio State University
2011	M.A., Political Science, The Ohio State University
2007	B.A., Sociology, Colorado State University (cum laude)

Books

Davis, Nicholas T., and Matthew P. Hitt. 2026. *Supremely Polarizing: How Partisanship Structures Support for the Court*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Stecula, Dominik A., and Matthew P. Hitt. 2025. *White Identities in American Politics*. New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Darr, Joshua P., Matthew P. Hitt, and Johanna L. Dunaway. 2021. *Home-Style Opinion: How Local Newspapers Can Slow Polarization*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Hitt, Matthew P. 2019. *Inconsistency and Indecision in the United States Supreme Court*. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press.

Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., John R. Freeman, Matthew P. Hitt, and Jon C. Pevehouse. 2014. *Time Series Analysis for the Social Sciences*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Refereed Articles

Santoro, Lauren Ratliff, and Matthew P. Hitt. “Snacks, Meals, or Buffets? (Dis)Aggregating Social Influence Across Social Environments.” Forthcoming, *Network Science*.

Fitz, Erin B., Dominik A. Stecula, Matthew P. Hitt, and Kyle L. Saunders. “Mindset to Gain? Framing Effects, Need for Chaos, and the Limits of ‘Burning It All Down’.” In press, *Behavioural Public Policy*.

Davis, Nicholas T., and Matthew P. Hitt. 2026. “Partisan Sorting, Fatalism, and Supreme Court Legitimacy.” *American Journal of Political Science* 70(1): 238-255.

Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., Nicholas T. Davis, and Matthew P. Hitt. 2025. “The Future of the U.S. Supreme Court: Ethics, Polarization, and Reform.” *Journal of Policy History* 37(3): 249-265.

Davis, Nicholas T., and Matthew P. Hitt. 2024. “Diffuse Support, Partisanship, and the Electoral Relevance of the Supreme Court.” *Journal of Law and Courts* 12(2): 392-412.

Fitz, Erin B., Dominik A. Stecula, Matthew P. Hitt, and Kyle L. Saunders. 2024. “Objective Numeracy Exacerbates Framing Effects From Decision-Making Under Political Risk.” *Scientific Reports* 14: 10473.

Fout, Alex, Bailey Fosdick, and Matthew P. Hitt. 2020. “Non-Uniform Sampling of Fixed Margin Binary Matrices.” Paper presented at ACM Foundations of Data Science 2020 Conference, Seattle, WA, USA.

Brown, Mark, Matthew P. Hitt, Alyssa Stephens and Ellyn M. Dickmann. 2020. “Rocky Mountain Scholars Program: Impact on Female Undergraduate Engineering Students—Social and Academic Support, Retention, and Success.” *International Journal of Engineering Pedagogy* 10(4): 9-24.

Hitt, Matthew P., Kyle L. Saunders, and Kevin M. Scott. 2019. “Justice Speaks, But Who’s Listening? Mass Public Awareness of U.S. Supreme Court Cases.” *Journal of Law and Courts* 7(1): 29-52.

Budizak, Jeffrey, Matthew P. Hitt, and Daniel Lempert. 2019. “Determinants of Writing Style on the United States Circuit Courts of Appeals.” *Journal of Law and Courts* 7(1): 1-28.

Darr, Joshua P., Matthew P. Hitt, and Johanna L. Dunaway. 2018. “Newspaper Closures Polarize Voting Behavior.” *Journal of Communication* 68(6): 1007-1028.

—Winner of the 2019 Association for Education in Journalism and Mass Communication Lynda Lee Kaid Best Published Article in Political Communication Award

Hitt, Matthew P., and Kathleen Searles. 2018. “Media Coverage and Public Approval of the U.S. Supreme Court.” *Political Communication* 35(4): 566-586.

