Dr. Danielle Pullan

Contact me on daniellepullan.com | Macon, GA, USA | Citizenship: USA & Italy
Languages: English Native (USA) | German B2 | Spanish B1 | Italian B1

My background is in political science and public administration, and I research reproductive and family policy and gender in politics using mixed methods. I have studied and lived in the US, Germany, Italy, and the UK. Before my academic career, I acquired several years of professional experience in nonprofits, impact investing, tech startups, and consulting.

Current Position

Assistant Professor of Political Science (TT), Georgia College & State University, August 2025 – Present.

- Teach four courses per semester and generally contribute to service and research in the Department of Government and Sociology

Previous Academic Positions

Postdoctoral Researcher and Instructor, University of Cologne, February 2024 – July 2025.

- Teach two courses per semester (4 Semesterwochenstunden) in political science, with an emphasis on methods courses, supervise students' final theses, and otherwise contribute to the research community

Doctoral Researcher, Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies and the University of Cologne, October 2020 - January 2024.

- Funded by the IMPRS-SPCE doctoral stipend, I had no teaching or admin obligations during this period

Education

Doctorate in Political Science, October 2020 – September 2024
International Max Planck Research School on the Social and Political Constitution of the Economy (IMPRS-SPCE) at the Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies and University of Cologne, Germany

- Supervisor: Prof. Dr. André Kaiser, chair of Comparative Politics at University of Cologne
- Dissertation title: "The Gap Between Abortion Policy and Abortion Access in Europe: a Mixed-Methods Comparative Study" defended on 9 September 2024 https://kups.ub.uni-koeln.de/73724/
- Thesis Advisory Committee Members: Chitralekha Basu (Cologne), Letizia Mencarini (Bocconi Univ.)

Master of Arts in Political Science, 2020
University of Cologne, Cologne Center for Comparative Politics (CCCP), Cologne, Germany

- Masters Thesis: "Explaining Political Rhetoric on Abortion Policy: a Comparative Analysis" supervised by Prof. Dr. Sven-Oliver Proksch
- Named to WiSo Faculty's Dean's List, Winter Semester 2019-2020

Master of Public Administration, 2016
American University, School of Public Affairs, Washington, DC, USA.

- Concentration: Nonprofit Management
- GPA: 3.951 out of 4.0

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, 2013
American University, School of Public Affairs, Washington, DC, USA

- Degree awarded Cum Laude after several semesters on the Dean's List
- Additionally awarded Certificate in Advanced Leadership Studies upon completion of School of Public Affairs Leadership Program

Bachelor of Arts in Philosophy, 2013
American University, College of Arts and Sciences, Washington, DC, USA

- Degree awarded Cum Laude after several semesters on the Dean's List

Study Abroad during bachelor's studies, 2011-2012
University College London (UCL), London, UK

Publications

Journal Articles

1. Castanho Silva, Bruno, Danielle Pullan, and Jens Wäckerle. 2025. **"Blending in or Standing Out? Gendered Political Communication in 24 Democracies."** *American Journal of Political Science* 69(2): 653-668. https://doi.org/10.1111/ajps.12876
2. Pullan, Danielle and Payton Gannon. 2024. "**Between the Church and the State: Catholic and European Influences on Abortion Governance in Italy and Beyond.**" *Journal of Religion in Europe* 17(3): 262–92. doi:https://doi.org/10.1163/18748929-bja10107.
3. Pullan, Danielle and Payton Gannon. 2024. "**Data Discrepancies: Italian Ministry Reports on Abortion, Contextualized**." *Medical Humanities* 50: 539–44. doi:10.1136/medhum-2023-012852.
4. Gannon, Payton and Danielle Pullan. 2025. **""In Italy, we have a saying: make the law and you will find a way to cheat it": The Regionalized Implementation of Italian Abortion Policies."** *Interdisciplinary Political Studies* 11(1): 83-106. https://doi.org/10.1285%2Fi20398573v11n1p83
5. Pullan, Danielle and Matthew Trail. 2025. **"Evaluating the intersection of attitudes on foster care and abortion among US American evangelicals."** *Interdisciplinary Political Studies* 11(1): 171-194. https://doi.org/10.1285%2Fi20398573v11n1p171
6. Pullan, Danielle. 2025. "**Doctors' Rights vs. Patients' Rights: analyzing the implementation of Italian abortion policy in Puglia."** *Social Politics*. https://doi.org/10.1093/sp/jxaf043

