

Kari Waters

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EDUCATION

PH.D., POLITICAL SCIENCE
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

August 2024

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

M.S.SC., SOCIAL SCIENCE
SYRACUSE UNIVERSITY

2015

B.S., PHYSIOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENTAL BIOLOGY
BRIGHAM YOUNG UNIVERSITY

2005

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

RESEARCH ASSOCIATE
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

August 2024–present

Department of Government, College of Arts & Sciences
Department of Communication, College of Agriculture and Life Sciences
Action Research Collaborative (ARC)
Motivation & Goal Pursuit Lab

VISITING LECTURER
CORNELL UNIVERSITY

July 2026–present

Division of Nutritional Sciences, 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.** 2023. “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

Le Forestier, J., Lewis, N., Thai, S., and **Waters, K.** “Experience Sampling in the Presentation of Self in Everyday Life.”

Mudry-Nelson, Q., **Waters, K.**, Floyd, B., Franklin Fowler, E., Lewis, N., and Gollust, S. “Analyzing (In)Visibility of Native Americans in Local TV News: A Spatial-Text Content Analysis.”

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

WORK IN PROGRESS

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

Michener, J., **Waters, K.**, and Hall, A. “Mapping the Organizational Infrastructure of US Housing at the Margins.”

Waters, K. “Perceptions of Democratic Backsliding & Demand for Action: A Survey Experiment.”

Call, S., and **Waters, K.** “From Questions to Consequences: Parliamentary Oversight and Commission Response.”

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

Lewis, N., Michalak, M., **Waters, K.**, Le Forestier, J., and Premachandra, B. “Has Stereotype Threat Dissipated Over Time? A Cross-Temporal Meta-Analysis.”

AWARDS

SAGE Award, <i>European Union Politics</i> Best article published in Volume 25	2025
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

TEACHING

INSTRUCTOR

Explorations in Global and Public Health, Cornell University	2026
R Tutorial Workshop at IQMR (graduate students & junior faculty), Syracuse University	2023, 2024
Introduction to Political Analysis, Syracuse University	2021

TEACHING ASSISTANT

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

TEACHING DEVELOPMENT

New Faculty Teaching Academy (Year 1), Center for Teaching Innovation, Cornell University	2026
Certificate in University Teaching, Syracuse University	2024

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Michener, J., **Waters, K.**, and Hall, A. “Mapping the Organizational Infrastructure of US Housing at the Margins.” American Political Science Association, Boston, MA. (September 3–6, 2026).

Call, S., and **Waters, K.** “From Questions to Consequences: Parliamentary Oversight and Commission Response.” American Political Science Association, Boston, MA. (September 3–6, 2026).

Call, S., and **Waters, K.** “Talking about Democracy in the EU: Parliamentary Questions & EU Enforcement.” University Association for Contemporary European Studies, Liverpool, UK. (Invited.) (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, PA. (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, PA. (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, Virtual. (April 14–18, 2021).

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

WORKSHOPS

“Translational Research Summer Institute.” Bronfenbrenner Center for Translational Research, Cornell University, Ithaca, NY. (June 29–30, 2026).

“Modern Meta Analysis Research Institute.” Georgia State University, Washington DC (May 19–23, 2025).

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

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

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

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

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

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Baobao Zhang, Syracuse University	2023–2024
Public assembly on risks from AI	

Research Assistant for Shana Gadarian, Syracuse University	2022
Analysis of cross-sectional panel survey data	

SERVICE

REFeree

American Political Science Review, Journal of Common Market Studies, Journal of European Public Policy

GRANT REVIEWER

Centennial Center Research Grants, American Political Science Association 2026

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Teaching Associate, Future Professoriate Program, Syracuse University 2018–2020

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