

Amber Lusvardi

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ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science 2022-present

Purdue University

Independent Instructor, Department of Political Science 2019–2022

Research Assistant, Feminist Mobilization and Economic Empowerment Project 2017–2020

Grant Funding: Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, PI: S. Laurel Weldon

Millikin University

Instructor, Department of History and Political Science 2016–2021

Lecturer, Department of History and Political Science 2014–2016

Eastern Illinois University

Instructor, Department of Political Science 2008–2010

EDUCATION

Purdue University

Ph.D., Political Science 2022

Dissertation: The End of the Child Bride: Social Movements, Strategic Actions, and State Level Policymaking on Underage Marriage

Fields: American Politics, Public Policy

Eastern Illinois University

M.A., Political Science 2007

Master's thesis: Off the Welfare Rolls and Back into Poverty: A Look at 11 Years of Illinois Welfare Reform

Advisor: Melinda Mueller

B.A., Journalism 2003

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Kelly-Thompson, Kaitlin, and **Amber Lusvardi**. 2025. "Transgender Bodies are the Battleground: Backlash, Threat, and the Future of Queer Rights in the United States." *PS: Political Science & Politics* <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096525000010>

Hoewe, Jennifer, Diana Zulli, Phillip Arceneaux, and **Amber Lusvardi**. 2025. "Political Pets: The Pawsitive Effects of Dogs in Politicians' Social Media Posts." *Journal of Information Technology & Politics* 1-13 DOI: 10.1080/19331681.2025.2471389

Lusvardi, Amber. 2024. "'Sorry that Happened to You': Testifying, Trauma, and the Politics of Child Marriage in the United States." *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy* 46(1): 1-18

Kelly-Thompson, Kaitlin, **Amber Lusvardi**, Summer Forester, and S. Laurel Weldon. 2024. "Dimensions of Transnational Feminism: Autonomous Organizing and Agenda-Setting in Global Civil Society." *Perspectives on Politics* 22(4): 1179-1202

Weldon, S. Laurel, **Amber Lusvardi**, Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson, and Summer Forester. 2023. "Feminist Waves, Global Activism, and Gender Regimes: The Genealogy and Impact of a Global Wave." *Women's Studies International Forum* 99: 1-10

Lusvardi, Amber. 2023. "Confronting *Feminicidio* in Mexico: Pioneering Anthropologist and Activist Marcela Lagarde y de los Ríos." *Gender & Development* 31(1): 247-249

Hoewe, Jennifer, Janel Jett, **Amber Lusvardi**, and Eric Wiemer. 2022. "Selection, Trust, and the Effects of Cable News Consumption." *Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly* 100(2): 392-415

Forester, Summer, Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson, **Amber Lusvardi**, and S. Laurel Weldon. 2022. "New Dimensions of Global Feminist Influence: Tracking Feminist Mobilization Worldwide, 1975-2015." *International Studies Quarterly* 66(1): 1-12
Equal authorship

Datta, Srijani, Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson, Summer Forester, **Amber Lusvardi**, and S. Laurel Weldon. 2022. "Domestic Workers from Margin to Center: Pandemic Politics, Protest, and Policy." *Journal of Cultural Research* 26(1): 39-64
Equal authorship

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

UNDER REVIEW

Weldon, Laurel, Summer Forester, Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson, **Amber Lusvardi**, and Srijani Datta. 2024. *For Richer and for Poorer: Feminism as a Force for Women's Social and Economic Rights*. Under review in Cambridge University Press Elements Series.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Lusvardi, Amber and Terri Towner. 2020. “[Twitter Engagement with C-SPAN Videos: A Wink and a Nod to Non-Verbal Cues.](#)” In *President Trump’s First Term: The Year in C-SPAN Archives Research*, ed. Robert X. Browning. Purdue University Press.

Kelly-Thompson, Kaitlin, **Amber Lusvardi**, and S. Laurel Weldon. 2019. “[Transnational Opportunities for Activism against Gender Violence.](#)” In *Handbook on Gender and Violence*, ed. Laura Shepherd. Edward Elgar Publishers.