Datasets

7. Wäckerle, Jens., Bruno Castanho Silva, Danielle Pullan, & Firuze Taner. 2025. **"The Committee Membership Dataset (CMD) (Version 1.0.0)"** GESIS, Cologne. https://doi.org/10.7802/2940

White Papers (Peer Reviewed)

8. Gannon, Payton and Danielle Pullan. 2025. **"Sanctuaries, Islands, and Deserts: A Typology of Regionalized Abortion Policy."** *MPIfG Discussion Paper Series* 25/1. Max Planck Institute for the Study of Societies. https://hdl.handle.net/21.11116/0000-0010-F138-F

Editing

- **"Steps Forward and Backward on Abortion Rights in Advanced Democracies,"** a special issue of Interdisciplinary Political Studies (issue 11, volume 1, 2025) guest edited by Payton Gannon, Danielle Pullan, and Gaia Matilde Ripamonti (equal contributors). Introduction: https://doi.org/10.1285%2Fi20398573v11n1p5

In the review process

- Stigmatized & Silenced: Collective Lessons on Abortion Interview Research (Anna Crawford & Payton Gannon)
- The CMD: A Comparative Dataset on Parliamentary Committee Membership in 14 Countries (with Jens Wäckerle, Bruno Castanho Silva, & Firuze Taner)

In preparation

- What attracts abortion providers? Political, economic, and social predictors of abortion provider distribution in Europe
- Undermining the Parliamentary Patriarchy: Women, Political Speech, and Power around the World (with Bruno Castanho Silva & Jens Wäckerle)
- Women's Place is in the Statehouse: The Politics of Presence in Discourse Before and After *Dobbs* (with Payton Gannon and Nikolina Klatt)
- Between Law and Conscience: a Longitudinal Analysis of Italy's Abortion Law (with Payton Gannon)
- Talking your way to the top: Women's speaking style and their careers in politics (book project with Bruno Castanho Silva & Jens Wäckerle)

Science Communication

Blog Post: Access Denied: Abortion Data Failures and the Erosion of Accountability in Italy with Payton Gannon. Review of Democracy (RevDem), online journal of the Central European University's Democracy Institute. 7 February 2025

Blog Post: Emergency room abortions in the US: doctors' objections trump patients' lives with Payton Gannon. The Loop, ECPR's Political Science Blog. 14 August 2024.

Report: Mourato, Beatriz Vieira, Adriana Vucetic, Danielle Pullan, Davy Lin, Junyu Li, Tianlin Lu. **Max Planck PhDnet Survey Report 2022**. 26 September 2023. DOI: 10.17617/2.3530594

Blog Post: Is the EU any more progressive on abortion policy than post-Roe America? The Loop, ECPR's Political Science Blog. 2 August 2022. Long-listed for The Loop's Inaugural Best Blog Prize.

Magazine Article: PhD Stipends: a thing of the past? The Offspring Magazine, a publication of the Max Planck PhDnet, 2022 issue.

Interview: Offspring Magazine - The Podcast: Special Episode for Mental Health Awareness Week, 14 October 2022. Interviewed with Alina Fahrenwaldt by Bea Lansbergen and Srinath Ramkumar. Podcast Season 3, episode 19.

Conferences & Workshops

Director

- **ECPR Joint Session of Workshops,** 25 – 28 April 2023, Toulouse, France. Workshop title: "Contemporary Abortion Policies and Anti-Abortion Campaigns," co-directed with Guy Ben-Porat. Endorsed by ECPR Standing Group on Religion and Politics

Section Co-Chair

- **European Conference on Politics and Gender,** 8 - 10 July 2024, Ghent, Belgium. Section title: "Reproductive Justice: Policy, Politics, and Intersectionality," co-chaired with Anna Crawford, Giulia Fornaro, Nikolina Klatt, Anna Kluge, and Mio Tamakoshi

