

Curriculum Vitæ

Aaron C. Sparks

Department Government, Public Service, and International Studies

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[Google scholar](#)

Current Appointment

Assistant Professor of Government, Public Service, and International Studies, University of Central Arkansas, 2025-

Past Appointments

Assistant Professor of Political Science and Policy Studies, Elon University, 2018-2025

Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science, Department of History, Political Science, and Geography, Ohio Northern University, 2017-2018

Teaching Associate, Bren School of Environmental Studies and Management, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2017

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2017.

M.A., Political Science, University of California, Santa Barbara, 2014.

M.P.A., Public Administration, Pennsylvania State University, Harrisburg, 2011.

B.S., Biology, Westmont College, Santa Barbara, CA, 2007.

Publications

Refereed Journal Articles

McGlynn, M., and **Sparks, A.C.** (2024). Climate change policy development: A multiple streams analysis of the Inflation Reduction Act of 2022. *The Forum*, 22(1), pp. 177-204, <https://doi.org/10.1515/for-2024-2014>

Sparks, A.C., Cason, N., Arora, S. (2023). Show and Tell Advocacy: How advocates convince policymakers by showing them the work they do. *Frontiers in Political Science*, 5, <https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2023.1123172>

Kuehl, C., **Sparks, A.C.**, H. Hodges, E.R.A.N. Smith. (2023). Exploring Sustainability Literacy: Developing and Assessing a Bottom-Up Measure of What Students Know About Sustainability. *Frontiers in Sustainability*, 4, 54, <https://doi.org/10.3389/frsus.2023.1167041>

Lange, F., Berger, S., Byrka, K., Brügger, A., Henn, L., **Sparks, A. C.**, ... & Urban, J. (2023). "Beyond self-reports: A call for more behavior in environmental psychology." *Journal of Environmental Psychology*, 101965. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2023.101965>

* 2022 impact factor: 7.649

Usry, K., Husser, J., **Sparks, A.C.** (2022). “ ‘I’m not a scientist, I Know What I See’: Hurricane experience and climate change acceptance.” *Social Science Quarterly*,
<https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.13196>

* 2021 impact factor: 1.781

Sparks, A.C., P. Ehret, C. Brick, (2022). “Measuring pro-environmental orientation: Testing and building scales.” *Journal of Environmental Psychology*,
<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jenvp.2022.101780>

* 2021 impact factor: 7.649

Sparks, A. C. (2021). “Climate change in your backyard: When climate is proximate, people become activists.” *Frontiers in Political Science*, 3, 75.,
<https://doi.org/10.3389/fpos.2021.666978>

Kuehl, C., **Sparks, A.C.**, H. Hodges, E.R.A.N. Smith. (2021). “The incoherence of sustainability literacy assessed with the Sulitest.” *Nature: Sustainability*, 4(6), 555-560,
<https://doi.org/10.1038/s41893-021-00687-6>

* 2020 journal impact factor: 19.346

Sparks, A.C., H. Hodges, S. Oliver, E.R.A.N. Smith. (2021). “Confidence in Local, National, and International Scientists on Climate Change.” *Sustainability*, 13, 272,
<https://doi.org/10.3390/su13010272>

* 2020 journal impact factor: 3.251

Sparks, A.C., G. Henderson, S. Sriram, E.R.A.N. Smith. (2021). “Measuring Environmental Values and Identity,” *Society & Natural Resources*, 34(3), 291-310.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/08941920.2020.1817644>

* 2019 journal impact factor: 2.821

P. Ehret, **Sparks, A.C.** D. Sherman. (2017). “Support for Environmental Protection: An integration of ideological-consistency and information-deficit models.” *Environmental Politics*, 26(2), 153-177.

* Media coverage: *The Atlantic*; *American Prospect*

*<https://www.theatlantic.com/politics/archive/2014/04/republicans-framing-climate-change/360911/>

* <https://prospect.org/power/can-make-environmentalism-centrist-issue/>

* 2020 journal impact factor: 6.710

H. Han, **Sparks, A.C.**, N. Towery. (2017). “Opening Up the Black Box: Citizen Group Strategies for Engaging Grassroots Activism in the 21st Century.” *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, 6(1), 22-43.

* 2019 journal impact factor: 1.439

Book chapters

J. Fine, H. Han. K.H. Yu, **Sparks, A.C.** (2018). “Greedy’ Institutions or Beloved Communities? Assessing the Job Satisfaction of Organizers.” *No one size fits all: Worker organization, policy and movement in a new economic age*. J. Fine et al Eds. Cornell University Press.