FORTHCOMING

Lusvardi, Amber, Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson, and S. Laurel Weldon. 2024. “Transnational Perspectives on Gender Violence: Opportunities and Challenges.” In *Handbook on Gender and Violence*, 2nd Ed., eds. Caitlin Biddolph, Sian Perry, Jihyun Kim, and Laura Shepherd. Edward Elgar Publishers.

WEB-BASED PUBLICATIONS

Lusvardi, Amber and Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson. 2023. “Interrogating Gender, Interrogating Girlhood: State Legislatures and the Battle for Trans Rights.” *Feminist Perspectives*

BACKGROUND PAPER

Weldon, S. Laurel, Shireen Hassim, Srijani Datta, Frederica de Sisto, Helia Doutaghi, Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson, **Amber Lusvardi**, and Summer Forester. 2020. “[Women’s Informal Participation in Political and Public Life and Space: Global Trends and Challenges.](#)” UN Women. Expert Group Meeting. Sixty-Fifth Session on the Commission on the Status of Women.

POPULAR PRESS

Lusvardi, Amber. 2021. “[Behind the Gaetz Scandal, There’s a Bigger Issue: Most States have Loopholes that Let Men Exploit Teenage Girls.](#)” *Washington Post: The Monkey Cage*. (Top ten most read post of 2021)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Whitburn Center Community-Engaged Course Development Award	2024
Tommy G. Thompson Center on Public Leadership Research Grant	2023
Best Dissertation Award, American Political Science Association, State Politics and Policy Section	2023
Undergraduate Student/Faculty Collaborate Research Small Grants, UW Oshkosh	2022
CLA Distinguished Dissertation Award Finalist, Purdue University	2022
Graduate Peer-Reviewed Publication Award, Purdue University	2022
Carsey Scholar Travel Award, State Politics and Policy Conference	2022
Ross-Lynn Research Scholar Fellowship, Purdue University	2021
Clare De Cleene Scholarship, Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Purdue University	2021
Exceptional Teaching and Instructional Support during Covid-19 Award, Purdue University	2021

Berenice A. Carroll Feminism, Peace, and Social Justice Award, Purdue University	2021
American Political Science Association Travel Award	2021
Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association	2019
PROMISE Award, Purdue University	2019, 2021
C-SPAN Archives Research Grant	2018
Advisor of the Year, Millikin University	2017
Forrest W. Howell Scholarship in Public Administration, Eastern Illinois University	2007

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Lusvardi, Amber, and Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson. 2025. "The Modern US Feminist Movement: A Measure of Mobilization across the 50 States." Midwest Political Science Association Conference. Chicago, Ill.

Kelly-Thompson, Kaitlin, and **Amber Lusvardi**. 2024. "Protecting 'Girls,' Defining Girlhood: Anti-Trans Legislation in the U.S. States." European Conference on Politics and Gender. Ghent, Belgium.

Weldon, S. Laurel, Srijani Datta, **Amber Lusvardi**, Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson, and Summer Forester. 2024. "Domestic Workers at the Nexus of International Law and Civil Society." European Conference on Politics and Gender. Ghent, Belgium.

Lusvardi, Amber and Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson. 2024. "Protecting 'Girlhood': Framing Trans Issues in State Legislatures." Western Political Science Association Conference. Vancouver, BC.

Hoewe, Jennifer, Diana Zulli, Phillip Arceneaux, and **Amber Lusvardi**. 2024. "Political Pets: The Pawsitive Effect of Dogs in Politicians' Social Media Posts." International Communication Association. Gold Coast, Australia.

Lusvardi, Amber. 2024. "Citizen Representation in Wisconsin Energy Policy." Midwest Political Science Association Conference. Chicago, IL.

Lusvardi, Amber. 2024. "Representation of Wisconsin Energy Policy: Analysis of State Advocacy on the Line 5 Project." Southern Political Science Association Conference. New Orleans, LA.