2026: ESS Mini Conference on Reproduction (Washington, DC), MPSA (Chicago), ECPG (Newcastle, UK), EPSS (Belfast)
2025: MPSA (Chicago), Politics and Policies of Reproduction workshop (WZB Berlin), Politics and Gender Conference (Rutgers University, NJ, USA)
2024: EPSA (Cologne), ECPG (Ghent), ECPR (Dublin), SISP (Trieste), Feminism as a Method (Florence), MPIfG Doctoral Conference (Cologne)
2023: CES (Reykjavik), Economy & Society Summer Conference (Northwestern University, IL, USA), APSA (Los Angeles), SISP (Genova)
2022: ECPG (Ljubljana), ECPR (Innsbruck), Cologne Political Science Workshop (Cologne), MPIfG Doctoral Conference (Cologne)
2021: EPSA (online), APSA (Seattle), MPIfG Doctoral Conference (Cologne)

Invited Talks

Religious Refusals in Europe, 17 September 2026
Invited by the National Women's Law Center (Washington, DC) alongside coauthor Payton Gannon to address an audience of US reproductive health advocates on similarities and differences with European laws

Objection to Abortion Care in Italy: Not Quite Conscientious, 14 March 2025
Invited by the International Federation of Abortion and Contraception Professionals (FIAPAC) and Doctors for Choice Germany to contribute to their webinar series "Addressing Barriers Beyond Legal Restrictions."

What just happened? Abortion policy in the USA in 2022, 15 July 2022
Invited by the Cologne Center for Comparative Politics' Women and Nonbinary Researchers' Working Group to address the recent SCOTUS decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson* and its implications for abortion access in the US and around the world.

Teaching

Course name	Semester(s) taught	Level
Reproductive Justice	Summer 2024, Summer 2025	MA Seminar
Intro to Qualitative Methods	Summer 2024	MA Lecture
Research Design & Research Logic	Winter 2024-5	MA Seminar
Gender in Politics	Winter 2024-5, Fall 2026	BA Seminar, upper level
American Government	Fall 2025 x3, Spring 2026 x2, Fall 2026 x2, Spring 2027 x1	BA Lecture, Core requirement
Nonprofit Management I	Fall 2025	BA Seminar, upper level
Nonprofit Management II	Spring 2026	BA Seminar, upper level
Research Methods	Spring 2026, Spring 2027	MPA Seminar
Nongovernment Organizations & Nonprofit Management	Fall 2026	MPA Seminar
Comparative Legislative Behavior	Spring 2027	BA Seminar, upper level
Women in Society	Spring 2027	BA Seminar, intro

Syllabi for all courses taught at GCSU (since Fall 2025) can be found by searching my name at the following link: https://gcsu.simplesyllabus.com/en-US/syllabus-library

Guest Lectures

Reproductive Justice, 7 April 2026
Guest lecture for a session of "Gender & Society" seminar (BA level) taught by Sandra Godwin at Georgia College & State University

Health & Reproductive Rights as Political Economy Issues, 19 January 2024
Guest lecture for a session of "Feminist Political Economy: Gender, State, Society" seminar (BA level) taught by Izaskun Zuazu at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

Religious Governance of Abortion, 15 November 2023
Guest lecture for a session of "Religious Governance" seminar (BA level) taught by Frédéric Strack at Sciences Po, Menton.

Social Roles and Stereotypes in Politics, 10 November 2023
Guest lecture for a session of "Gender, Public Policies and Politics from a Comparative Perspective" seminar (MA level) taught by Achim Goerres at the University of Duisburg-Essen.

Body and Sexuality, 9 May 2022
Guest lecture for a session of "Gender and Politics" seminar (BA level) taught by Elifcan Çelebi in the Chair of International Comparative Political Economy and Economic Sociology at the University of Cologne.

Supervision

University of Cologne, Political Science: Second Reader on 1 MA thesis, First Reader on 1 BA thesis
GCSU, Master of Public Administration Capstone Committee member for 4 capstone projects

Awards and Scholarships

Research Grant, Middle Georgia 4 Choice in partnership with Feminist Center for Reproductive Liberation, October 2026. This funding supports continuing work on the project "Women's Place is in the Statehouse." The funders have no influence on the research design or results of this project..

Faculty Research Grant awarded by the Academic Affairs Small Grant Program, Georgia College & State University Center for Teaching and Learning, October 2025 – May 2026.
The research project "Women's Place is in the Statehouse: The Politics of Presence in Discourse Before and After Dobbs" received $3200 of funding. This supports a research assistant, software license, and conference travel to present the project's findings. I am the primary investigator responsible for all grant administration and student supervision, though the project is conducted with two coauthors, Nikolina Klatt and Payton Gannon.

