

Janet M. Lawler, Ph.D.

The Honors College, University of Houston
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Academic Positions

University of Houston	2023 – Present
Instructional Assistant Professor, The Honors College	
Director, Community Advocacy & Responsive Engagement (CARE)	
Assistant Director, Office of Community Engagement	
Faculty Affiliate, Elizabeth D. Rockwell Center for Ethics and Leadership	
Carnegie Mellon University	2022 – 2023
Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow	

Education

University of Virginia	
Doctor of Philosophy in Government	2022
<i>Department of Politics</i>	
<i>Major: Political Theory</i>	
<i>Minor: Comparative Politics</i>	
Dissertation Title: “Democratic Vistas in Digital Space”	
Master of Arts in Government	2018
<i>Department of Politics</i>	
University of Iowa	
Bachelor of Science in Political Science	2015
<i>With Distinction, University Honors</i>	
Bachelor of Arts in Classical Languages and Journalism	2015
Minor: Ancient Civilization	
<i>With Distinction, University Honors</i>	

Selected Honors & Awards

The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Houston-Galveston Academic Mentor of the Year, 2026
 Distinguished Graduate Teaching Award in the Social Sciences and Education, University of Virginia,
 2022
 All-University Graduate Teaching Award, University of Virginia, 2022
 University of Virginia Center for Teaching Excellence, PhD Plus Fellowship, 2021-2022
 Attendee Grant, Edition 2021 of the Summer School in Global Studies and Critical Theory, University
 of Bologna, Bologna, Italy, June 21 – July 2, 2021
 Jefferson Foundation Fellowship Research Prize, 2020
 College and Graduate School of Arts and Sciences & Andrew W. Mellon Foundation Fellowship, 2016-
 2021

Publications

Balasco, Lauren, Emmanuel Balogun, Janet Lawler, and Anna Mwaba. 2026. “Upcoming Teaching
 Politics in an Age of Democratic Erosion”. *Journal of the Scholarship of Teaching and Learning* 26 (1).
<https://doi.org/10.14434/josotl.v26i1.37648>.

Lawler, Janet. "Finality for Antigone and Iphigenia: The Masculine Suicide and Feminine Sacrifice." *Hypatia: A Journal of Feminist Philosophy* 41, no. 1 (2026): 137–54.
<https://doi.org/10.1017/hyp.2025.10044>.

Lawler, Janet and David Waldner, "Interpretivism versus Positivism in an Age of Causal Inference" *Oxford Handbook of the Philosophy of Political Science*, Eds. Harold Kincaid & Jeroen Bouwel (2023): 221–242.

Current Projects

Recursive Democracy (Working Book Project)

"Between Deliberation & Discord: Discourse Moderation, Curation, and Automation" (Working Paper)

"Productive Discomfort: Teaching with Controversy and Conflict" (Working Paper)

"Reviving the Hacker Ethic as Subversive Democratic Praxis" (Working Paper)

Other Publications

Contributing Author to "Generative AI Tools FAQ" Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence & Educational Innovation, Online Publication (2023).

Selected Presentations

"The Technology of Parrhesia in Digital Publics," *2025 Association for Political Theory Conference*, Chicago, Illinois, November 7, 2025.

"The Technology of Parrhesia in Digital Publics," *2025 American Political Science Association Conference*, Vancouver, BC, September 12, 2025.

"Teaching Intentionally with AI: Transparency, Authenticity, and Self-Generation," *2025 American Political Science Association Conference (TLC@APSA)*, Vancouver, BC, September 13, 2025.

"Reviving the Hacker Ethic as Subversive Democratic Praxis," *2024 Association for Political Theory Conference*, Blacksburg, Virginia, November 23, 2024.

"Teaching Intentionally with AI: Transparency, Authenticity, and Student Self-Generation," *University of Houston Education Innovation & Technology Conference*, Houston, Texas, February 16, 2024 **[Invited Talk]**.

"Incorporating Lesson Planning Skills into Graduate Student Instructor Training," with Phoebe Cook, *2023 POD Network Conference*, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, November 16-18, 2023.

"Electrifying the Democratic Vista: Theorizing the Digital Commonplace in Walt Whitman's Prose," *2023 Association for Political Theory Conference*, Schenectady, New York, October 13, 2023.

"Algorithmic Content Curation: Between Deliberation and Discord," *2023 American Political Science Association*, Los Angeles, California, August 31, 2023.

"How do we introduce politics to our students in an age of democratic erosion?" Civic Engagement Roundtable Panelist, *2023 APSA Teaching and Learning Conference*, Baltimore, Maryland, February 10, 2023.

"Productive Discomfort in the Classroom," *2022 Department of Political Science Teaching and Mentoring Committee's Graduate Instructor Workshop*, University of Nevada-Las Vegas, Virtual Seminar, December 2, 2022. **[Invited Talk]**

"Algorithmic Content Curation: Between Deliberation and Discord," *2022 Association for Political Theory Conference*, Houston, Texas, October 28, 2022.

