

ADAM HILTON

Skinner Hall 211
Mount Holyoke College
50 College St.
South Hadley, MA 01075

413 538 2325
ahilton@mtholyoke.edu
<http://adamhilton.org>

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2024–Present Associate Professor, Department of Politics, Mount Holyoke College
2022–Present Director, Semester in Washington, DC Program, Mount Holyoke College
2019–2024 Assistant Professor, Department of Politics, Mount Holyoke College
2016–2019 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Politics, Mount Holyoke College

EDUCATION

2016 Ph.D. Political Science, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2010 M.A. Political Science, York University, Toronto, Ontario, Canada
2008 B.A. Political Economy, The Evergreen State College, Olympia, Washington

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

2021 Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Summer Institute, Syracuse University
2021 ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

PUBLICATIONS

Monographs

2021 [*True Blues: The Contentious Transformation of the Democratic Party*](#) (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press)
○ Reviewed in [*The Forum*](#), [*Perspectives on Politics*](#), [*Party Politics*](#), [*Jacobin Magazine*](#), [*Choice*](#), [*Political Science Quarterly*](#), and [*The Journal of American History*](#)

Edited Volumes

2025 [*Parties, Power, and Change: Developmental Approaches to American Party Politics*](#), with Jessica Hejny (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press)

Peer-Reviewed Articles and Book Chapters

2025 “Explaining the Durability and Dynamism of American Party Politics,” with Jessica Hejny, in *Parties, Power, and Change: Developmental Approaches to American Party Politics*, edited by Hejny and Hilton (Philadelphia: University of Pennsylvania Press)
2025 “Advocates and Authoritarians: Surrogate Management and Asymmetric Party Development in American Politics,” in *Connective Action and the Rise of the Far Right: Platforms, Politics, and the Crisis of Democracy*, edited by Steven Livingston and Michael Miller (New York: Oxford University Press)
2021 “Bringing Contention In: A Critical Perspective on Political Parties as Institutions,” with Jessica Hejny, *Studies in Political Economy* 102 (2): 161-81
2021 “Retreating from Redistribution? Trends in Democratic Party Fidelity to Economic Equality, 1984–2020,” with Amelia Malpas, *The Forum* 19 (2): 283-316
2019 “The Politics Insurgents Make: Reconstructive Reformers in US and UK Postwar Party Development,” *Polity* 51 (3): 559-96
2019 “The Path to Polarization: McGovern-Fraser, Counter-Reformers, and Rise of the Advocacy Party,” *Studies in American Political Development* 33 (1): 87-109
2016 “Searching for a New Politics: The New Politics Movement and the Struggle to Democratize the Democratic Party, 1968-1978,” *New Political Science* 38 (2): 1-19

Articles, Essays, and Book Reviews

- 2025 “Book Review: Once the Party of Business, Republicans Have Gone Rogue,” *Jacobin*, December 17, 2025
- 2021 “Book Review: Whatever Happened to Party Government?” *Party Politics* 27 (5)
- 2020 “Book Review: Ideas of Power: The Politics of American Party Ideology Development,” *Political Science Quarterly* 135 (4)
- 2018 “Is Now the Time to Break with the Democrats? A Response to J. Phillip Thompson,” *New Labor Forum* 27 (1)
- 2017 “Organized for Democracy? Left Challenges Inside the Democratic Party,” in *Socialist Register 2018: Rethinking Democracy*, edited by Leo Panitch and Greg Albo (London: Merlin Press, 2017)
- 2015 “The View from the Top: Robert Caro’s Portraiture of Lyndon Johnson,” *New Political Science* 37 (1)
- 2011 “Review Essay: Antonio Gramsci and the Gramscian Moment,” *Socialist Studies* 7 (1/2)

Public Commentary

- 2024 “Who Will Win the Democrats’ Blame Game?” *Jacobin*, December 30, 2024.
- 2024 “A Brief History of the Democratic Party,” *Jacobin*, August 6, 2024.
- 2022 “Despite Manchin and Sinema, Democrats are more united than they’ve been for decades,” *The Monkey Cage*, January 25, 2022.
- 2021 “Biden’s Democrats want to roll back the Reagan era. Are the party and the country ready?” with Amelia Malpas, *The Monkey Cage*, March 19, 2021.
- 2020 “Democrats Must Work to Rebuild the Party, at State and Local Levels,” *Albany Times Union*, December 15, 2020.
- 2020 “Wisconsin Petri Dish: Voting amid the Covid Crisis,” *WGBH News*, April 13, 2020.
- 2020 “Sanders is out. Does that mean that ‘the party decides’ after all?” *The Monkey Cage*, April 10, 2020.
- 2019 “Can Bill Weld unseat Trump? Let’s look at the history of challenges to incumbent presidents,” *The Monkey Cage*, April 29, 2019.
- 2018 “Twilight of the Superdelegates,” *Jacobin Magazine*, September 13, 2018.
- 2017 “The Democratic Party’s latest reform commission just met. It’s likely to slash the power of superdelegates,” *The Monkey Cage*, December 12, 2017.
- 2017 “Donna Brazile Reveals the Obvious,” *Jacobin Magazine*, October 15, 2017.
- 2016 “Searching for New Politics,” *Jacobin Magazine*, June 20, 2016.
- 2015 “Bernie and the Search for New Politics,” *Jacobin Magazine*, June 24, 2015.

