

Abigail Vegter

Political Science Department – Berry College | avegter@berry.edu

abigailvegter.com

EDUCATION

- PhD** Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science, University of Kansas
Major Fields: American Politics and Public Policy
Minor Field: Research Methods
Dissertation: Faith and Firearms: An Exploration of Religion's Entanglement with Guns in America
- MA** Master of Arts in Political Science, University of Kansas,
Major Fields: American Politics and Public Policy
Minor Field: Public Administration
- BA** Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Honors
Calvin College
Major Concentration: Policy Studies and Civic Leadership
Minors: Urban Studies, Sociology

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Berry College | Assistant Professor | Rome, GA | 2021-

- American National Government
- Urban Politics
- Social Science Research Methods
- Religion and Politics
- Public Opinion and Political Participation
- First-Year Seminar

Ashland University | Honored Visiting Faculty: Masters in American History and Government Program | Ashland, OH | 2022-

- American Political Parties
- Political Rhetoric

Johnson County Community College | Adjunct Professor | Overland Park, KS | 2019 -

- Political Theory, Co-Taught with Dr. Taylor Tidwell
- Introduction to American National Government
- Introduction to Public Policy
- Introduction to Political Science

Calvin University | Visiting Instructor | Grand Rapids, MI | 2019-2021

- Ideas and Institutions in American Politics
- Theories of the Policy Process
- Social Studies Methods
- Urban Politics
- Public and Non-Profit Administration

University of Kansas | Graduate Instructor | Lawrence, KS | 2019-2021

- Introduction to Public Policy
- Introduction to U.S. Politics

University of Kansas | Graduate Teaching Assistant | Lawrence, KS | 2018-2019

- Political Science Methods of Inquiry
- Introduction to U.S. Politics

University of Kansas | Guest Lecturer | Lawrence, KS | 2018

- Introduction to U.S. Politics

Calvin College | Teaching Assistant | Grand Rapids, MI | 2016

- Foundations of Political Science Research

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- American Government
- Political Theory
- Religion and Politics
- Public Opinion and Political Behavior
- Research Methods

- Urban Politics

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

CONSULTING

Research Associate | Williams Consulting | 2021

- With Roman Williams
*Lilly Endowment-funded Called to Lives of Meaning and Purpose Initiative
Program Evaluation*

RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

University of Kansas | Lawrence, Kansas | 2017-2021

- With Donald Haider-Markel
Gun Ownership and Political Participation
Gun Owner Identity
Religion and LGBTQ+ Related Attitudes
LGBTQ+ Legislative Politics
- With Margaret Kelley
Female Gun Ownership
Gun Ownership and Religion

Calvin College | Grand Rapids, Michigan | 2014-2017

- With Kevin den Dulk
Water Politics
Visual Sociology, Church, and Public Life (With Roman Williams)
3rd Edition of Challenges of Pluralism (2017)
6th Edition of Religion and Politics (2018)
Challenges of the Next Presidency Lecture Series
- With Mikael Pelz
State Policy Regimes and Charter School Performance (2015)

SCHOLARSHIP

Forthcoming Books

- Vegter, Abigail. *Faith and Firearms: Religion's Entanglement with Guns in America*. Temple University Press.
- Wald, Kenneth D., Allison Calhoun-Brown, Ryan Burge, and Abigail Vegter. *Religion and Politics in the United States*. Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Journal Articles

- Vegter, Abigail, Andrew R. Lewis, and Cammie Bolin. 2023. "Which Civil Religion? Partisanship, Christian Nationalism, and the Dimensions of Civil Religion in the United States." *Politics and Religion*. First View. [Click to Access](#).
- Walker, Brooklyn, and Abigail Vegter. 2023. "Christ, Country, and Conspiracies? Christian Nationalism, Biblical Literalism, and Belief in Conspiracy Theories." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*. First View. [Click to Access](#).
- Vegter, Abigail and Alexandra Middlewood. 2022. "The 'Massacre Generation': Young People and Attitudes About Mass Shooting Prevention." *Social Science Quarterly* 103(4): 820-32. [Click to Access](#).
- Vegter, Abigail and Donald Haider-Markel. 2022. "Gun Ownership, Threat, and Gun Attitudes in an Experiment." *Sociological Perspectives* 65(1): 119-132. [Click to Access](#).
- Vegter, Abigail and Kevin den Dulk. 2021. "Clinging to Guns and Religion? A Research Note Testing the Role of Protestantism in Shaping Gun Identity in the U.S." *Politics and Religion* 14(4): 809-824. [Click to Access](#).
- Vegter, Abigail and Margaret Kelley. 2020. "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Gun Ownership." *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 59(3): 526-540. [Click to Access](#).
- Vegter, Abigail, Jami Taylor, and Donald Haider-Markel. 2020. "Old and New Data Sources and Methods for Interest Group Research." *Interest Groups and Advocacy* 9: 436-450. [Click to Access](#).