"Building Confidence to Teach Through Controversy and Conflict," *2022 American Political Science Association Conference (TLC@APSA: Civic Engagement)*, Montreal, Quebec, September 22, 2022.

"Listening to Student Voices: Conversations for Inclusive Pedagogy," with Sydney Anderson, Rithvik Gundlapalli, Eleanor Hawkes, Shayna Hussain, Sriram Josyula, Victoria Kartseva, Casey Ocasal,

Lauren Parker, Jenna Schwartz, and Noah Zhu *2022 Innovations in Pedagogy Summit*,
Charlottesville, VA, May 4, 2022.

“‘Community’ Guidelines: Phantom, Faux, and Quasi Public Spaces Online,” *2022 Western Political Science Association Conference*, Portland, Oregon, March 11, 2022.

“Furnishing Public Space: Redefining Physicality for Virtual Platforms,” *2021 Western Political Science Association Conference*, Seattle, Washington, April 2, 2021.

“The Red Pill or The Blue Pill: The Practice of Satire in an Online Agon,” *2020 Western Political Science Association Conference*, Los Angeles, California, April 11, 2020.

“The Digital Re-Definition of Conscious,” *2019 Western Political Science Association Conference*, San Diego, California, April 18, 2019.

Teaching

Undergraduate Courses

University of Houston, Houston, TX

Instructor of Record:

HON4397: Special Topics: Social Advocacy in Action

HON3397: Special Topics: Social Media, Digitality, and Politics

HON3350: Principles of Data & Society

HON3331: Introduction to Civic Engagement

GOVT2306: US and Texas Constitution and Politics

University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Instructor of Record:

PLPT3500: Politics and Digital Technology

PLPT3010: Ancient and Medieval Political Theory

Teaching Assistant:

PLPT3020: Modern Political Theory

PLPT3010: Ancient and Medieval Political Theory

Faculty and Graduate Courses & Workshops

The Eberly Center, Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA

Instructor:

“Delivering Effective Lectures” April 4, 2023

“Teaching Metacognitive Skills” February 16, 2023

“Motivating and Engaging All Students” September 12, 2022

“Designing Effective Assessments: Multiple-Choice Questions” November 1, 2022

Center for Teaching Excellence, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

Instructor:

“Building Confidence to Teach Through Controversy and Conflict” Nov. 15, 2021 & Feb. 15, 2022

“Democratizing the Classroom to Promote Equity and Engagement” March 22, 2022

“*Radical Hope* Reading Groups for Graduate Students, Postdocs” April 13 – April 20, 2022

“c3 Design Workshop: Graduate Short-Course” January 3 – January 13, 2022

“Teaching as A Graduate Student” August 19, 2021

Service

Reviewer For

Hypatia, A Journal of Feminist Philosophy

New Political Science

Public Engagement

Texas Civic Ambassadors, Academic Mentor Spring 2025 - Present
 The University of Texas at Austin, Annette Strauss Institute for Civic Life
 Community, Civic, and Public Health, Academic Mentor Spring 2025 - Present
 The Albert Schweitzer Fellowship Houston-Galveston

The Honors College – The University of Houston

Assistant Director, Office of Community Engagement Spring 2025 – Present
 Director, Community Advocacy & Responsive Engagement (CARE) Program Spring 2025 – Present
 Interim Director, Bonner Leaders Service-Learning Program Fall 2024 – Spring 2025
 Co-Chair, Civic and Community Engagement Strategic Planning Committee Spring 2024
 Co-Curricular Programs Strategic Planning Committee Spring 2024
 Faculty Fellow, Bonner Leaders Service-Learning Program Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

The Eberly Center for Teaching Excellence & Educational Innovation – Carnegie Mellon University

Wimmer Faculty Fellows 2023-2024 Selection Committee Spring 2023
 Research & Scholarship Committee 2022-2023

American Journal of Political Science

Administrative Assistant for Lead Co-Editor, Jennifer Lawless 2020

Department of Politics – University of Virginia

Political Theory Colloquium Graduate Assistant 2018-2020
 Politics Graduate Council 2018-2019

Languages

English, <i>native</i>	R & RStudio, <i>advanced</i>
Latin, <i>advanced reading</i>	LaTeX, <i>advanced</i>
Ancient Greek, <i>advanced reading</i>	Python, <i>intermediate</i>
French, <i>intermediate conversational</i>	STATA, <i>intermediate</i>
German, <i>intermediate reading</i>	Git, <i>basic</i>

Research Affiliations

Research Assistant, David Nemer | UVA Deliberative Democracy Media Lab Jan. – May 2022
 Research Assistant, Shawna Metzger | UVA Politics - Quantitative Methodology Jan. – August 2020

Current Memberships

POD Network, since 2021
 The Association for Political Theory, since 2019
 American Political Science Association, since 2018
 Western Political Science Association, since 2017
 Kappa Tau Alpha Journalism Honors Society, since 2015
 Eta Sigma Phi Classics Honors Society, since 2011