Weldon, S. Laurel, Srijani Datta, **Amber Lusvardi**, Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson, and Summer Forester. 2023. "Intersectionality and the International Dimensions of Social Reproduction." American Political Science Association Labor Politics Workshop. Online.

Lusvardi, Amber, and Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson. 2023. "Exclusionary Politics in the States: Anti-Trans Legislation and the Marginalization of Movement Voices." Southern Political Science Association Conference. St. Pete Beach, Florida.

Lusvardi, Amber. 2022. "Autonomy, Minors, and the Feminist Agenda: Gender Issues in the States." State Politics and Policy Conference. Tallahassee, Florida.

Lusvardi, Amber, and Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson. 2022. "Pandemic Policymaking and the Politics of Exclusion: Anti-Trans Legislation in the U.S. States during the Covid Pandemic." State Politics and Policy Conference. Tallahassee, Florida.

Lusvardi, Amber. 2021. "Ending the Child Bride: State Legislative Action on Low-Salience Gender Issues." American Political Science Association Conference, Seattle, Washington.

Weldon, S. Laurel, Srijani Datta, **Amber Lusvardi**, Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson, and Summer Forester. 2021. "Intersectionality and the International Dimensions of Social Reproduction." American Political Science Association Conference, Seattle, Washington.

Lusvardi, Amber, Janel Jett, and Donald E. Snyder. 2021. "Diverging Narratives: Climate Change Issue Frames by Gender in the United States Congress." Networks 2021: A Joint Conference of Sunbelt and NetSci, Online.

Kelly-Thompson, Kaitlin, **Amber Lusvardi**, Summer Forester, and S. Laurel Weldon. 2021. "When and How Does Transnational Feminism Promote Gender Justice?" International Feminist Journal of Politics Conference, Online.

Lusvardi, Amber. 2021. "'Be the Hero We Need': Social Movements and Paternalistic Frames on Child Marriage." Southern Political Science Association Conference, Online.

Datta, Srijani, **Amber Lusvardi**, Summer Forester, Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson, and S. Laurel Weldon. 2020. "Domestic Workers from Margin to Center: Old Solidarities, New Solidarities, and Pandemic Politics in India." American Political Science Association, Online.

Weldon, S. Laurel, Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson, **Amber Lusvardi**, and Summer Forester. 2020. "Transnational Feminist Politics: New Measures and Findings." Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Online.

Lusvardi, Amber. 2020. "'Altared' States: Group Representation, Women's Interests, and Child Marriage in the 50 U.S. States." Southern Political Science Association, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Hoewe, Jennifer, **Amber Lusvardi**, Eric Wiemer, and Janel Jett. 2020. "The Influence of Fox News: A Lack of Counter-arguing and an Increase in Persuasive Effects." Southern Political Science Association Conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico.

Weldon, S. Laurel, Summer Forester, Kaitlin Kelly-Thompson, and **Amber Lusvardi**. 2019. "Handmaidens or Heroes? Feminist Mobilization as a Force for Economic Equality around the World." European Conference on Politics and Gender, Amsterdam, the Netherlands.

Towner, Terri, **Amber Lusvardi**, Bruce Bimber, Shelley Boulianne, and Karolina Koc-Michalska. 2019.

“Twitter as Presidential Communication: Public Perceptions of Trump’s Tweets.” International Communication Association, Washington D.C.

Jett, Janel, **Amber Lusvardi**, and Eric Wiemer. 2019. “‘Believe Survivors’ or ‘Enough Already’: How Elite Discourse Shapes Public Understanding of Focusing Events.” Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, Illinois.

Lusvardi, Amber, and Terri Towner. 2018. “Nonverbal Cues in Congressional Speeches: A Wink and a Nod to Twitter Engagement.” C-SPAN Research Conference, West Lafayette, Indiana.