News Media and Podcast Interviews

Newsweek, *USA Today*, *The Hill*, *The Majority Report*, *New Books Network*, *Behind the News*, *Dead Pundits Society*, *Time*, *The New Republic*, *GQ*, *Boston Globe*, *La Presse*, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Daily Hampshire Gazette*, *WGBY*, *MassLive*

Works in Progress

- *The Election Lab: Election Data Science in the Tidyverse* (book project)
- “Contentious Institutions and Party Orders in American Politics,” with Jessica Hejny, **revise and resubmit** at *Studies in American Political Development*
- “Making Waves: How Party Insurgents Change American Politics (Even When They Lose),” Working Paper
- “RINO Hunting in the GOP: Co-partisan Animus and Republican Party Discipline,” Working Paper

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

- 2024-25 Fellow, Institute for Holocaust, Genocide, and Memory Studies, University of Massachusetts, Amherst
- 2024 Visiting Democracy Fellow, Ash Center for Democratic Governance & Innovation, Harvard University (**declined**)

2022, 24	Nexus Curriculum Development Grant, Mount Holyoke College
2022	Centennial Center Research Grant, American Political Science Association
2021, 23	Fellowship, Carnegie Corporation of New York (nominated)
2018-20, 2022-24	Research Assistance Grant, Dean of Faculty Office, Mount Holyoke College
2017-22	Faculty Research Grant, Dean of Faculty Office, Mount Holyoke College
2017	Moody Research Grant, Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library
2015	Dissertation Grant, Arthur and Elizabeth Schlesinger Library, Radcliff Institute, Harvard University
2009-16	International Student Scholarship, York University
2009-11	York Graduate Scholarship, York University

SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Conference Presenter

2024	“Party Building, Alliance Making, and Asymmetric Polarization in the US,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 5-8 (<i>declined</i>)
2022	“Between Parties and Movements: The Place of Party Insurgents in American Politics,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 15-18
2021	“Contentious Institutions and Party Orders in American Politics,” Annual Conference of the Social Science History Association, November 11-14
2021	“Contentious Institutions and Party Orders in American Politics,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 30-October 3
2021	“Retreating from Redistribution? Trends in Democratic Party Fidelity to Economic Equality, 1984-2020,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 14-18
2020	“Contentious Institutions and Party Orders: Rethinking American Party Scholarship,” Annual Meeting of the Canadian Political Science Association, May 30-June 5
2019	“Rethinking the Party: Theory and History in Recent American Party Scholarship,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 28-September 1
2019	“The Prospects for Democratic Socialism in the Democratic Party,” Congress of the Humanities and Social Sciences, June 2-7
2018	“1968: Its Legacy for American Politics,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 5-9
2017	“Party Structure and the Legitimacy of Reform: Rethinking McGovern-Fraser,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 31-September 3
2017	“Organized for Democracy? Left Challenges Inside the Democratic Party,” Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities, May 27-June 2
2017	“Rethinking Party Reform in the Year of Insurgents,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 6-9
2016	“The Other Right to Work: Full Employment and Postwar Liberalism,” Conference for Policy History, June 1-4
2016	“The Right to a Job: The Crisis of Postwar Liberalism and the Struggle for Full Employment in the 1970s,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 7-10
2015	“Between Capital and Labor: The ‘New Class’ Hypothesis and the Transformation of Postwar American Liberalism,” Annual Congress for the Social Sciences and Humanities, May 30-June 5
2015	“Interests and Institutions: The Construction of Political Projects in American History,” Annual Meeting of the Western Social Science Association, April 8-11
2014	“In the Name of Participatory Democracy: The New Left and the Democratic Party, 1968-1972,” Annual Meeting of the Social Science History Association, November 6-9
2014	“Rage Against the Political Machine: The Politics and Pitfalls of Democratizing the Democratic Party After 1968,” Annual Congress of the Social Sciences and Humanities, May 24-30

Panel Discussant

- 2025 “Cars, Faith, and Parties: The Politics of State Building and State Capture,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 11-14
- 2022 “The Ideological Development and Impact of Interest Groups in US Politics,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 7-10
- 2017 “Realignments and Subnational Parties in 20th Century America,” Politics and History Section, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 6-9