H. Hodges, C. Kuehl, **Sparks, A.C.**, E.R.A.N. Smith. (2016). "Delivering Energy (often) Requires Public Consent." *Delivering Energy Law and Policy in the EU and US*. R.J. Heffron and G. Little, Eds. Edinburgh: Edinburgh University Press.

Conference Presentations

University of Michigan, Sustainability and Development Conference: 2019.

International Studies Association: 2019.

Midwest Political Science Association: 2014, 2016, 2018, 2020(2), 2021, 2022 (2), 2023(2), 2024(2).

American Political Science Association: 2015, 2016, 2017, 2024.

Western Political Science Association: 2015, 2016, 2017.

Duck Family Graduate Workshop, Environmental Politics and Governance: 2016.

California Higher Education Sustainability Council: 2014, 2015, 2016.

Service

Departmental

Pi Sigma Alpha chapter advisor, 2025-

Constitution Day co-coordinator, 2025.

Previous Service

Coordinator, Policy Studies program, Elon University, 2019-2022.

Pi Sigma Alpha chapter advisor, 2018-2024

Pi Sigma Alpha *Undergraduate Journal of Politics* co-advisor, 2020-2025

Faculty Search Committee, Spring 2020, Fall 2021.

Twin Lakes Community, Great Decisions speaker series, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023.

2nd Elon Parliamentarian, Fall 2020-2024.

Library Committee, Fall 2022- (Chair 2023-24).

Winter Term Community Mini Seminar, 2019, Talk title: *The Difficult Politics of Climate Change*.

Reviewer

Sage Open, Climate Policy, Case Studies in the Environment, Journal of Human Rights and Environment, Sustainability, Environmental Research Letters, Journal of Environmental Psychology, International Journal of Public Opinion, Environmental Communication Letters, Journal of Environmental Education, Social Forces. Frontiers in Education, Communications Earth & Environment, Analyses of Social Issues and Public Policy.

Awards

Laura Roselle Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research Mentoring, Elon University, Department of Political Science, 2023.

Grants and Fellowships:

Fund For Excellence Grant, Elon University. \$2000. 2023-2024

Diversity and Inclusion Grant, Elon University (with Environmental Studies Dept.). 2023.

Leadership Faculty Scholar, Elon University. \$1000. 2021/2022.

Sustainability Faculty Scholar, Elon University. \$1000. 2018/2019.

Humanities and Social Sciences Research Grant. UCSB Graduate Division. \$2,856. 2016.

APSA Travel Grant. \$200. 2016.

UCSB Chancellor's Sustainability Graduate Research Program. \$5,700. 2015.
UCSB Political Science Departmental Research Grant. \$480. 2015.
UCSB Political Science Departmental Fee Fellowship. 2012-2015.
UCSB Department Conference Travel Grant. \$500. 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017.

Elon University Courses Taught

Environmental Policy (PST 3240): 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023
Introduction to American Government (POL 1110): 2018, 2021(2), 2024(5)
Political Behavior (POL 3270): 2018, 2021
Policy Analysis (PST 3010): 2019, 2022, 2024
Parties and Interest Groups (POL 3190): 2019, 2022
Political Science Research Methods (POL 2200): 2019(2), 2020, 2022, 2023(2), 2024
Ecological Democracy (POL 379A): 2020
Introduction to Public Policy (PST 2250): 2022, 2023
Analyzing Political Inquiry (POL 2770): 2022, 2023

University of Central Arkansas Courses Taught

Environmental Policy (PLSC 3320): 2025
US Government and Politics (PLSC 1330): 2025(2)

Undergraduate Research Mentor

Jacob Hayward: '19, (Elon College Fellow), presented at MPSA and SURF in 2019
Chandler Vaughan: '21, Perry-Phillips Black Excellence Award winner for undergraduate research, Rawls award winner, Outstanding student in Policy Studies, presented at MPSA
Morgan McGlynn: '24, (Elon College Fellow), presented at Pi Sigma Alpha, NCUR, MPSA, Elon Workshop on Environmental Politics, and SURF in 2024
Hunter Siegel: '25, (Elon College Fellow, Multifaith Scholar)
Lab Students 2018- : Sara Arora (presented at MPSA), Hailey Kennedy, Max Mrus (presented at MPSA), Nicole Cason (presented at MPSA), Rohan Wilson, Maddie Duchesneau, Meghan Aines, Lauren Pelzner, Audrey Sears, Jose Ovalle, Hannah Naerhring, Kathleen Canty, Elizabeth Land, Joseph Perry, Taylor Rudtner, Kiley Shrock, Melanie Volpe

References

Eric R.A.N. Smith: smith@polsci.ucsb.edu

Juliet Carlisle: carlisle@utah.edu

Jason Husser: jhusser@elon.edu