

MARA CECILIA OSTFELD

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ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

2024- Present	Associate Research Professor Associate Director of Research Strategy	Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan
2021- Present	Research Director Faculty Co-Lead	Center for Racial Justice, University of Michigan Detroit Metro Area Communities Study
2021- 2023	Associate Research Scientist Associate Faculty Director	Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan Poverty Solutions, University of Michigan
2016- Present	Faculty Associate Faculty Associate	Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan Latina/o Studies, University of Michigan
2016- 2021	Assistant Professor Assistant Professor (courtesy)	Department of Political Science, University of Michigan Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan
2013- 2016	Post-Doctoral Fellow	Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Political Science, University of Pennsylvania Dissertation: “One Vision: Spanish-Language Media and Latino Political Identity” Committee: Dr. Diana Mutz (Chair), Dr. Rogers Smith & Dr. Matthew Levendusky
M.A.	Political Science, University of Pennsylvania
M.P.P.	Public Policy, Harvard University
B.A.	Social Work, Rutgers University

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Morell, Sara, Lauren Potts and Mara Ostfeld. 2025. Engendering Equality: Unraveling the Influence of Family Cues on Young Men’s Attitudes towards Women’s Rights. *Political Psychology*.

Kamri Hudgins, Cruz, Jessica, Erykah Benson, Sydney Carr, Vincent Hutchings, Earl Lewis, Mara Cecilia Ostfeld, Zoe Walker, and Al Young. 2024. Crafting Democratic Futures: Understanding Political Conditions and Racialized Attitudes towards Black Reparations in the US. In W. Darity (Ed), *Black Reparations: Insights from the Social Sciences*. Russell Sage Foundation.

Michelson, Melissa and Mara Ostfeld. 2024. From Concept to Implementation: Engaging Student Researchers in Get-Out-the-Vote Field Experiments. In E. A. Bennion (Ed.), *Teaching Experimental Political Science*. Edward Elgar.

Yadon, Nicole and Mara Ostfeld. 2023. Measuring Color: The Role of Physics, History, Identity and Politics in How We Understand Our Skin Color. In J. Box-Steffensmeier, D. P. Christenson and V. Sinclair-Chapman (Eds.), *The Oxford Handbook of Methodological Pluralism in Political Science*. Oxford University Press.

Gause, LaGina, Steven Moore and Mara Ostfeld. 2023. “When Protests Become Violent: The Racialization of News Media Coverage of Protest Activity.” *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics*, 8(3), 446-468.

Ostfeld, Mara and Nicole Yadon. 2022. *Skin Color, Power and Politics in America*. Russell Sage Foundation Press.

Ostfeld, Mara and Nicole Yadon. 2021. “¿Mejorando La Raza?: Skin Color and Latinx Political Preferences.” *Social Forces*. 100(4), 1806-1832.

- Recipient of 2021 APSA Best Article in Race and Ethnic Politics Award

Ostfeld, Mara and Diana Mutz. 2021. “The Face of American Government: Effects of Minorities in High Office on Minority Trust in Government.” *Political Behavior*, 43(1), 423-449.

Yadon, Nicole and Mara Ostfeld. 2020. “Shades of Privilege: The Relationship Between Skin Color and Political Attitudes Among White Americans.” *Political Behavior*, 42(4), 1369-1392.

- Recipient of 2021 APSA Best Article in Political Behavior Award

Ostfeld, Mara. 2019. “The New White Flight: Democratic Appeals to Latinos and White Support for the Democratic Party.” *Political Behavior*, 41(3), 561-582.

- Recipient of 2020 APSA Best Article in Political Behavior Award

Ostfeld, Mara. 2017. “Unity vs. Uniformity: Effects of Targeted Advertising on Perceptions of Group Politics.” *Political Communication*, 34(4), 530-547.

Ostfeld, Mara. 2017. “The Backyard Politics of Attitudes toward Immigration.” *Political Psychology*, 38(1), 21-37.