COURSES TAUGHT (SELECTED)

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh: Introduction to American Government, Political Methodology, International Politics, Policy Analysis, American Public Policy, Sex, Power, and Policy

Purdue University: Women, Politics, and Public Policy

Millikin University: American Political System, State and Local Government, Campaigns and Elections, Media and Politics, Topics in Public Policy, Gender and Politics, Model Illinois Government

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer

PS: Political Science and Politics, Perspectives on Politics, Signs: Journal of Women in Culture and Society, European Journal of Women’s Studies, Media and Communication, Politics, Groups, and Identities, International Journal of Communication, Oshkosh Scholar

Workshop organizer

Co-organizer, Transnational Feminist Movement Conference, Simon Fraser University 2019

Chair

Panel: Local and Urban Politics, SPSA 2024

Panel: LGBTQ Politics, SPSA 2023

Discussant

Panel: Identity and Legislative Politics, Women in Legislative Studies 2024

Panel: Inequality and Public Policy, MPSA 2023

Panel: Race, Place, and Identity in State Politics and Policy, APSA 2021

Panel: Modes of Representation, APSA 2021

Panel: Understanding Gender and Opinions on Elite Behavior, CCSE 2020

Panel: Political Psychology and Gendered Interactions, SPSA 2020

Gender Politics in the U.S. Undergraduate Poster Session, MPSA 2017

Experiential Learning

Model Illinois Government Executive Committee (faculty)

2021

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

University of Wisconsin Oshkosh

UW System Office of Civic Engagement Representative	2025
School of PAGE Retention, Tenure, and Promotion Working Group	2024
Curriculum and Instruction Committee, Department of Political Science	2022–present
McNair Scholars Mentor	2024–present
Cooperative Academic Program Partnership Liaison, Political Science	2024–present
Advisor, Political Science Club	2022–2023
<i>Advance-Titan</i> Board of Directors, Faculty Representative	2023–present
Women and Gender Studies Steering Committee	2023–present
Steering Committee, Fox Cities Campus	2023–present
Dean’s Advisory Board	2023–present

Purdue University

Search Committee Member, Assistant Professor, American Institutions	2021
Mentoring & Recruitment Director, Political Science Graduate Student Association	2018–2020

Millikin University

Gender Studies Minor Committee Chair	2015–2018
Advisor, Pi Sigma Alpha	2014–2018
Faculty Advisor, Sigma Lambda Gamma	2013–2018

COMMUNITY AND UNIVERSITY TALKS

“Enforcing the Binary: State Legislatures and the Silencing of Transgender Movement Voices.” 2025. Women and Gender Studies Speaker Series, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

“Time’s Up: The Marginalization of Transgender Movement Voices in Legislative Debate.” 2024. University of Wisconsin Madison, American Politics Workshop.

“The Dobbs Decision: One Year Later.” (Panel). 2023. University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

“Budgets, Ballparks, and Ballot Boxes: Why States Matter.” 2023. University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

“I (Heart) Feminist Research.” (Panel). 2023. University of Wisconsin Oshkosh.

“Finding Civil Discourse in a Polarized World.” 2022. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur.

“The Politics of Child Marriage in the United States.” 2021. Department of Women, Gender, and Sexuality Studies, Purdue University.

“Child Marriage: An American Dilemma.” 2020. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur.

“Reflecting on the Election.” (Panel). 2020. Purdue University.

“100 Years of Women’s Suffrage.” (Panel). 2019. Millikin University.

“The Nine: Implications and Possibilities of a New Supreme Court.” 2019. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur.

“‘Nevertheless, She Persisted:’ How Women Make a Difference in Government.” 2018. American Association of University Women, Decatur Branch.

“‘Nevertheless, She Persisted:’ How Women Make a Difference in Government.” 2017. Unitarian Universalist Fellowship of Decatur.

“60th Anniversary of Brown v. Board Decision.” 2014. Millikin University.

RESEARCH SKILLS

Software

STATA, SPSS, R, UCINet, NodeXL, Nvivo

Languages

English (native), Spanish (intermediate)

Methods Training

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

United Training, University of Wisconsin Oshkosh	2022
ADVANCE-Purdue	2021
Online Learning, Purdue University	2020
Certificate, Understanding Diversity and Inclusion, Purdue University	2019
Safe Zone, basic and advanced, Millikin University	2016

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association

Southern Political Science Association