Forthcoming Journal Articles

- Haider-Markel, Donald, Patrick Gauding, and Abigail Vegter. "An Army for God: Gun Ownership, Christian Nationalism, and Support for Political Violence." (Revise and Resubmit)
- Middlewood, Alexandra, Rachel Finnell, and Abigail Vegter. "Democracy At Gunpoint: American Gun Owners and Attitudes Towards Democracy." (Revise and Resubmit)

Book Chapters

- Haider-Markel, Donald, Patrick Gauding, and Abigail Vegter. 2023. "Support for Gun Rights: Group Identities, Perceptions of Safety, and Attitudes about Responses to Mass Shootings." *Politics and Mass Shootings*. Ed. Eric Madfis. New York: New York University Press. Print.
- Vegter, Abigail and Donald Haider-Markel. 2023. "They Want 'Em All: Religion and Guns in a Global Pandemic." *An Epidemic on My People*. Ed. Paul Djupe and Amanda Friesen. Philadelphia: Temple University Press. Print.
- Vegter, Abigail, Patrick Gauding, and Donald Haider-Markel. 2021. "Groups, Knowledge, and Truth: The Case of Guns and Gun Ownership." *The Politics of Truth in a Polarized America: Concepts, Causes, and Correctives*. Ed. David C. Barker and Elizabeth Suhay. New York: Oxford University Press. Print.
- Vegter, Abigail, and Donald Haider-Markel. "Special Role of Religion in LGBT-Related Attitudes." *Oxford Encyclopedia of LGBT Politics and Policy*. Ed. Donald Haider-Markel. 2020. New York: Oxford University Press. Print. [Click to Access](#).
- Haider-Markel, Donald and Abigail Vegter. "LGBT Issues in Legislative Politics." *Oxford Encyclopedia of LGBT Politics and Policy*. Ed. Donald Haider-Markel. 2020. New York: Oxford University Press. Print. [Click to Access](#).
- Vegter, Abigail. "The Moral Arguments of Gambling." *Legislating Morality in America: Debating the Morality of Controversial U.S. Laws and Policies*. Ed. Donald Haider-Markel. Santa Barbara: ABC-CLIO. 2019. Print.

Public Scholarship and Invited Lectures

- 2023. Vegter, Abigail. Invited Guest on podcast *American Idols with Dr. Andrew Whitehead*. "Episode 2: Christian Nationalism is a Threat to Democracy." [Click to Access](#).
- 2023. Vegter, Abigail and Brooklyn Walker. "Christ, Country, and Conspiracies." *The Civilian* at Stanford University. Forthcoming.
- 2023. Vegter, Abigail and Brooklyn Walker. "Christ, Country, and Conspiracies? Christian Nationalism, Biblical Literalism, and Belief in Conspiracy Theories." Religion in Public Blog. [Click to Access](#).
- 2023. Middlewood, Alexandra and Abigail Vegter. "Analyzing the Evidence: The Massacre Generation and Beliefs about Mass Shooting Prevention." Featured in the textbook *American Government: Power and Purpose* edited by Steve Ansolabehere, Hahrie Han, Ken Shepsle, and Ben Ginsberg.
- 2022. Vegter, Abigail and Alexandra Middlewood. "The 'massacre generation' believes government can prevent mass shootings." Monkey Cage: The Washington Post. [Click to Access](#).
- 2022. Vegter, Abigail. Invited Panelist. "Addressing Gun Violence in America." Deseret News. Salt Lake City.
- 2022. Vegter, Abigail. Invited Participant. "Preaching on Pistols: Religious Elites and Their Capability to Move Attitudes on Guns." The Ethics, Law, and Social

Science of Self-Defense and Firearms Workshop. Saint Anslem College: Center for Ethics in Society.

