Lauren Van De Hey lauren.vandehey@usu.edu

EMPLOYMENT

Utah State University **August 2024-Present**
Assistant Professor of Political Science

EDUCATION

University of Virginia **2019- 2024**
Ph.D., Political Science
Dissertation: *The Politics of Mental Health in America* July 2024
Committee: Nicholas Winter (co-chair), Paul Freedman (co-chair), Justin Kirkland, Kirill Zhirkov, Ashley Jardina

M.A., Political Science 2022
Thesis: *(Un)stable Genius? Candidate Depression, Addiction, and Voter Attributes*
Readers: Nicholas Winter, Paul Freedman

University of California, San Diego **May 2017**
B.A., Political Science
High Distinction in Political Science
Senior Honors Thesis: *Hate Crime Does Not Predict Trump Support, but Non-Reporting of Hate Crime Does*
Supervisor: Tom K. Wong

B.S., General Biology

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Van De Hey, Lauren. "Just a Little Melancholic, Maybe a Little Blue: Mental Health as an Emerging Political Identity." *Political Behavior*, ahead of print, April 7, 2026. https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-025-10118-3.

Zhirkov, Kirill, and Lauren Van De Hey. 2025. "Multidimensional Constructions of Target Groups and Their Political Implications: The Case of Immigrant (Il)Legality." PS: Political Science & Politics, February, 1–10. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096525000034.

BOOK PROJECT

The Politics of Mental Health Identity in America

My book project investigates mental health in America from multiple perspectives and is motivated by the overarching questions: ***When is mental health a political identity and how is it (dis)similar to other political identities?***

MANUSCRIPTS & RESEARCH PROJECTS IN PROGRESS

Political Institutional Trust and Mental Health: Longitudinal Evidence from Multiple National Panels—in preparation for submission

Mental Health Status Threat Survey Experiment — final empirical study for book manuscript; survey design/data collection in progress.

Public Opinion toward Data Centers — collaborative BSP/CES/Verasight project.

Neurodivergence, Identity, and Public Opinion — survey project using competitively placed questions.
Open-Ended Survey Response Modes / Speech-to-Text — methodological project.

RESEARCH SUPPORT & DATA ACQUISITION

Research Grants & Funding	ROADS funding for the 2026 Cooperative Election Study ($18,500)	2026
	University of Virginia Arts, Humanities & Social Sciences Summer Research Grant ($5,000)	2022
	University of Virginia Recruitment Research Fund ($5,000)	2019
Grant Proposals	William T. Grant Foundation ($450,000 requested; not funded)	2025
	Russell Sage Foundation Grant Letter of Inquiry ($91,000 requested; not funded)	2025
	USU Catalyst Grant ($20,000 requested; not funded)	2025
Competitive Survey Placements & In-Kind Research Support	Cooperative Election Study — USU ROADS funding, 2026 Cooperative Election Study module — $18,500; PI	2026
	CES Common Content — (competitive) proposal accepted.	2026
	AAPOR question competition— accepted question placement.	2026
	AAPOR question competition— accepted question placement.	2025
	ANES 2024 Pilot — (competitive) mental-health/disability identity measures placed.	2024
	ANES 2024 study — (competitive) accepted measure.	2024
	Cooperative Election Study 2022 — (competitive) module/question placement that produced the Political Behavior article.	2022
	Verasight/APSA 2026 — nine-question placement supporting data-center project (noncompetitive)	2026

TEACHING EXPERIENCE—USU

Instructor of Record POLS 4990: Political Psychology	F2026, F2024
Instructor of Record POLS 6300: Graduate American Politics Seminar	F2026, F2025
Instructor of Record POLS 1100: Introduction to American Politics (14-week online, asynchronous)	Summer 2026
Instructor of Record POLS 3135: Public Opinion & American Democracy	SP2026
Instructor of Record POLS 4990: Political Identities	SP2026, SP2025
Instructor of Record POLS 1100: Introduction to American Politics	SP2025
Directed Reading: Mass Media, Social Media, and Politics	F2024