Jenny Gusyk Gender Equality Award, University of Cologne, October 2024.
The members of the CCCP Women & Nonbinary Researchers' Working Group received this prize and 3000 Euros to spend on future group activities. The group provides a supportive space for women in political science to present their research at very early stages, as well as to discuss challenges related to being a woman in academia. We rotate administration of this group every six months, and I served in this role in 2022-23.
https://gb.uni-koeln.de/jenny_gusyk_awards/awards_ceremony_2024/index_eng.html

IMPRS-SPCE Doctoral Researcher Stipend, October 2020 – June 2024
Funded at 50% TVöD E-13 level, with additional funding available for research and travel. Supported my living expenses and almost all conference costs 2021-23. University of Cologne, Cologne, Germany.

APSA 2021 Conference Travel Grants to support travel to Seattle, WA, USA, October 2021
$500 general APSA Travel Grant, $125 Sexuality and Politics Section Support Grant, and $300 Travel and Accessibility Grant from the APSA Committee on the Status of LGBT Individuals in the Profession (all USD)

Graduate Honor Award merit scholarship, August 2014 – August 2016
Funded at $8,892 USD per year for two years, approximately half of my masters-level tuition expenses at American University, Washington, DC, USA.

Center for Congressional and Presidential Affairs Benefactors Award, June 2015
CCPA is a center within the School of Public Affairs at American University, Washington, DC, USA. This award of $1000 USD supported my participation in the European Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute.

American University Presidential Scholarship, August 2009 – May 2013
Funded approximately 50% of undergraduate-level tuition and boarding expenses at American University, Washington, DC, USA. This is the largest bachelor-level merit scholarship the university offered.

Student academic employment

Research Assistant, October 2019 – September 2020
Cologne Center for Comparative Politics, Chair of European and Multilevel Politics, University of Cologne

Research Assistant, October 2015 – March 2016
Kogod School of Business, Sustainable Entrepreneurship and Innovation Initiative, American University

Teaching Assistant, August 2012 – May 2013
School of Public Affairs Leadership Program, Leadership Development Lab II, American University

Academic Service & Community Organizing

At GCSU: Faculty advisor for the student sociology club The Debunkers. Member of Department of Government & Sociology's committees on scholarships, AI use, and MPA capstones.

Women in Political Science (WIPS): co-organizer of weekly online writing sessions for women in tenure-track political science jobs, alongside Dr. Vanessa Cheng-Matsuno (Southampton). This group provides mutual support, accountability, dedicated research time, and help navigating academia as a woman seeking tenure.

Middle Georgia 4 Choice (MG4C): active member and book club facilitator. MG4C is a grassroots reproductive justice organization that partners with other Georgia organizations such as Feminist Center for Reproductive Liberation, Amplify Georgia, SisterSong, and more. As book club facilitator, I recommend titles, prepare discussion questions, and moderate conversations between book club members.

Peer reviewer for: ECPR Joint Sessions of Workshops 2024, Humanities and Social Sciences Communications, The Loop Political Science Blog Best Blog Prize 2024, Religions, Italian Journal of Electoral Studies

American Political Science Association Sexuality & Politics Section, Graduate Student Representative September 2023 - September 2024, then member at large.
Max Planck Society Presidential Commission on Field Research, Member since 2023
Max Planck PhDnet Equal Opportunity Working Group, Member since 2021, co-coordinator Oct 2022-2023
Max Planck PhDnet Social Media Working Group, Member 2022-2023
Max Planck PhDnet Survey Working Group, Member 2022-2023
Max Planck PhDnet Human Sciences Section Representative, January 2022 - December 2022
Join the six-person steering group of PhDnet, a network of 5000+ doctoral researchers working in the Max Planck Society, representing the institutes studying human sciences (including MPIfG). Collaboration with the Equal Opportunity working group and staff at MPS general administration on the Safer Spaces program, ending the use of externally-funded stipends affiliated with the MPS, extending the base contract length for doctoral researchers, and other agenda priorities.

Doctoral Spokesperson and External Representative, IMPRS-SPCE, April 2021 – April 2022
Organize events with all doctoral researchers in the IMPRS program; represent their interests in internal meetings with MPIfG management; represent the MPIfG in Max Planck PhDnet. Our top priority was fair compensation and working conditions, particularly for those DRs receiving stipends instead of contracts, and we successfully lobbied for a budget increase so that future DRs from UzK will receive contracts instead of stipends.