Ostfeld, Mara and Diana Mutz. 2014. "Revisiting the Effects of Case Studies in The News." (2014). *Political Communication*, 31(1), 53-72.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Raphael Nishimura, Mara Cecilia Ostfeld, Narayan Sastry, Mayra Velez Serrano, and Luis Camara Fuerte. “Building a probability sample in Puerto Rico,” (Journal manuscript in preparation)

Ignangeli Salinas Muniz, Mara Cecilia Ostfeld, and Mayra Velez Serrano. “Imagining Freedom From Inside Cage: Imperial Narratives and Attitudes Toward Status in Three U.S. Territories,” (Journal manuscript in preparation)

Brandon Romero, Charlotte Boucher, Chelsea Waddell and Mara Cecilia Ostfeld. “The Politics of Policing: The Effects of Progressive Prosecutors on Police Cooperation,” (Journal manuscript in preparation)

Morell, Sara, Lauren Potts and Mara Ostfeld. "The Cost of Commitment: Marriage Market Pressures and Women's Political Expression." (Journal manuscript in preparation)

SELECTED OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Ostfeld, Mara and Yucheng Fan. 2024. A Changing Electorate in Detroit: The Effects of the Shift from Biden to Harris on Detroiters’ Voting Intentions. <https://detroitssurvey.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/11/a-changing-electorate-in-detroit-the-effects-of-the-shift-from-biden-to-harris-on-detroiters-voting-intentions.pdf>

Ostfeld, Mara and Yucheng Fan. 2024. The “Battle Against the Couch”: Who Are the Non-Voters in Detroit, What Would it Take to Engage Them, and is the Couch Really the Issue? Detroit Metro Area Communities Study. <https://detroitssurvey.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/07/DMACS-detroit-nonvoters-july-2024.pdf>

Ostfeld, Mara and Yucheng Fan. 2024. How Michiganders Are Thinking about Immigration. <https://detroitssurvey.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2024/06/mimacs-imm-2024.pdf>

Ostfeld, Mara Cecilia and Yucheng Fan. 2023. The Media Platforms that are Shaping Detroiters’ Views. Detroit Metro Area Communities Study. <https://detroitssurvey.umich.edu/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/DMACS-media-report-dec-2023.pdf>

Bechtel, Trevor, Mara Ostfeld and H. Luke Shaefer. 2023. Evidence on Measures to Reduce Excessive Use of Force by the Police. Center for Racial Justice and Detroit Metro Area Communities Study. <https://racialjustice.umich.edu/research/evidence-measures-reduce-excessive-use-force-police>

Wileden, Lydia and Mara Ostfeld. 2022. Detroiters’ Policy Priorities: What Matters to Detroiters Leading Up to the November 2022 Elections. Center for Racial Justice and Detroit Metro Area Communities Study. <https://racialjustice.umich.edu/research/detroiters-policy-priorities-what-matters-detroiters-leading-november-2022-elections>

RECENT RESEARCH GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

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| 2025 | <p>Imagining Freedom': The Relationship Between Institutional Narratives, Political Imagination and Democratic Aspirations in U.S. Territories</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presidential Award for Understanding Democracy (Primary Investigator) - \$50,000 |
| 2024 | <p>Amplifying Unheard Voices and Strengthening Social Science Infrastructure in Public Opinion Research</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • National Science Foundation (Primary Investigator) - \$724,347 |
| 2023 | <p>Build and Broaden: The Social Science Research Assistance Unit</p> |

