CONTACT INFORMATION	1226 Park Street Room S-3362 Grinnell, IA 50112	(646) 244-9926 leavittc@grinnell.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

Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
    Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science and Policy Studies   2021-2023

EDUCATION

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY
    M.A. (2018), Ph.D., Government (2021)
    American Politics (major field); Methods (minor field)
    Dissertation: "Virtue Signaling: Policy Goals, Public Narratives and Investigative Agenda-Setting in Congress."
    Committee: Suzanne Mettler (chair); David Bateman; Richard Bensel; Douglas Kriner; Frances Lee (external reader)

The extant literature on oversight and investigations in Congress offers compelling explanatory frameworks for why members conduct oversight of the executive branch, but cannot account for why members choose to investigate one particular issue and institution over another. Via a new theory of investigative agenda-setting in the federal legislature, I argue that investigations in Congress constitute public narratives aimed at facilitating two collective goods: change of status-quo policy and accountability for institutional actors who have violated legitimate legal and policy frameworks. My project makes two primary contributions. First, I show that oversight is a fundamental part of the policymaking process; both chambers, over time, have prioritized hearings devoted to issues, or *policy problems*, over hearings on waste, fraud and abuse in the executive branch. Second, I demonstrate that oversight, like the legislative process, is pluralistic: I propose a new typology of all investigative activity in Congress, and show that five discrete types of oversight respond to distinct member incentives over time.

Boston University, Boston, MA
    M.A., Political Science, 2015

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI
    B.A., History, 2005

PUBLICATIONS

Kriner, Douglas and Claire Leavitt. 2021 (expected). "Foreign Policy Oversight in the Obama and Trump Eras." In *Peace, War, and Partnership: Congress and the Military since World War II*, ed. William Taylor. College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press.

Mettler, Suzanne and Claire Leavitt. 2019. "Public Policy and Political Dysfunction: The Policyscape, Policy Maintenance, and Oversight." In *Can America Govern Itself?*, 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 *Oxford Handbook of Political Networks*, eds. Victor, Jennifer Nicoll, Alexander H. Montgomery and Mark Lubell. New York, NY: Oxford University Press. Avail. at: 10.1093/oxfordhb/9780190228217.013.20.

REVISE AND RESUBMIT

Leavitt, Claire. 2020. "Partisan Watchdogs? The Effects of Polarization on a High-Risk Oversight Agenda." Revise and resubmit to *Political Science Quarterly*.

UNDER REVIEW

Leavitt, Claire. 2020. "Unprecedented Obstruction?: Evaluating Presidential Responsiveness to Oversight in the Obama and Trump Administrations." Under review at *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.

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. "'I'll Be the Oversight': The War Against Congressional Legitimacy in the Trump Era."

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."

FIELDWORK

Congressional Oversight Fellow   **Jan.-Dec. 2019**
Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, Majority Staff
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC
- 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 EXPERIENCE

As Instructor

Departments of Political Science and Policy Studies, Grinnell College
- POL 101: Introduction to Political Science   Fall 2021
- PST 320: Applied Policy Analysis: Health Care Policy in the United States   Fall 2021

Department of Government, Cornell University
- GOVT 1111: Introduction to American Government and Politics   Summer 2018, 2020, 2021

Cornell Prison Education Program
- PSCI 102: American Government   Fall 2017

Department of Political Science, Boston University
- International Politics (pre-college seminar)   Summer 2015
  Boston University Summer Challenge Program
- 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

As Teaching Assistant

Department of Government, Cornell University
- GOVT 1111: Introduction to American Government and Politics   Fall 2016, 2017, 2018
  Head Teaching Assistant, with Suzanne Mettler
- GOVT 6029: Advanced Regression Analysis (PhD-level seminar)   Spring 2018
  With Sergio Garcia-Rios

- GOVT 1615: Freedom and Justice in the Western Tradition   Summer 2016, 2017
  With Isaac Kramnick
- GOVT 3112: Congress and the Legislative Process   Spring 2016, 2017
  With David Bateman

Cornell Prison Education Program
- PHIL 105: Introduction to Ethics   Fall 2016

Department of Political Science, Boston University
- PO 841: Quantitative Research Methods (PhD-level seminar)   Fall 2013, 2014
  With Taylor Boas

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, 2019-2021
- SSRC Anxieties of Democracy Working Group on Institutions (w/ Suzanne Mettler) Princeton University, 2016

UNIVERSITY & DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Policy Studies Concentration Advisor, Department of Policy Studies, Grinnell College, 2021-2022
American Politics graduate representative, Department of Government, Cornell University, 2016-2017
Academic Policy Committee, Boston University, 2014-2015
Social Sciences Curriculum Committee, Boston University, 2013-2014

SOFTWARE AND PROGRAMMING

R, Stata, LaTeX, Matlab

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Policy and Communications Trainee   2010-2012
Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)
Directorate for Education
Paris, France

Legislative Correspondent/Junior Legislative Assistant   2008-2009
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C.

Legislative Researcher   2007-2008
Congressional Quarterly, Inc.
Washington, D.C.

Congressional Committees Editor   2005-2007
Gallery Watch, *Roll Call*, Inc.
Washington, D.C.

REFERENCES

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Cornell University

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Richard Bensel
Gary S. Davis Professor of Government
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