

AMBER COLQUHOUN

Curriculum Vitae

EDUCATION

University of Maryland, College Park

Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science – Black Politics (Expected May 2027)

- **National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellow**
- **Rapoport Family Foundation Dissertation Grant Recipient**
- **Visiting Scholar: James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference, Emory University** (*Host Faculty: Andra Gillespie*)

Dissertation: *The Black Politics of Difference: Race, Class, and Local Politics Among African Americans*

My dissertation, *The Black Politics of Difference: Race, Class, and Local Politics Among African Americans*, investigates the conditions under which political behavior among African Americans diverges across class lines. I develop a theory of racialized class salience arguing that local politics heightens the influence of material self-interest, even in the presence of strong racial solidarity, particularly around issues such as housing, education, and neighborhood investment. Using original survey data from Black Americans in the Washington, D.C. metropolitan area and a national sample, I introduce a multidimensional measure of Black class identity and contribute to research on linked fate, Black political behavior, and intraracial political heterogeneity.

Dissertation Committee: Dr. Chryl Laird (Chair), Dr. Antoine Banks, Dr. Janelle Wong, Dr. Kris Marsh, Dr. Julian Wamble

Temple University, Philadelphia, PA

B.A. in Psychology and African American Studies, Cum Laude (May 2021)

- Departmental Honors in African American Studies
- Distinction in Undergraduate Research

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Publications & Book Chapters

- Colquhoun, Amber. "Race Over Riches: How Racial Solidarity Trumps Economic Self-Interest for Middle- and Upper-Class African Americans." *Journal of Race, Ethnicity, and Politics* (forthcoming).
- **Colquhoun, Amber**, Isabelle Jensen, and Chryl Laird. Forthcoming. "Case Study: Racial Attitudes, Racial Appeals, and Messaging." In *Handbook of Innovations in Political Psychology*, edited by Busby, Karpowitz, and Wong.

Manuscripts Under Review

- Laird, Chryl, Julian Wamble Colquhoun, **Amber Colquhoun**, and Darius Cozart, "Believe It or Not? Assessing the Believability of AI-Generated Social Media Appeals." Revise and Resubmit, submitted again and currently under review at *Public Opinion Quarterly*.
- Davis, Alexandria and **Amber Colquhoun**. "Doing It the Right Way: Class, Interracial Solidarity, and Immigration Attitudes." Under review at *Political Research Quarterly*.

WORKING PAPERS

- **Colquhoun, Amber** and Janae Jackson. "Representation at the Margins: How Class Shapes Perceptions of Advocacy Organizations Among African Americans."
- Colquhoun, Amber and Alexandria Davis. "Seeing Class: Subjective and Objective Class Identity Among African Americans."
- Colquhoun, Amber. "The Black Politics of Class and Power."

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, & AWARDS

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2024–2027 (\$159,000)

Best American Politics Paper, National Conference of Black Political Scientists, 2026

Rapoport Family Foundation Dissertation Grant, 2025 (\$13,750)

APSA Centennial Research Grant, 2025 (\$2500)

Graduate Student Summer Research Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2025 (\$5000)
National Conference of Black Political Scientists Graduate Assistantship Scholarship, 2025 (\$2500)
Goldhaber Travel Grant, 2025, 2026 (\$1000 total)
National Science Foundation Travel Grant, 2025, 2026 (\$2000 total)
Baumann Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2023 (\$5000)
APSA Diversity Fellowship, 2023 (\$2000)
APSA Centennial Research Grant, 2023 (\$2500)
Dean's Research Initiative Grant, University of Maryland, 2023 (\$5000)
Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, Honorable Mention, 2023
Dean's Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2022 (\$5000)
Flagship Fellowship, University of Maryland, 2022 (\$60000)
Leadership Alliance Research Fellowship, Harvard University, 2021
Shirley Du Bios Scholarship for Academic Excellence, Temple University, 2021