- 2022. Vegter, Abigail. Invited Lecture. "Political Parties in 20th Century: Plunkitt of Tammany Hall." The Ashbrook Center: Ashland University.
- 2021. Vegter, Abigail and Alexandra Middlewood. Invited Guests. "Public Attitudes about Guns." Red, White and Confused Podcast, WECH 90.7.
- 2019. Vegter, Abigail J. Guest Speaker. "How Identity Matters." Lawrence Talks: How Do We Evaluate Candidates?
- 2018: Vegter, Abigail J. and Donald P. Haider-Markel." Research Presentation: The Mobilization of Gun Owners." Moms Demand Action.
- 2017. Vegter, Abigail J. (Schutte). "From Benefactors to Bearers: The Church's Role in Orphan Care." Shared Justice Blog.
- 2017. Vegter, Abigail J. (Schutte). "Challenges of the Next Presidency." Ongoing blog for the Henry Institute.

Conference Presentations

- 2023. Vegter, Abigail and Alexandra Middlewood: "The New Generation: Who Are the Young Gun Owners in the United States?" Presented at the Southern Political Science Association. January, St. Pete's Beach.
- 2022. Haider-Markel, Donald, Abigail Vegter, and Brooklyn Walker. "Gun Ownership, Christian Nationalism, and Support for Political Violence." Presented at the American Political Science Association. September, Montreal.
- 2022. Vegter, Abigail. "Shooters, Spirituality & Shots: The Surprising Relationship between Gun Ownership, Evangelicalism, and COVID-19 Vaccines." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association. April, Chicago.
- 2022. Middlewood, Alexandra and Abigail Vegter. "Fighting Fire with Fire: Gun Ownership & Support for Political Violence in America." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association. April, Chicago.
- 2022. Haider-Markel, Donald, Brooklyn Walker, and Abigail Vegter. "An Army for God: Gun Ownership, Christian Nationalism, & Support for Insurrection." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association.
- 2021. Vegter, Abigail. "Preaching on Pistols: An Experiment Assessing the Influence of Clergy and Gun Policy Attitudes." To be presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. October, Portland.
- 2021. Vegter, Abigail, Andrew Lewis, and Cammie Bolin. "The Partisan Dimensions of Civil Religion in the United States." To be presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. Seattle, September.
- 2021. Vegter, Abigail and Alexandra Middlewood. "The 'Massacre Generation': Young People and Attitudes About Mass Shooting Prevention." Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. January, Virtual.

- 2020. Vegter, Abigail. "Faithful Firearms: Religious Identity, Gun Owner Identity, and Religion's Mediated Impact on Gun Policy Attitudes." Accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. October, Pittsburgh. Presentation Cancelled Due to COVID-19.
- 2020. Vegter, Abigail. "Faith and Firearms: The Ability of Religious Elites to Shape Gun Policy Opinion." Accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. September, San Francisco. Presentation Cancelled Due to COVID-19.
- 2020. Haider-Markel, Donald P., Abigail Vegter, and Patrick Gauding. "Groups and Misinformation: The Case of Guns and Gun Ownership." Accepted for presentation at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April, Chicago. Presentation Cancelled Due to COVID-19.
- 2020. Middlewood, Alexandra and Abigail Vegter. "The 'Massacre Generation': Young People and Attitudes About Mass Shooting Prevention." Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. Puerto Rico.
- 2019. Vegter, Abigail and Margaret Kelley. "Guns Blazing: A Qualitative Exploration of the Relationship between Belief in Supernatural Evil and Gun Policy." Presented at the annual meeting of the Society for the Scientific Study of Religion. October, St. Louis, Missouri.
- 2019. Vegter, Abigail. "Prejudice and Pistols: Gun Ownership, Racial Resentment and Gun Policy Attitudes." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. September, Washington D.C.
- 2019. Vegter, Abigail and Kevin den Dulk. "Clinging to Guns and Religion? The Role of Religious and Gun Identity in Shaping Policy Attitudes in the U.S." Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. January, Austin.
- 2019. Vegter, Abigail, Patrick Gauding, and Donald Haider-Markel,. "Conceptualizing and Measuring Social Identity among Gun Owners in America." Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April, Chicago.
- 2019. Vegter, Abigail, Alexandra Middlewood, and Donald Haider-Markel. "Beliefs about Preventing Mass Shootings: The Role of Motivated Self-Interest." Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. April, Chicago.
- 2019. Vegter, Abigail and Kevin den Dulk. "Religious Tradition, Gun Ownership, and Political Behavior in the United States." Presented at the annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. January, Austin.
- 2018. Haider-Markel, Donald P., Mark R. Joslyn, and Abigail J. Vegter. "Motivated Voices: Gun Ownership and the Propensity for Political Participation." Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. September, Boston.
- 2017. Vegter, Abigail. "From Failure to Flourishing: Foster Care Transition Policy Recommendations and Current Programmatic Approaches." Presented at the bi-annual Paul B. Henry Symposium. May, Grand Rapids.