CURRICULUM DEVELOPMENT

Political Psychology — Developed new USU course, Fall 2024; Communication Intensive (CI)-designated
Political Identities — Developed new USU course, Spring 2025; CI-designated
Introduction to American Politics and Government — Independently developed in-person course, Spring 2025; redesigned as a 14-week asynchronous course, Summer 2026
Graduate American Politics Seminar — Independently developed graduate seminar, Fall 2025

	Public Opinion & American Democracy — Independently developed course, reviving a course not taught in recent memory and for which no previous course materials were available, Spring 2026; CI-designated	
AWARDS & NOMINATIONS	Nominee, UVA's Graduate Teaching Award (Politics Department)	2023-2024
PRIOR TEACHING EXPERIENCE—UVA	GTA PLAP 3270: Public Opinion and American Democracy	2023
	GTA PLAP 3140: Mass Media and American Politics	2020, 2021
	GTA MDST 3559: Race, Protest, and the Media	J-term 2021
	GTA PLIR 3310: Ethics and Human Rights in World Affairs	2021
	GTA PLAP 3350: The American Congress	2022, 2023
	GTA Graduate Instructor Seminar on the Teaching of Writing	J-term 2022, 2023
	Grader PLIR 3760: Russia in World Affairs	2022
MENTORING AND ADVISING	MA Committee for Kaitlin Griffiths *(Chair)*	2026-2027
	MA Committee for Ava Bowen *(Member)*	2026-2027
	Grace Wheeler's Honors Capstone Committee *(Member)*	2026-2027
	MA Committee for Kip Corry *(Chair)*	2025-2026
	MA Committee for Karyn Sanford *(Member)*	2025-2026
	MA Committee for May Smith *(Chair)*	2024-2025
SERVICE		
University and Program Service	Beehive State Poll Steering Committee	2026–present
	Political Science Graduate Admissions Committee	2025-2026
	Research, Opportunity and Development (ROADs) Fund Committee	2025-2026
	Political Science Health and Education Faculty Search Committee	2024-2025
	Community-Engaged Scholars Network	2024-present
Professional Service	Reviewer for *Political Behavior*, *American Journal of Political Science*	
	APSA Discussant for "Gender, Disability, and Social Inclusion" Panel	2026
TEACHING AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES	Invited Guest Lecturer, Graduate Survey Methodology Seminar, USU—Survey Item Development and Validation.	Fall 2026
	Invited Guest Lecturer, Graduate Survey Methodology Seminar, USU—Survey Research.	Fall 2024
	Participant, "Refresh Your Research Assignment: An Interdisciplinary Faculty Workshop" USU Libraries.	2025
	CHaSS Hanover Grant Academy for the National Institutes of Health	2024-2025
	Educational and Health Disparities Research Cluster *(member)*	2024-2025
	Attitudes towards Homelessness and Warming Center in Cache County *(member)*	2024-2025
	ICPSR Course: Exploring the National Longitudinal Survey of Public Health Systems	Summer 2022
	ICPSR Course: Monitoring the Future: Exploring and Analyzing the Cross-sectional and Longitudinal/Panel Data	Summer 2023
	Administrative Assistant American Journal of Political Science	2020-2024

	UVA PhD+ Data Literacy in R Workshop Series	2021

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	American Political Science Association (APSA)	2022, 2023, 2025, 2026
	American Association of Public Opinion Research (AAPOR)	2025, 2026
	Midwest Political Science Association	2023
	Southern Political Science Association	2024
	APSA's Political Psychology Pre-Conference	2023, 2025, 2026

SKILLS

Proficient in LaTeX, Stata, Qualtrics; Intermediate in R; Survey and instrument development; Basic text and sentiment analysis

REFERENCES

Justin Kirkland
Professor
Department of Politics
Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy
University of Virginia
jhk9y@virginia.edu

Nicholas J.G. Winter
Associate Professor
Associate Department Chair
Department of Politics
University of Virginia
njw3x@virginia.edu

Kirill Zhirkov
Assistant Professor
Department of Politics
University of Virginia
pkv5cd@virginia.edu

Paul Freedman
Associate Professor
Department of Politics
University of Virginia
freedman@virginia.edu