

# Michael Burnham

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Texas A&M University  
Political Science Department  
College Station, TX

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MLBurnham.com  
github.com/MLBurnham

Academic  
Appointments     **Texas A&M University**  
Assistant Professor, 2025-Present

**Princeton University**  
Postdoctoral Researcher, 2024-2025

Education     **Pennsylvania State University**  
Ph.D. (Dual Title), Political Science & Social Data Analytics, 2024.  
M.A., American Politics, 2022

**Georgetown University**  
M.A., International Relations, 2015.

**Utah State University**  
B.A., Economics & International Relations, 2013.

Articles     Burnham, Michael, Kayla Kahn, Rachel Peng, Ryan Wang. “Political DEBATE:  
Efficient Zero-shot and Few-shot Classifiers for Political Text.”  
*Conditional Acceptance at Political Analysis*

Burnham, Michael. “Stance Detection: A Practical Guide to Classifying  
Political Beliefs in Text” *Political Science Research and Methods* (2024).

Burnham, Michael. “What is Sentiment Meant to Mean to Language Models?”  
*Research and Politics* (2024)

Block Jr, Ray, Michael Burnham, Kayla Kahn, Rachel Peng, Jeremy Seeman,  
and Christopher Seto. “Perceived risk, political polarization, and the  
willingness to follow COVID-19 mitigation guidelines.” *Social Science  
& Medicine* 305 (2022): 115091.

Ackerman, Gary A., and Michael Burnham. “Towards a definition of  
terrorist ideology.” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 33, no. 6 (2021): 1160-1190.

Book  
Chapters     Burnham, Michael, and Michael J. Nelson. “Judicial Elections and Judicial  
Behavior.” In *Oxford Handbook of Comparative Political Behavior*.  
Oxford University Press, 2023

## Working Papers

Burnham, Michael. “Affective Polarization in the American Congress”

Burnham, Michael. “Semantic Scaling: Bayesian Ideal Point Estimates with Large Language Models.” *arXiv Pre-print: 2405.02472*

Burnham, Michael “Does Affect Affect Legislative Effectiveness?”

## Software

Entss: Entailment Classification and Semantic Scaling.

Stance detection with transformers and ideal point estimates with Bayesian IRT.

## Conferences

**APSA Annual Meeting**

Panelist: 2024

**State Politics and Policy**

Poster presenter: 2024

**PolMeth**

Poster presenter: 2023, 2022

**New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data**

Poster Presenter: 2021

**International Studies Association**

Panelist: 2016, 2014

## Research Positions

**Political Science, Pennsylvania State University**

Research Assistant, Michael J. Nelson

Graduate Research Fellow, The Center for Social Data Analytics

Research Assistant, Kevin Munger

Research Assistant, Eric Plutzer

**START**

Researcher, Terrorist Ideology Project

## Teaching

**Political Science, Pennsylvania State University**

Instructor, Social Data Analytics Capstone Course, Spring 2023

Instructor, Math for Political Science Workshop, Summer 2023

Instructor, R for Political Science Workshop, Summer 2022

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to American Politics, Fall 2019

Teaching Assistant, Quantitative Political Analysis, Fall 2022

Teaching Assistant, Political Methodology Graduate Seminar, Fall 2022

**ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods**

Guest Lecturer, Ideological Scaling with Large Language Models, 2023

Service	<b>Georgetown Security Studies Review</b> Editor in Chief, 2014-2015
Professional Experience	<b>Deloitte</b> <i>Data Scientist, Pentagon, Arlington, Va, 2017-2019</i>  <b>ANSER</b> <i>Analyst, Arlington, Va, 2016-2017</i>
Awards	<b>Outstanding Political Science Graduate Student</b> Penn State, 2023  <b>Superior Teaching and Research Award</b> Penn State, 2023  <b>Georgetown Security Studies Program Merit Scholarship</b> Georgetown University, 2013-2015  <b>Undergraduate Teaching Fellow of the Year</b> USU Huntsman School of Business, 2013
Languages and Skills	English (native), Ukrainian (conversational), Russian (will lapse into Ukrainian) Python, R, Stata, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Git, HTML5, CSS
References	Michael Nelson: mjn15@psu.edu Bruce Desmarais: bdesmarais@psu.edu Suzie Linn: sld8@psu.edu