Benjamin R. Burnley, Ph.D.

Department of Political Science
Colorado State University
1782 Campus Delivery
Fort Collins, CO 80523

Email: benjamin.burnley@colostate.edu
Website: benjaminrburnley.github.io
(407) 376-9074

Academic Appointments

2025-present   Assistant Professor, Colorado State University, Fort Collins, CO

Education

2025   Georgetown University, Washington, DC
PhD, Government
Dissertation: Tweeters and Leaders: How Congress Uses Twitter to Gain Power
Committee: Leticia Bode (Chair), Michael Bailey, Jonathan Ladd, & Michele Swers

2023   McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University, Washington, DC
Master of Public Policy

2020   Middle Tennessee State University, Murfreesboro, TN
MS, Media and Communication

2014   Florida State University, Tallahassee, FL
BA, Music

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Tang, R., **Burnley, B.**, Bode, L., & Vraga, E. K. (2025). "Corrective Democracy? The Relationship Between Correction of Misinformation on Social Media and Connective Democratic Norms". Social Media + Society, 11(2).
https://doi.org/10.1177/20563051251335086

Working Papers

Under Review

Burnley, B. (2025). Advise, Consent, and Tweet?: How Senators Talk About Supreme Court Nominations on Twitter. Revise and Resubmit at Social Science Quarterly

Tang, R., Burnley, B., & Vraga, E.K. (2025). From Engagement to Extremism: Social Media's Dual Influence on Democratic Citizenship and Attitudes. Revise and Resubmit at New Media and Society

In Preparation
Book Project

Tweeters and Leaders: How Twitter Changed Congress and Reshaped Our Political Attention. (*Forthcoming)*

Academic Papers

External Threats and Internal Risks: How International Wars Shape Leaders' Discourse in Third-Party Countries.*With Ana Paula Pellegrino & Laia Balcells*

Analyzing 10 Years of Policy Tweets On Twitter *with Annelise Russell*

Leading (or Following) The Headlines?: News Attention and Congressional Twitter Activity. *With Matthew Hitt.* (Presented At APSA 2025)

Digital Ideological Communities *with Shea Minter* (Presented at APSA 2025)

TikToking to Voters: TikTok and the 2024 U.S. Presidential Election *with Patrick McSweeney.* (Presented at the 2025 APSA Political Communication Pre-Conference)

Assessing the Sensitivity of Prompt Framing for Political Information *with Kyle Saunders and Erin Fritz*

Grants and Awards

2025 - National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource Pilot, National Science Foundation & Microsoft

2024 - Summer Research Grant - Georgetown Department of Government

2023 - Collaborative Research Grant with Leticia Bode - Georgetown Department of Government

Best Graduate Student Paper in American Politics, Political Parties, and Elections

2021 - Franco Mattei Award - Northeastern Political Science Association

 Social Mediated Democracy: The Role Platforms Play in Political Conversation & Participation

Tennessee Conference of Graduate Schools - Best Master's Thesis Award

2020 - *Modeling the Effects of Social Media Use and Deliberative Behaviors on Voting.*

Teaching

Colorado State University - Instructor of Record

Introduction to American Government and Politics (Fall 2025)

Media and Politics (Fall 2025)

Georgetown University - Teaching Assistant

Quantitative Methods III - Graduate (with Marko Klašnja - Spring 2023)

Quantitative Methods I - Graduate (with Hans Noel Fall 2022)

Introduction to the United States Political System - Undergraduate (with Mark Rom, Fall 2021, Spring 2022)

Middle Tennessee State University - Teaching Assistant

Free Expression and the First Amendment - Undergraduate (with Jason Reineke, Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

American Media and Social Institutions - Undergraduate (with Leon Alligood, Spring 2019)

Media Law - Undergraduate (Paul McAdoo Fall 2018)

Conferences and Invited Talks

American Political Science Association: 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025

Summer Institute in Computational Social Science - University of Pennsylvania: 2024

International Conference on Computational Social Science: 2024

Midwest Political Science Association: 2023, 2024, 2025

Southern Political Science Association: 2024

Northeastern Political Science Association: 2021

Midwest Association of Public Opinion Research: 2018, 2019

Georgetown University American Government Seminar - September 2024

Service

As Reviewer

Policy Studies Journal, Political Science Research and Methods

Colorado State University

Undergraduate Committee - 2025/2026

Georgetown University

Georgetown Graduate Political Science Association - President, 2022-2024

McCourt School of Public Policy Student Ambassador 2020 - Present

Last Updated: September 01, 2025