

Shauna L. Shames

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Appointments

Associate Professor (with tenure), Political Science, Rutgers Univ.-Camden (2019-present)

Visiting Associate Professor, American Politics, Boston Univ. (2022-2023)

Director, Gender Studies (undergraduate program), Rutgers Univ.-Camden (2019-2022)

Assistant Professor, Rutgers Univ.-Camden (2014-2019)

Education

Harvard Univ., Ph.D., American Government, 2014

Dissertation: “*The Rational Non-Candidate: A Theory of (Uneven) Candidate Deterrence*”

Committee: J. Hochschild (chair), C. Gay, J. Mansbridge, K. Schlozman

Georgetown Univ., Ph.D. Candidate, American Government, 2004-2006

Harvard College, B.A., Magna cum laude, June 2001 (Social Studies/Women’s Studies)

Peer-Reviewed Books

Shames, S.; Jardina, A.; Morell, S.; Schlozman, K.; and Burns, N. 2025. *What’s Happened to the Gender Gap? Participation, Politics, and Social Structure*. Cambridge (Elements).

Shames, S.; Och, M.; and Cooperman, R., editors. 2022. *Sell-Outs or Warriors for Change? A Comparative Look at Conservative Women in Politics in Democracies*. Routledge.

Shames, S.; Bernhard, R.; Holman, M., and Teele, D., eds. 2020. *Good Reasons to Run: Women & Political Candidacy*. Temple.

Atchison, A. and Shames, S. 2019. *Survive & Resist: Dystopian Fiction & Govt*. Columbia.

Och, M. and Shames, S., eds. 2018. *The Right Women: Republican Activists, Party Members, and Legislators*. Praeger/ABC-Clio.

Shames, S. 2017. *Out of the Running: Why Millennials Reject Political Careers*. NYU.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Bernhard, R.; Shames, S.; and Teele, D. 2021. “To Emerge? Breadwinning, Motherhood, and Women’s Decisions to Run for Office,” *American Political Science Review* 115(2); 379-394.

Shames, S.; Frankel, L.; and Farjood, N. 2017. “Romance, Sexual Attraction, and Women’s Political Ambition: Initial Findings from Two Experiments,” *Sexuality & Culture* 21(4); 1177-96.

Shames, S. 2017. “Intersectionality and Political Ambition,” *Oxford Encyclopedia of Politics*.

Shames, S. and Wise, T. 2017. “Gender, Diversity, and Methods in Political Science; A Theory of Selection and Survival Biases,” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 50(3); 811-823.

Shames, S. 2015. “Am. Women of Color and Rational Non-Candidacy: When Silent Citizenship Makes Politics Look Like Old White Men Shouting,” *Citizenship Studies* 19(5); 553-569.

Shames, S. 2014. “Making the Political Personal,” *Politics & Gender Journal* 10(2); 287-292.

Mansbridge, J. and Shames, S. 2008. “Toward a Theory of Backlash: Dynamic Resistance and the Central Role of Power,” *Politics & Gender Journal* 4(4): 623-634. (Translated and reprinted in *Recherches Feministes*, May 2012.)

Williams, J. and Shames, S. 2004. “Mother’s Dreams: Abortion & the High Price of Motherhood,” *Univ. of Pennsylvania Law Review* 6 (4): 818-843

Shames, S. 2003. "The Un-Candidates: Gender & Outsider Signals in Political Ads," *Women & Politics* 25: 115-146.