- Parinandi, Srinivas, and Matthew P. Hitt. 2018. “How Politics Influences the Energy Pricing Decisions of Elected Public Utilities Commissioners.” *Energy Policy* 118: 77-87.
- Hitt, Matthew P., Craig Volden, and Alan E. Wiseman. 2017. “Spatial Models of Legislative Effectiveness.” *American Journal of Political Science* 61(3): 575-590.
- Davis, Nicholas T., and Matthew P. Hitt. 2017. “Winning, Losing, and the Dynamics of External Political Efficacy.” *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 29(4): 676-689.
- Mérola, Vittorio, and Matthew P. Hitt. 2016. “Numeracy and the Persuasive Effect of Policy Information and Party Cues.” *Public Opinion Quarterly* 80(2): 554-562.
- Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., Charles P. Campisano, Matthew P. Hitt, and Kevin M. Scott. 2016. “Advising, Consenting, Delaying, and Expediting: Senator Influences on Presidential Appointments.” *Studies in American Political Development* 30(1): 19-37.
- Hitt, Matthew P. 2016. “Measuring Precedent in a Judicial Hierarchy.” *Law & Society Review* 50(1): 57-81.
- Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., Dino P. Christenson, and Matthew P. Hitt. 2013. “Quality Over Quantity: Amici Influence and Judicial Decision Making.” *American Political Science Review* 107(3): 446-460.
- Hitt, Matthew P. 2013. “Presidential Success in Supreme Court Appointments: Informational Effects and Institutional Constraints.” *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 43(4): 792-813.

Book Chapters

- Hitt, Matthew P., and Daniel Lempert. 2024. “Using Opinion Language to Predict Review in a Judicial Hierarchy.” In Solberg, Rorie L., and Eric Waltenberg (Eds.), *Open Judicial Politics, 3rd Ed.*
- Strother, Logan, and Matthew P. Hitt. 2023. “The Inferential Value of Pluralism: Detecting Structural Breaks in Media Coverage of U.S. Supreme Court Decisions.” In Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., Dino P. Christenson, and Valeria Sinclair-Chapman (Eds.), *Oxford Handbook for Methodological Pluralism*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Work In Progress

- “ChatSCOTUS: Using A.I. to Communicate U.S. Supreme Court Opinions to the Public.” With Taylor Sosa.

“Home Style in 280 Characters: Congressional Tweeting and Local Media Coverage.” With Benjamin Burnley and Joseph Dupuy.

Other Writings

Hitt, Matthew P. and Kathleen Searles. “[Why Plain English Summaries of Judgments Could Help Improve the Supreme Court’s Image.](#)” *London School of Economics American Politics and Policy Blog* (July 22, 2019).

Hitt, Matthew P., Joshua P. Darr, and Johanna Dunaway. “[Why Losing Our Newspapers is Breaking Our Politics.](#)” *Scientific American* (March 26, 2019).

Darr, Joshua P., Johanna Dunaway, and Matthew P. Hitt. “[When Newspapers Close, Voters Become More Partisan.](#)” *The Conversation* (February 11, 2019).

Parinandi, Srinivas and Matthew P. Hitt. “[Electoral Politics are Keeping Arizona’s Energy Prices Low.](#)” *Brennan Center for Justice* (September 26, 2018).

Hitt, Matthew P. 2018. “[Review of: Judicial Independence and the American Constitution: A Democratic Paradox by Martin H. Redish.](#)” *Political Science Quarterly* 133(3): 592-593.

Box-Steffensmeier, Janet M., Charles P. Campisano, Matthew P. Hitt, and Kevin M. Scott. 2017. “[Blue Slip Senate Archive.](#)” *The Legislative Scholar* 2(2): 44-45.

Davis, Nicholas T. and Matthew P. Hitt. “[No, disgruntled primary losers won’t vote for the other party in November. Here’s why.](#)” *The Washington Post: The Monkey Cage Blog* (June 23, 2016).

Hitt, Matthew P. “[What kind of candidate should Barack Obama nominate?](#)” *Mischiefs of Faction* (February 18, 2016).

Hitt, Matthew P. “[How constrained is President Obama regarding Supreme Court justice nominees?](#)” *Mischiefs of Faction* (February 17, 2016).

Teaching and Research Interests

Institutions: judiciary, legislative.

Methods: time series analysis, causal inference.

Grants, Honors, and Awards

2026-27	Unite America. Research on Election and Institutional Reforms in Legislatures and Courts. Joint with Srinivas Parinandi and Stone Neilon. \$19,000.
2022-24	Colorado State University. Monfort Professorship. \$100,000.