Works in Progress

- Haider-Markel, Donald P., and Abigail J. Vegter. "Motivated Voices: Gun Ownership and the Propensity for Political Participation." (paper)
- Haider-Markel, Donald P., Abigail J. Vegter, and Patrick Gauding. "Measuring the Social Identity of Gun Owners and its Implications." (paper)
- Doan, Alesha, Shannon Portillo, Abigail Vegter, Nicole Humphrey, Marcy Quaison, and Todd Schmidt. "Wrapping Organizational Resistance in Resource Rhetoric: Opposition to Gender Integration in the U.S. Army's Special Forces." (paper)
- Vegter, Abigail and Kelli Schutte. "Foster Care Transition Policy and the Programs Primed for Success" (paper)

AWARDS

- 2022: Accepted Participant for the Ethics, Law, and Social Science of Self-Defense and Firearms Workshop at Saint Anselm College
- 2022: Summer Scholarship Stipend, Berry College.
- 2020: Religion and Politics Small Grant Award for "The Partisan Dimensions of Civil Religion in the United States" with Cammie Jo Bolin and Andrew Lewis, American Political Science Association
- 2020: Thompson Scholar Summer Research Award, Department of Political Science, University of Kansas
- 2019: Graduate Scholarly Presentation Travel Award, University of Kansas
- 2019: Thompson Scholar Summer Research Award, Department of Political Science, University of Kansas
- 2019: Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association
- 2018: Lance F. Johnson Fund Research Award, University of Kansas
- 2018: Thompson Scholar Summer Research Award, Department of Political Science, University of Kansas
- 2018: Graduate Travel Grant, American Political Science Association

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

- 2022: Faculty Mentor for the Summer Undergraduate Research Fellowship Program.
- 2022- : Undergraduate Research Committee, Berry College.
- 2022- : Lambda Sigma Honor Society Co-Advisor, Berry College.
- 2021- : Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society Advisor, Berry College Department of Political Science
- 2020: Honors Committee Chair, Calvin University Department of Political Science, Senior Honors Research Cohort

- 2019-2020: Recommendation Letter Writer, University of Kansas Department of Political Science (Law School Applications, Scholarships, Study Abroad)
- 2019-2020: Recommendation Letter Writer, Calvin University Department of Political Science (Law School Applications, Scholarships)
- 2019-2020: Social Chair, KU Political Science Graduate Student Association
- 2019-2020: Graduate Student Committee Undergraduate Ambassador, KU Department of Political Science
- 2018-2019: Faculty Committee Graduate Ambassador, KU Department of Political Science
- 2014-2017: Editor of the Calvin College Political Science Newsletter *Politeia*

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2021: Discussant. "Religion and Violence." The American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Seattle, WA. October.
- 2020: Discussant. "Taking Back America for God: Author Meets Critics." The Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting. Pittsburg, PA. October. Presentation Cancelled Due to COVID-19.
- 2019: Discussant. "From Politics to the Pews: Author Meets Critics." The Paul B. Henry Institute Symposium on Religion and Public Life. Grand Rapids, MI. April.
- 2018: Moderator. "Belonging in America." Faith and Democracy: Christianity and Liberalism Rightly Understood. Grand Rapids, MI. December.
- 2017. Judge. We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution Competition.

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

- Pi Sigma Alpha
- American Political Science Association
- Midwest Political Science Association
- Southern Political Science Association
- Women's Caucus of Political Science

ACADEMIC AND PERSONAL REFERENCES AVAILABLE ON REQUEST