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

- Burns, N.; Schlozman, K.; Jardina, A.; Shames, S.; and Verba, S.: 2018. "What's Happened to the Gender Gap in Political Participation?," in Banaszak and McCammon, *100 Years of the Nineteenth Amendment*. Oxford Univ. Press.
- Shames, S. 2018. "Higher Hurdles for Republican Women: Ideology, Inattention, and Infrastructure," in Och and Shames, eds., *The Right Women*. Temple Univ. Press.
- Schlozman, K.; Verba, S.; Brady, H.; and Shames, S. 2012. "What, if Anything, is to be Done?" in Schlozman, Verba, and Brady, *The Un-Heavenly Chorus: Unequal Political Voice in America*. Princeton Univ. Press.
- Shames, S.; Kuo, D.; and Levine, K. 2011. "Culture War?: Religion and Religiosity in Public Opinion on Multiple Sexualities," in Rayside, D. and Wilcox, C., eds. *Faith, Politics, & Sexual Diversity in Canada & U.S.* Univ. of BC Press.
- Shames, S. 2010. "The Status of Women in Leadership in Political Science," in K. O'Connor, ed. *Gender and Women's Leadership: A Reference Handbook*. Washington, DC: Sage Press
- Sapiro, V. and Shames, S. 2009. "The Gender Basis of Public Opinion," In Norrander, B. and Wilcox, C., eds. *Understanding Public Opinion, 3rd Edition*. CQ Press.
- Goss, K. and Shames, S. 2008. "Pathways to Child Care Policy," In Gelb, J and Palley, M.L., eds. *Women & Politics Around the World*. ABC-CLIO Press.
- Wilcox, C.; Brewer, P.; Lake, C., and Shames, S. 2007. "If I Bend This Far I Will Break?: Public Opinion on Same-Sex Marriage," in Wilcox, C. and Rimmerman, C., eds. *The Politics of Same-Sex Marriage*. Univ. of Chicago Press

Selected Popular Writing

- The Conversation* (2023): "Moms for Liberty: 'Joyful Warriors' or Anti-Government Conspiracists?"
- Boston Review* (2020): "Without Women, There is No Democracy" (w/ J. Piscopo)
- The Conversation* (2020): "Are We Living in a Dystopia?" (w/ A. Atchison)
- Bangor (ME) Daily News* (2018): "Kavanaugh's Behavior is about Power, Not Just Sex"
- Vox.com* (2018): "Will Young Women of Color Shape the Dem. Party?" (w/ M. Deckman)
- Huffington Post* (2017): "Democracy vs. Dictatorship: Trump vs. Millennials?"
- Corpus Christi Caller-Times* (2017): "Texas is Deceptive on Fetal Burial Rule" (w/ R. Struminger)
- Cleveland Plain Dealer* (2016): "Ohio is Exhibit A for Women & Office" (w/ K. Clyde)
- Huffington Post* (2015): "The Hillary Generation Gap Polls Don't Tell the Full Story"

Presentations / Conferences / Reports

- "*The Water Empress: Do Personalization & Positivity Increase Citizen Interest/Participation?*" Paper presented at "Bridging Representation Gaps" Conf., Princeton, 2025
- "*Does Positive Framing of Political Office's Ability to Solve Problems Motivate Increased Political Ambition?*" Paper on presented at the Midwest Pol. Science Assn. Meeting, Chicago, 2022.
- "*Is South Jersey Getting its Fair Share of Public Goods?*," Research Report for the Walter Rand Institute, 2015 (garnered much media attention).
- "*Gender Differences in Political Ambition among Elite Young People of Color.*" Paper presented at the American Pol. Science Assn. Meeting. San Francisco, 2015.

"Barriers and Solutions to Increasing Women's Political Power." Paper presented for "The Women Effect Symposium," Harvard Univ., 2015.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Named in the *"50 Influential Researchers Whose Work Could Help Shape 21st Century Politicians,"* Apolitical Foundation (2022)
Rutgers Research Council Grant to promote faculty research, 2021-23
Award for "Outstanding Academic Title" for Good Reasons to Run (co-edited), CHOICE, 2020
Chancellor's Award for Teaching Excellence, Rutgers-Camden, 2018
Chancellor's Award for Research Creativity, Rutgers-Camden, 2018
"Best Club Adviser," Political Science Society (undergraduates), Rutgers-Camden, 2018
Digital Teaching Fellow Training, Rutgers-Camden Office of Information Technology, 2016
Hoopes Prize in Social Science for senior thesis, Harvard College, 2001

Teaching

Boston Univ., 2022-2023: "Women & Politics," "Political Psychology of Group-Based Politics," "Politics & Inequality," "Abortion and U.S. Politics," "Race & U.S. Politics," and an accelerated summer course, "The Politics of HBO's 'The Wire'"

Rutgers Univ.-Camden, 2014-Present: "Public Opinion & Voting Behavior," "Honors Sem.: Social Movements," "Research Design," "Quantitative Methods," "The American Presidency," "The 2016 Elections," "Dystopian Government," "Introduction to American Politics," "Politics of Minority Groups," "Political Methodology," "Women & U.S. Politics," "Intro to Politics 101"