- 2024 Institute for Humane Studies. Expense Support Grant. “A Folk Theory of Jurisprudence: How Americans Understand Judicial Decision-making.” No. IHS017995. Joint with Kathleen Searles and Sean Whyard. \$4,984.
- 2023 Institute for Humane Studies. Expense Support Grant. “The Psychological Structure(s) of American Support for Free Speech.” No. IHS017110. Joint with James C. Garand and Kyle L. Saunders. \$25,000.
- 2022 National Science Foundation. “RAPID: Supreme Court Support and Democratic Values.” SES-2226543. Joint with co-principal investigator Nicholas T. Davis. \$92,673.
- 2019 National Science Foundation. S-STEM Grant. “Rocky Mountain Scholars Program: Determining the Impact of Cohort-Based Undergraduate Research.” DUE-1930417. Co-principal investigator, joint with principal investigator Mark A. Brown and co-principal investigator Mary Ontiveros. \$995,254.00.
- 2018 Colorado State University Vice Provost for Planning Effectiveness Program Review Quality Enhancement Grant. Joint with Gamze Çavdar. \$23,984.
- 2018 Colorado State University College of Liberal Arts Faculty Development Fund for Outstanding Research and Creative Activity. \$5,000.
- 2015 State of Louisiana Board of Regents ATLAS Grant. \$48,070.
- 2015 Louisiana State University Council on Research Faculty Research Grant. Joint with Vittorio Mérola. \$10,000.
- 2015 Louisiana State University Council on Research Summer Stipend Grant. \$5,000.
- 2015 Edward S. Corwin Award for best dissertation in public law, American Political Science Association.
- 2014 Henry R. Spencer Award for best dissertation in The Ohio State University’s Department of Political Science.
- 2013 National Science Foundation. Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant. “Logical Incoherence in the U.S. Supreme Court.” SES-1259252. Supervised by dissertation director Gregory Caldeira. \$16,827.
- 2013 The Ohio State University Presidential Fellowship. University-wide competition.
- 2013 Ohio State Behavioral Decision Making Initiative grant. Joint with Vittorio Mérola. \$2,000.
- 2011 Ohio State Program in Statistics and Methodology (PRISM) Junior Fellowship. Methods consultant for graduate students and faculty.

Professional Presentations & Invited Talks

2023	Indiana University, Marquette University, University of Missouri-Kansas City
2022	Michigan State University
2021	University of Colorado, Boulder
2020	University of South Carolina
2016	University of Colorado, Boulder: “American Politics Research Lab”
2015	Hebrew University of Jerusalem: “Global Junior Empirical Legal Scholars Workshop”; New York University: “New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data”; Colorado State University
2014	State University of New York, Buffalo; Louisiana State University
2013	Penn State University: “New Faces in Political Methodology VI”; George Washington University: “Normative Implications of Empirical Research on Law and Courts”

Teaching

American Political Institutions, Graduate

Quantitative Methods in Political Research I, Graduate

Quantitative Methods in Political Research II, Graduate

Evidence-Based Decision Making, Graduate (online)

Time Series Analysis, Graduate

Comparative Public Policy and Law in the U.S. and U.K., Undergraduate (study abroad course)

Judicial Politics, Undergraduate

Legislative Politics, Undergraduate

Capstone: Experimental Research in Information, Public Opinion, and Democracy, Undergraduate

Introduction to American Politics, Undergraduate (online and in person)

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees

2025-	Taylor Sosa (CSU), advisor
2024-	Joseph Dupuy (CSU), advisor
2023-	Sarai Benitez (CSU), member
2022-	Erin Fitz (CSU), member
2022-2026	Taib Ahmed (CSU), member
2018-2022	Nathanial Bork (CSU), member

2016-2021 Seth Crew (CSU), co-advisor
 2014-2017 Nicholas T. Davis (LSU), member

Service

Referee: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Politics Research*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *Interest Groups and Advocacy*, *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, *Journal of Legislative Studies*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Law and Courts*, *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*, *Justice System Journal*, *Law and Society Review*, *Law and Policy*, *Law and Social Inquiry*, National Science Foundation, *New Political Science*, Oxford University Press, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Analysis*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Communication*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *Politics, Groups, and Identities*, *Science Advances*, *Social Networks*, *The Social Science Journal*, and University of Michigan Press

2017- Editorial Board Member, *Law and Courts Newsletter*
 2025-2026 Associate Director of Research, Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Colorado State University
 2025 Interim Director, Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Colorado State University
 2024-2025 Graduate Coordinator, Department of Political Science, Colorado State University
 2021 Edward S. Corwin Award Selection Committee, American Political Science Association
 2018-2022 Undergraduate Coordinator, Department of Political Science, Colorado State University
 2018 Section Chair, Law and Jurisprudence, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association
 2017 Best Journal Article Award Selection Committee, Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association
 2016 Best Graduate Student Paper Award Selection Committee, Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association
 2015 Emory University Conference on Institutions and Law Making panel discussant (invited)

References

Available by request

Last updated: July 29, 2026