- National Science Foundation - \$688,363
- 2023 Policing and Local Government Policy in Michigan: Understanding Changes in Police-Community Relations in an Era of Social Protest
- Joyce Foundation (Primary Investigator) - \$299,660
- 2022 The Puerto Rico Public Opinion Lab: Amplifying the Voice and Representation of Puerto Rico
- Office of the Vice-President of Research's Research Catalyst and Innovation Program Anti-Racism Grant, University of Michigan (Primary Investigator) - \$49,360.68
- 2022 Housing Solutions for Health Equity
- Office of the Vice President for Research, University of Michigan (Co-Investigator w/ Roshanak Mehdipanah) - \$50,000
- 2021 Build and Broaden: Strengthening Social Science Research Infrastructure at the University of Puerto Rico
- National Science Foundation (Primary Investigator) - \$220,813
- 2020 All in the Family: The Effects of Familial Attitudes on Women's Support for Pro-Women Policies
- Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) Research Grant (Primary Investigator)
- 2019 The Content of Your Color: Skin Color Identity and its Determinants
- Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Prize (Primary Investigator) - \$25,000
- 2017 The Content of Your Color: Skin Color Identity and its Determinants
- Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Prize (Primary Investigator) - \$34,995

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2021 American Political Science Association Best Article in Race and Ethnic Politics Award
- 2021 American Political Science Association Best Article in Political Behavior Award
- 2020 Latina/o Caucus Early Career Award, Midwest Political Science Association
- 2019 American Political Science Association Best Article in Political Behavior Award
- 2017 Lucius Barker Award, Midwest Political Science Association
- 2014 The Circle Award (La Celebración Latina Teaching Award), The University of Michigan Office of Academic and Multicultural Initiatives

SELECTED INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 “¿Mejorando La Raza?: Skin Color and Latinx Political Preferences.” Invited Presentation at the Contemporary Studies of Race and Ethnicity/ Race, Ethnicity and Politics Workshops, Harvard University.
- 2023 “How the Far Right Weaponizes Racism, with Counterstrategies.” Invited Presentation at The Path Beyond Economic Populism: Insights from Intersectionality Conference, The University of California College of Law – San Francisco’s (formerly UC Hastings)
- 2022 “Election 2022: What Happened?” Invited Presentation for the Institute for Social Research’s 2022 Insights speaker series, University of Michigan.
- 2022 “When Skin Color is More than Skin Deep: The Social, Economic and Political Meaning of Skin Color.” Invited Presentation for the Institute for Social Research’s 2022 Insights Speaker Series, University of Michigan.
- 2021 “The Gravity of Color: Skin Color, Power and Politics Among African Americans, Latinos, and Whites.” Invited Presentation at the Chicago Area Behavioral Politics Conference, Northwestern University.
- 2020 “The Gravity of Color: Skin Color, Power and Politics Among African Americans, Latinos, and Whites.” Invited Presentation for the Minority Politics Online Seminar Series
- 2020 African-American and Latinx Politics in 2020, Invited Presentation at Oakland University
- 2019 Trotter Distinguished Leadership Series Discussion on Immigration, University of Michigan
- 2018 “Mejorando La Raza: Latinos, Skin Color & Political Preferences.” Invited Presentation at the American Politics Seminar, New York University

MENTORING & TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Courses Taught* Detroit Votes/The Latino Vote (Undergraduate)
The Politics of Latinidad (Undergraduate)
Identity and Conflict (Graduate)
Politics of Prejudice (Undergraduate)
- Dissertation* Ben Blankenship, Social Psychology (Spring 2019)
- Committees* Nicole Yadon, Political Science (Spring 2020)
Steven Moore, Political Science (Summer 2020)
Ian Hawkins, Communication and Media (Fall 2021)
Eric Bettis, Urban and Regional Planning (Winter 2022)
Reuben Hurst, Business and Political Science (Summer 2022)
Alejandro Pineda, Political Science (Winter 2022)
Lauren Potts, Communication and Media Studies (Summer 2023)
Hwayong Shin, Political Science (Summer 2023)
Brandon Romero, Political Science (expected graduation 2026)
Eugenia Quintanilla, Political Science (expected graduation 2025)
Francy Luna Diaz, Political Science (expected graduation 2026)
Ignangeli Salinas-Muniz, Political Science (expected graduation 2026)