Roundtable Discussant

- 2025 “Wither Parties in the (Second) Age of Trump,” Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association, November 6-8
- 2025 “Author Meets Critics: Jessica Hejny and Adam Hilton’s *Parties, Power, and Change: Developmental Approaches to American Party Politics*,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 11-14
- 2022 “Author Meets Critics: Adam Hilton’s *True Blues: The Contentious Transformation of the Democratic Party*,” Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 7-10
- 2018 “Rethinking Wilson’s *Amateur Democrat*,” Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 30-September 2
- 2018 “The Democrats and 1968: A Reassessment, Fifty Years Later,” Policy History Conference, May 16-19

Workshop Organizer

- 2021 Placing Parties in American Political Development, Book Workshop, Virtual, November 15

Workshop Presenter

- 2024 “Explaining the Great Divergence: Contentious Institutions, Party Orders, and the Asymmetrical Polarization of American Politics,” Policy History Workshop, Tempe, Arizona, February 2-4
- 2023 “Making Waves: How Party Insurgents Change American Politics (Even When They Lose),” Toronto Political Development Workshop, University of Toronto, May 12-13
- 2022 “Advocates and Authoritarians: Party Development and Surrogate Management in American Politics,” Social Science Research Council/Institute for Data, Democracy, and Politics Book Workshop, Washington, DC, March 21-22
- 2021 “Institutional Development and Surrogate Management: Explaining the Asymmetrical Polarization of American Party Politics,” paper presented to the Social Science Research Council/Institute for Data, Democracy, and Politics Workshop, “The Conservative Dilemma: Digital Surrogate Organizations and the Future of Liberal Democracy,” Online, May 3-4
- 2021 “Contentious Institutions and Party Orders: Placing US Political Parties in Space and Time,” Political Institutions Workshop, University of Massachusetts, Amherst, March 26
- 2020 “Bringing Contentiousness Back In: A Critical Perspective on Political Parties as Institutions,” Exploring a Critical Institutionalism Workshop, York University, Toronto, July 22
- 2017 “The Challenge of Intraparty Democracy: Regime Crisis, Movement Insurgencies, and the Patterns of Party Development in the US and UK,” Toronto Political Development Workshop, University of Toronto, October 15-16

ACADEMIC & COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

- 2024 Lecturer, “2024 Election Debrief: What Happened, and What Happens Next?” Mount Holyoke College, November 8, 2024.
- 2024 Panelist, “What to Expect in the 2024 Presidential Election,” Mount Holyoke College, October 21, 2024
- 2024 Panelist, “Democracy’s Global Test: Reflections on the Year of Elections,” Mount Holyoke College, February 28, 2024

- 2023 Moderator and Discussant for Joanna Wuest's *Born This Way: Science, Citizenship, and Inequality in the American LGBTQ+ Movement*, Mount Holyoke College, October 18
- 2022 Moderator, "What to Expect in the Midterm Elections," Mount Holyoke College, November 7
- 2022 Moderator, "After the Fall of *Roe*: The Future of Abortion in the US and Abroad," Mount Holyoke College, September 21
- 2022 Moderator and Discussant for Nicole Hemmer's *Partisans: The Conservatives Revolutionaries Who Remade American Politics in the 1990s*, Mark Twain House and Museum, Hartford, Connecticut, September 20
- 2022 Lecturer, "Parties, Polarization, and the Threat to US Democracy," Institute for Training and Development, Amherst, Massachusetts, July 13
- 2020 Lecturer, "Four Scenarios for the 2020 Election," Mount Holyoke College, October 27
- 2020 Panelist, "Teach-In on the Census," Mount Holyoke College, March 10
- 2020 Moderator and Panelist, "Teach-In on Impeachment," Mount Holyoke College, January 31
- 2019 Moderator "What's Next for Brexit? A Conversation," Mount Holyoke College, April 12
- 2019 Chair, "A World Unraveling? A Conversation in Politics," Mount Holyoke College, February 26
- 2018 Panelist, League of Women Voters & College Democrats, "Gerrymandering in American Politics," Smith College, February 12
- 2018 Panelist, Five College Model UN, "Trump: One Year Later," Mount Holyoke College, February 5
- 2017 Panelist, Springfield League of Women Voters, "Exploring the Electoral College," Springfield Town Hall, February 12
- 2016 Panelist, "What Comes After the 2016 Election?" Mount Holyoke College, November 8
- 2016 Panelist, "What's at Stake in the 2016 Election?" Mount Holyoke College, October 25
- 2014 Panelist, "Critical Institutionalism: Political Science in Search of a Method," York University, March 2
- 2013 Chair, "The State Debate Today: Unresolved Problems, Avenues for Innovation," York University, November 12

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal Referee *Studies in American Political Development*
Polity
Perspectives on Politics
Interface: A Journal for and about Movements

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Northeastern Political Science Association
 American Political Science Association
Sections:
Politics and History
Political Organizations and Parties