Instructor, Harvard Univ., 2013: "Women in U.S. Politics"

Instructor, Berea College (KY), 2009-2010: "Introduction to Women's Studies," "Riding the Waves of Feminism," "What Can Futuristic Fiction Teach Us about Ourselves, Now?," "In Their Own Words: Race, Class, Gender, and Appalachia" (2010)

Professional Activities & Service

Media commentator, local NBC & CBS affiliates on politics and elections

President-Elect/President, "Organized Section on Women and Politics Research," American Political Science Association [APSA] (2016-2019); served also as *member of "Best Book Award" Committee* for the organized section, 2016 & 2022

Co-chair, "Women & Representation" Working Group, Scholars' Strategy Network (SSN), 2014-2017
Invited speaker, Berea College, KY; Harvard College; Northeastern Univ.; SUNY-Oswego; League of Women Voters of New Jersey; NJ-NOW Chapter; Rutgers Alumni Assn.

Book and article manuscript reviewer: APSR; Politics, Groups, and Identities; Politics & Gender Journal; Social Science Quarterly, Political Research Quarterly, Journal of Women and Public Policy, Berrett-Koehler Press, Oxford Univ. Press, Russell Sage Fdn.

Volunteer mock interviewer, HopeWorks (Youth Job Training Program), Camden, NJ; 2014-2019

Coordinator and driver, Patient Support Network, Philadelphia (provides rides to medical appointments)

Panel discussant/chair at meetings of the Am., Midwest, and Northeast Pol. Sci. Associations

University Activities & Service

Independent Study Advisor in Political Science (ongoing; usually 1-2 such courses each year)
Assessment Committee Co-Chair for Gender Studies Program, 2024-2025
Committee Chair, Department Curricular Updating Project (2025)
Director, Lib. Studies (small undergraduate program for returning students), to begin Fall 2025
Faculty Council Elected Representative, Rutgers Univ.-Camden, 2019-2020
Faculty Senator, Rutgers Univ.-Camden, 2014-2017; VP of Faculty Senate (2018-2019)
Committee Member, General Education, RU-C (2015-2017)

Other Professional Experience

Research Fellow, 2012-14, Political Parity, Hunt Alternatives Foundation (Cambridge, MA)
Rapporteur, 3 global conferences on women and politics, Salzburg Global Seminar (Austria)
Exec. Assistant to President Kim Gandy, 2003-4, National Organization for Women (D.C.)
Board Member, DC and NYC abortion access funds; Massachusetts NOW, National NOWs
Research Director, 2001-2003, The White House Project (New York, NY)

Conferences & Datasets Produced

Good Reasons to Run Conference, Philadelphia, PA, November 2017; funded through grants from the Univ. of Pennsylvania's Fels Institute and the SSN; conference brought together 55 scholars and nonprofit advocates
Women & Representation Conference, New Brunswick, NJ, May 2016; funded through grant from the Scholars Strategy Network (SSN); conference brought together more than 35 women and politics scholars and nonprofit advocates
“*Where Women Win: Closing the Gap in Congress*,” dataset of congressional candidates 1980-2012 with over 23,000 candidate-district pairs, inc. multiple variables on each candidate and congressional district; produced with research assistants for Political Parity, a program of Hunt Alternatives Fdn., Cambridge, MA, in 2015. Available on request.
“*Law and Policy Student Political Ambition Study [LPS-PAS]*,” Public dataset of a survey (n=763) of the political ambition, opinions, and activities of samples of law and policy graduate students at three elite campuses (2012-2014). Available through the Harvard Univ. Dataverse:
dataverse.harvard.edu/ (search “Shames Rational Noncandidates”)

Skills

Language: Spanish (conversational)
Computer Programs and Course LMSs: Stata, SPSS, basic R, Atlas.ti, Microsoft Office suite, Qualtrics, Canvas, Sakai, Blackboard, iSites, Moodle
Amateur Playwright/Producer: “Losing Ground,” performed in NYC, 2003; “The Rules,” performed in Cambridge, MA, 2009
Child-wrangling: can usually (not always) get daughter to kindergarten on time