

SEAN RICHEY, PH.D.

Professor of Political Science, Georgia State University
Expert in Political Communication, Public Opinion, Elections, and Survey Evaluation
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Location: Atlanta, Georgia and remote.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Political communication and persuasion
- Public opinion and belief formation
- Elections, voting behavior, and civic participation
- AI associated information environments
- Survey methodology and polling evaluation
- Institutional trust and democratic stability
- Immigration attitudes and assimilation dynamics
- Identity, conspiracy belief, and authoritarian attitudes

PROFESSIONAL SUMMARY

Political scientist specializing in communication effects, opinion formation, civic participation, and political behavior. Research examines how individuals form beliefs, how communication and information environments influence perception, and how trust and participation shift across political contexts. Author of multiple books and more than thirty peer reviewed articles using national surveys, experiments, behavioral data, and advanced statistical methods.

Provides applied analytical consultation, case review, survey evaluation, and expert interpretation for legal teams, policy groups, research networks, and organizations. Experienced translating complex research findings for nonacademic audiences.

TOPICS FREQUENTLY ADVISED ON

- Voter behavior and election dynamics
- Opinion change, persuasion, and belief resistance
- Message effects, communication environments, and media exposure
- AI associated information environments
- Survey design, sampling error, measurement validity
- Civic trust, political engagement, and institutional confidence
- Conspiracy beliefs and identity based attitudes
- Immigration attitudes, assimilation, and social identity

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Georgia State University

Full Professor, Political Science, 2023 to present

Associate Professor, 2012 to 2023

Assistant Professor, 2007 to 2012

University of Tokyo

Postdoctoral Fellow, Graduate School of Law and Politics, 2004 to 2006

BOOKS

Taylor, J. Benjamin, and Sean Richey. 2026. Trolling Democracy: How Trolls Distort Digital Discourse. Routledge.

Richey, Sean. 2025. Patriotism and Citizenship: A Contractual Theory of the Impact of Patriotism. Palgrave MacMillan.

Richey, Sean. 2023. Collateral Damage: The Influence Of Political Rhetoric On The Incorporation Of Second Generation Americans. University of Michigan Press.

Richey, Sean, and J. Benjamin Taylor. 2021. Political Advocacy and American Politics: Why People Fight So Often About Politics. Routledge.

Richey, Sean, and J. Benjamin Taylor. 2018. Google and Democracy: Politics and the Power of the Internet. Routledge.

Richey, Sean. 2014. The Social Basis of the Rational Citizen: How Political Communication in Social Networks Improves Civic Competence. Lexington Press.

Ikeda, Ken'ichi, and Sean Richey. 2011. Social Networks and Japanese Democracy: The Beneficial Impact of Interpersonal Communication in East Asia. Routledge.

REPRESENTATIVE PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Belief Formation, Communication, and Conspiracy Attitudes

- Richey, Sean. 2017. "A Birther and A Truther: The Influence of the Authoritarian Personality on Conspiracy Beliefs." *Politics & Policy* 45 (3): 465–485.
- Goldberg, Zachary J., and Sean Richey. 2020. "Anti Vaccination Beliefs and Unrelated Conspiracy Theories." *World Affairs* 183 (2): 105–124.

Public Opinion, Trust, and Institutional Dynamics

- Richey, Sean. 2010. "Corruption and Social Trust." *American Politics Research* 36 (3): 676–690.
- Luke, Russell E. et al. 2023. "The Influence of Institutional Trust and Conspiracy Ideation on COVID 19 Behaviors." *Questions in Politics* 10 (1).

Survey Methodology and Voting Behavior

- Richey, Sean. 2013. "Random and Systematic Voting Errors in Presidential Elections from 1972–2004." *Political Research Quarterly* 66 (3): 645–657.
- Reilly, Shauna, and Sean Richey. 2011. "Ballot Question Readability and Roll off." *Political Research Quarterly* 64 (1): 59–67.

Political Communication and Online Environments

- Richey, Sean. 2009. "Hierarchy in Political Discussion." *Political Communication* 26 (2): 137–152.
- Richey, Sean, and Junyan Zhu. 2015. "New Internet Access Does Not Improve Political Interest, Efficacy or Knowledge." *Political Communication* 32 (3): 396–413.

Civic Participation and Social Capital

- Richey, Sean. 2011. "Civic Engagement and Patriotism." *Social Science Quarterly* 42 (4): 1044–1056.
- Ikeda, Ken'ichi, and Sean Richey. 2009. "The Impact of Informal Social Networks on Tolerance in Japan." *British Journal of Political Science* 39 (3): 655–668.

Identity, Immigration, and Assimilation

- Richey, Sean. 2010. "The Impact of Anti Assimilationist Beliefs on Attitudes Toward Immigration." *International Studies Quarterly* 54 (1): 197–212.
- Richey, Sean, and Ryan Carlin. 2018. "Skin Tone and Assimilation." *Social Science Quarterly* 99 (3): 1233–1247.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, City University of New York

M.A. Political Science, Rutgers University

B.A. Political Science, Rutgers University