


Kari Waters

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google scholar profile 

EDUCATION

Syracuse University

August 2024

Ph.D, Political Science

Dissertation: Infringing on Democracy? The EU Commission & Democratic Backsliding

Summary: This project develops and tests a theory explaining why the EU Commission has responded to some democratic backsliding, but not all. It shows that while enforcement is constrained by time, pressure from other actors including the European Parliament can trigger Commission action.

Research methods: Text-as-data, quantitative statistical analysis, & process tracing

Committee: Seth Jolly (chair), Erin Hern, Matthew Cleary, Ryan Griffiths

Syracuse University

2015

M.S.Sc., Social Science

Brigham Young University

2005

B.S., Physiology and Developmental Biology

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Research Associate

Cornell University

Department of Communications

August 2024-present

College of Agriculture and Life Sciences

PUBLICATIONS

Waters, K., and Call, S. 2025. "The European Union as a Target: When do Democratic Backsliders Rhetorically Challenge the EU?" *Journal of Common Market Studies*. 63(3): 683-703. <https://doi.org/10.1111/jcms.13641>

Waters, K. 2024. "The EU Commission: Supplying enforcement and demanding compliance." *European Union Politics* 25(2): 396-421. <https://doi.org/10.1177/14651165231212762>

Griffiths, R., and Waters, K. 2022. "Are Secessionists Making the Right Arguments for Independence?" *Nations and Nationalism* 29(2): 498-511. <https://doi.org/10.1111/nana.12903>

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Waters, K., and Jolly S. "Finding Common Ground: Understanding the Cohesion of Populist Parties in the European Parliament."

WORK IN PROGRESS

Waters, K. “Geographies of Environmental Justice in the European Union.”

Waters, K. “Surveying Indigenous Populations in the United States.”

Call, S., and Waters, K. “Talking about Democracy in the EU: Parliamentary Questions & EU Enforcement.”

AWARDS

Koff Award	Syracuse University
Best graduate student paper written on comparative politics	2023, 2024
Summer Dissertation Fellowship	Syracuse University
Fellowship from the Graduate School (\$4,500 stipend)	2023
Research Excellence Doctoral Funding (REDF) Fellowship	Syracuse University
Fellowship from the Graduate School (Tuition and \$21,000 stipend)	2020-2021
Thorson Award	Syracuse University
Grant to support attendance at ICPSR (\$1,400)	2020, 2021
Roscoe Martin Grant	Syracuse University
Grant for graduate student dissertation research (\$1,200)	2019, 2020

CERTIFICATIONS

Certificate in University Teaching	Syracuse University
	May 2024

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Waters, K. “Geographies of Environmental Justice in the European Union.” American Political Science Association, Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada. (September 11-14, 2025).

Call, S., and Waters, K. “Talking about Democracy in the EU: Parliamentary Questions & EU Enforcement.” University Association for Contemporary European Studies, Liverpool, UK. (August 31-September 3, 2025).

Call, S., and Waters, K. “Talking about Democracy in the EU: Parliamentary Questions & EU Enforcement.” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. (April 3-6, 2025).

Waters, K., and Jolly, S. “Finding Common Ground: Understanding the Cohesion of Populist Parties in the European Parliament.” American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA. (September 5-8, 2024).

Waters, K., and Jolly, S. “Finding Common Ground: Understanding the Cohesion of Populist Parties in the European Parliament.” European Political Science Association, Cologne, Germany. (July 4-6, 2024).

Waters, K., and Jolly, S. “Finding Common Ground: Understanding the Cohesion of Populist Parties in the European Parliament.” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. (April 4-7, 2024).

Waters, K. “Demanding Democracy in the EU: The Commission, the Parliament, and Noncompliance.” American Political Science Association, Los Angeles, CA. (August 31-September 3, 2023).

Waters, K., and Call, S. “The European Union as a Target: When do Democratic Backsliders Challenge the EU?” American Political Science Association, Los Angeles, CA. (August 31-September 3, 2023).

Waters, K. “Supplying Infringements: Explaining EU Commission (Non)Response to Noncompliance.” European Union Studies Association Biennial Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (May 4-6, 2023).

Waters, K., and Call, S. “The European Union as a Target: When do Democratic Backsliders Challenge the EU?” European Union Studies Association Biennial Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (May 4-6, 2023).

Waters, K. “Supply and Demand: Why EU Infringement Proceeding Counts Don’t Always Follow Democratic Backsliding.” American Political Science Association, Quebec, Canada. (September 15-18, 2022).

Waters, K. “The EU and Democratic Backsliding in Eastern Europe.” Midwest Political Science Association. (April 14-18, 2021).

Griffiths, R., Waters, K. “Are Secessionists Making the Right Arguments for Independence?” American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA. (September 10-13, 2020).

WORKSHOPS

“Modern Meta Analysis Research Institute.” Hosted by Georgia State University, Washington D.C. (May 19-23, 2025).

“Jean Monnet Center of Excellence Publishing Workshop.” European Union Studies Association Biennial Conference, Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. (May, 5, 2023).

“Data Science and Text Analysis.” Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. (September 27, 2021).

“Panel Data and Longitudinal Analysis.” Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. (September 27, 2021).

“Multi-level Models I: Introduction and Application.” Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. (September 28, 2020).

“Time Series Analysis I: Introduction.” Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor. (September 28, 2020).

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Baobao Zhang Public Assembly on Risks from AI	Syracuse University 2023-2024
Research Assistant for Shana Gadarian Analysis of Cross-Sectional Panel Survey Data	Syracuse University 2022

TEACHING

Instructor

R Tutorial Workshop at IQMR (Graduate students and junior faculty), Syracuse University, 2023, 2024
Introduction to Political Analysis (Undergraduate), Syracuse University, 2021

Teaching assistant

Nations and Nationalism (Undergraduate), Syracuse University, 2023
Quantitative Methods for the Social Sciences (Undergraduate), Syracuse University, 2022
Comparative Politics (Undergraduate), Syracuse University, 2020, 2022
European Politics (Undergraduate), Syracuse University, 2021
Intro to Political Analysis (Undergraduate), Syracuse University, 2019
Judicial Law (Undergraduate), Syracuse University, 2019
Middle East Studies (Undergraduate), Syracuse University, 2018
Citizenship (Undergraduate), Syracuse University, 2018
Introduction to IR (Undergraduate), Syracuse University, 2017

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

2018-2020 Future Professoriate Program Teaching Associate

OTHER SKILLS

R

Stata

L^AT_EX

SPSS

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association

European Political Science Association

European Union Studies Association

Midwest Political Science Association