

CONTACT INFORMATION	10 Prospect Street Room 301 Northampton, MA 01060	(646) 244-9926 cleavitt@smith.edu www.claireleavitt.com
RESEARCH INTERESTS	American institutions; legislative behavior and processes, esp. oversight and investigations in Congress; separation of powers; federalism; gender and American politics.	
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	Smith College , Northampton, MA Assistant Professor of Government	2022-
	Grinnell College , Grinnell, IA Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science and Policy Studies	2021-2022
EDUCATION	Cornell University , Ithaca, NY M.A. (2018), Ph.D. (2021), Government American Politics (major field); Methods (minor field) <i>Dissertation</i> : "Virtue Signaling: Policy Goals, Public Narratives and Investigative Agenda-Setting in Congress." <i>Committee</i> : Suzanne Mettler (chair); David Bateman; Richard Bense; Douglas Kriner; Frances Lee (external reader) Boston University , Boston, MA M.A., Political Science, 2015 University of Michigan , Ann Arbor, MI B.A., History, 2005	
PUBLICATIONS	Leavitt, Claire. "Partisan Watchdogs? The Effects of Polarization on a High-Risk Oversight Agenda." <i>Political Science Quarterly</i> (forthcoming). Kriner, Douglas and Claire Leavitt. 2023. "Foreign Policy Oversight in the Obama and Trump Eras." In <i>Peace, War, and Partnership: Congress and the Military since World War II</i> , ed. William Taylor. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press. Avail. at: https://www.tamupress.com/book/9781648431371/peace-war-and-partnership/ . Mettler, Suzanne and Claire Leavitt. 2019. "Public Policy and Political Dysfunction: The Polycscape, Policy Maintenance, and Oversight." In <i>Can America Govern Itself?</i> , eds. Lee, Frances and Nolan McCarty. New York, NY: Cambridge University Press. Avail at: https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108667357 . Christenson, Dino P., Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier and Claire Leavitt. 2016. "Judicial Networks." In <i>Oxford Handbook of Political Networks</i> , eds. Victor, Jennifer Nicoll, Alexander H. Montgomery and Mark Lubell. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. Avail. at: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190228217.013.20 .	
UNDER REVIEW	Leavitt, Claire. 2020. "Unprecedented Obstruction?: Evaluating Presidential Responsiveness to Oversight in the Obama and Trump Administrations." Leavitt, Claire. "I'll Be the Oversight?: The War Against Congressional Legitimacy in the Trump Era."	

WORKING
PAPERS

Leavitt, Claire. “Getting Their Act Together: Oversight Agenda-Setting in the House of Representatives and the Facilitation of Policy Goals through Public Narrative.”

Leavitt, Claire. “Testing for the Effects of Female Leadership on Policy and Participatory Outcomes: A Laboratory Experiment.”

Leavitt, Claire. “‘Take Shelter’: The Effects of Political Violence on Internal Efficacy Among Women—A Survey Experiment.”

Leavitt, Claire. “American Doublethink? Assessing an Institutional Source of Normative Divides in the United States.”

COMMENTARY

“Is Congress on a witch hunt? 5 ways to judge whether oversight hearings are legitimate or politicized,” *The Conversation* (July 31, 2023).

“Congress investigates presidents, the military, baseball and whatever it wants—a brief modern history of oversight,” *The Conversation* (January 12, 2023).

“Jan. 6 committee tackled unprecedented attack with time-tested inquiry,” *The Conversation* (December 23, 2022).

“Jan. 6 Committee’s fact-finding and bipartisanship will lead to an impact in coming decades, if not tomorrow,” *The Conversation* (October 13, 2022).

“Jan. 6 hearings are only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to important congressional oversight hearings,” *The Conversation* (June 28, 2022).

“Jan. 6 hearing gives primetime exposure to violent footage and dramatic evidence – the question is, to what end?” *The Conversation* (June 9, 2022).

“How a public hearing is different from an investigation—and what that means for the January 6 committee,” *The Conversation* (June 7, 2022).

FIELDWORK

**Congressional Oversight Fellow
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Majority Staff
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC**

Jan.-Dec. 2019

- Supported by the [Project on Government Oversight](#), I spent a year as a fully integrated staff member on the Committee, conceiving, researching, planning and executing four major investigations and 12 hearings that targeted federal, state and private actors.

TEACHING

Department of Government, Smith College

- GOV 200: American Government
- GOV 206: The American Presidency
- GOV 209: Congress and the Legislative Process
- GOV 283: American Political Development
- GOV 284: America in the 21st Century
- GOV 305: Topics in American Government—The Conservative Tradition (seminar)

Departments of Political Science and Policy Studies, Grinnell College

- POL 101: Introduction to Political Science
- PST 220: Foundations of Policy Analysis
- PST 320: Applied Policy Analysis: Health Care Policy in the United States
- PST 420: Advanced Research in Public Policy

Department of Government, Cornell University

- GOVT 1111: Introduction to American Government and Politics Summer 2018, 2020-2022

Department of Political Science, Boston University

- International Politics (pre-college seminar), BU Summer Challenge Program Summer 2015
- PO 141: Introduction to Public Policy Summer 2015
- PO 300: Executive Power and the Modern Presidency Spring 2015
- PO 111: Introduction to American Politics Summer 2014

Prison Education

Grinnell Liberal Arts in Prison Program

- POL 101: Introduction to Political Science Spring 2022

Cornell Prison Education Program

- PSCI 102: American Government Fall 2017

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- Oversight Fellowship, Levin Center at Wayne State University Law School (\$10,000) 2021-2022
- Congressional Oversight Fellow, Project on Government Oversight (\$108,000) 2019
- Flournoy Summer Research Fellowship (w/ Suzanne Mettler), Cornell University (\$4,500) June 2016
- Sage Fellowship, Department of Government, Cornell University (\$30,000) 2015-2016; 2020

AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

- Stephen and Margery Russell Distinguished Teaching Award, Cornell University (\$2,000) April 2018
- Head Teaching Assistant award, Cornell University (\$1,500) Fall 2016, 2017, 2018

PRESENTATIONS

- American Political Science Association annual meeting, 2018, 2020
- Midwest Political Science Association annual meeting, 2014-2015, 2017, 2019-2022
- Northeast Political Science Association annual meeting, 2016-
- SSRC Anxieties of Democracy Working Group on Institutions (w/ Suzanne Mettler) Princeton University, 2016

COLLEGE SERVICE

Research Advisor, Student Research in Departments (STRIDE) Program, Smith College, 2022-
Faculty Facilitator, SmithReads, Smith College, 2023-
Liberal Arts Advisor, Smith College, 2023-

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Special Studies Advisor, Department of Government, Smith College, Fall 2023
Government Major Advisor, Department of Government, Smith College, 2023- (7 advisees)
Policy Studies Concentration Advisor, Department of Policy Studies, Grinnell College, 2021-2022
American Politics graduate representative, Department of Government, Cornell University

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE

Reviewer, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*
Reviewer, *Journal of Politics*

SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMMING

R, Stata, L^AT_EX, MATLAB