Summer Schools

Introduction to GIS / Geospatial Data, Essex Summer School, July 2021
Dr. Nick Bearman taught several methods and programs for working with geographic data and making good maps, including QGIS, R, and GeoDa. Hosted by University of Essex, online.

European Public Affairs and Advocacy Institute, American University, June 2015
Prof. James Thurber taught about lobbying and advocacy at the EU level and brought us to Brussels to meet MEPs, corporate lobbyists, lobbyists from NGOs, and other key actors in the EU policy process. Brussels, BE.

Campaign Management Institute, American University, January 2013
Prof. Candice Nelson taught about US Congressional campaigns and arranged expert presentations from campaign services specialists. Washington, DC, USA.

Professional Memberships

Midwest Political Science Association Member since 2025
American Political Science Association Member since 2021
European Political Science Association Member since 2021
Council for European Studies Member since 2023
Pi Alpha Alpha Public Administration Honors Society Member since 2016
Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honors Society Member since 2013
Phi Sigma Tau Philosophy Honors Society Member since 2013

Leadership Development

School of Public Affairs Leadership Program, American University, Washington, DC, USA. Graduated 2013.
Four-year program combining academic study of leadership theory and practical project design and project management experience. Also served as a teaching assistant for younger members of this program.

Planned Parenthood of Metropolitan Washington DC Developing Leaders Program, August 2015 – June 2016
Hands-on education in nonprofit management involving organizing events, public communications, and fundraising. Met and learned from subject-matter experts in order to better understand the organization's services and social mission. In conjunction with this leadership training opportunity and my MPA studies, I conducted a research project on the organization's legal structure and also wrote a grant application for a new program they planned to open which was successfully funded for $100,000.

LeadIn Graduate, Spring 2018 cohort, Washington, DC, USA
Self-facilitate conversations about leadership in a modern, diverse workplace with other young professionals seeking to grow in their roles or carve new career paths.

StartingBloc Fellow DC 2017 Institute Cohort, Washington, DC, USA
Join with other changemakers in the social impact space to become the better leaders our world needs, first in a one-week event and then contributing to a supportive community of alumni.

Bossed Up Bootcamp Graduate, April 2017, Washington, DC, USA.
Join other professional women in a retreat weekend to focus on balancing professional and personal growth and building sustainable careers without burning out.

Technical Skills

Intermediate R, beginner Python, beginner QGIS, intermediate LaTeX, intermediate MaxQDA. Familiar with Microsoft Office suite, most Google utilities, Wix, Github, Canva.

Non-academic Professional Experience

2018.05 – 2018.09:	Qualitative Interviewer at McKinley Advisors, remote work for company based in Washington, DC, USA
2018.01 – 2018.04:	Consultant on new FinTech startup project at Mission Point Partners LLC, remote work for company based in Boston, MA, USA
2016.03 – 2017.11:	Cross Department Manager, Operations & Efficiency at impact investing FinTech startup ImpactUs Marketplace LLC, a broker-dealer that traded in socially-responsible investment products, Washington, DC, USA
2016.09 – 2017.04:	Partner / Special Projects Coordinator at Fearless Labs, a startup consultancy specializing in leadership development and diversity training, Washington, DC, USA
2015.08 – 2016.03:	Consultant at DEILAB, an education and innovation laboratory consultancy, Washington, DC, USA and Maryland, USA.
2014.02 – 2014.08:	Part-time administrator for local environmental nonprofit Dumbarton Oaks Park Conservancy, Washington, DC, USA
2013.05 – 2015.10:	Compliance Analyst / Special Projects Analyst, Calvert Social Investment Foundation (now Calvert Impact), an impact investing nonprofit and community development financial institution, Bethesda, MD, USA
2012.08 – 2012.12:	Political Intern at EMILY's List, a political action committee that works to elect pro-choice, Democratic women. Spent final week of 2012 election campaign helping run a local operation for the Democratic Party of Wisconsin. Based in Washington, DC, USA.
2010.05 – 2010.12:	Intern for two different members of the US House of Representatives, first in the local district office (Northbrook, IL, USA) and then in the capitol building in Washington, DC.
2012.08 – 2013.05, 2010.01 – 2011.04:	Stacks Assistant, American University Library, Washington, DC, USA
2008.06 – 2009.07:	Campaign Intern for a US congressional race.
Summers before 2013:	Various jobs in retail, food service, and customer service in Illinois, USA