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- "Doing It the Right Way: Class, Interracial Solidarity, and Immigration Attitudes." (co-authored). National Conference of Black Political Scientists, 2026.
 - "Race Over Riches: How Racial Group Solidarity Trumps Economic Self-Interest for Middle- and Upper-Class African Americans." National Conference of Black Political Scientists, 2024, 2025. (*invited in 2024*)
 - "Race Over Riches: How Racial Group Solidarity Trumps Economic Self-Interest for Middle- and Upper-Class African Americans." Johns Hopkins Racial Politics Summer Program, 2025.
 - "Believe It or Not? Assessing the Believability of AI-Generated Social Media Appeals" (co-authored). National Conference of Black Political Scientists, 2025.
 - Systemic Barriers to Higher Education: Examining College Admissions Processes for Applicants with Criminal Records." Harvard University, Leadership Alliance National Symposium, 2020.
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RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant, Dr. Chryl Laird

University of Maryland

Fall 2022–Spring 2024

- Conducted mixed-methods research on criminal justice attitudes, civic engagement, and policy perceptions among Black communities.
 - Contributed to a nonprofit–academic partnership with Black Girls Vote focused on Black women's political engagement and democratic participation.
 - Supervised and mentored a three-person research team responsible for survey design, data management, and documentation.
 - Conducted literature reviews on interracial relations, Black political behavior, and racial attitudes to support political science research and manuscript development.
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Visiting Scholar

James Weldon Johnson Institute for the Study of Race and Difference, Emory University

Host Faculty: Andra Gillespie

Fall 2025–Present

- Conducting dissertation research on Black class identity, political behavior, and democratic representation.
 - Participating in interdisciplinary workshops and collaborative research initiatives on race and inequality.
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Research Assistant, Leadership Alliance Fellow

Harvard University, Dr. Ryan Enos

Summer 2020

- Collaborated on a field experiment examining bias against applicants with criminal records in college admissions.
 - Conducted quantitative analysis in R and presented findings at the Leadership Alliance National Symposium.
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Maryland

Teaching Assistant, Constitutional Law | Fall 2025

Teaching Assistant, Public Law & the First Amendment | Fall 2024

- Responsibilities included leading discussion sections, grading assignments, facilitating student engagement, and supporting instruction on civil liberties, judicial politics, and American political institutions.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Political Science Association (APSA)
- National Science Foundation (NSF)
- National Conference of Black Political Scientists (NCOBPS)

POLICY REPORTS & PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- Davis, Delvin and Amber Colquhoun. "Civil Asset Forfeiture Practices in Alabama." Southern Poverty Law Center.
- *Black Girls Vote 2024 Politics Survey Report*. Co-author and contributing researcher. University of Maryland and Black Girls Vote.
- *Challenging Mass Incarceration: Creating Wealth and Work in Local Communities*. Contributing author and researcher. American Civil Liberties Union National and The Sentencing Project.
- *Community Supervision Is Not a "Second Chance" for Domestic Violence Survivors: How Probation and Parole Conditions Trap Survivors in Cycles of Punishment*. Contributing author. American Civil Liberties Union National and ACLU of Delaware.

METHODS, POLICY, & TECHNICAL SKILLS

Methods & Analysis

R · Stata · Qualtrics · NVivo · Survey Design · Qualitative Coding · Mixed-Methods Analysis

Policy & Program Support

Policy Analysis · Indicator Development · Stakeholder Coordination · Meeting Facilitation

Technical Tools

RStudio · LaTeX · Salesforce · Excel · Microsoft Office · Google Workspace · Slack · Zoom

Communication

Academic Writing · Policy Briefs · Public-Facing Research Translation · Coalition Collaboration

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

American Politics, Race and Politics, Political Psychology, Political Behavior, Experimental Methods

REFERENCES

Dr. Chryl Laird: cnlaird@umd.edu

Dr. Antoine Banks: abanks@umd.edu

Dr. Janelle Wong: janellew@umd.edu

Dr. Kris Marsh: krismarsh1@umd.edu

Dr. Julian Wamble: julianw@email.gwu.edu