# Fiona Rodger

frodger@nd.edu
South Bend, IN
https://politicalscience.nd.edu/people/graduate-students/fiona-rodger/

**Position:** PhD Student, Political Science, University of Notre Dame

**Education:**

| | |
|---|---|
| Expected May 2029 | PhD, Political Science, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN<br>Fields: American Politics, Methodology |
| May 2026 | M.A., Political Science, University of Notre Dame, South Bend, IN |
| May 2022 | BS, Political Science, Towson University, Towson, MD<br>Minor: Communication Studies |

## Research Interests

American politics: political behavior, gender and politics, LGBTQ rights, public opinion, political identity, political communication, American political institutions, experimental survey design, democratic norms and attitudes

## Publications

- Wolbrecht, Christina, Mirya Holman, Lakshmi Iyer, Samantha Chapa, **Fiona Rodger**, and Emma Schroeder. 2026. *Gender and Local Political Ambition*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
- **Rodger, Fiona**, and Christina Wolbrecht. 2025. "Transgender Attitudes and Anti-Democratic Sentiment After the 2024 Election." *The Forum* 23 (1–2): 105–130. https://doi.org/10.1515/for-2025-2027.

## Working Papers

- "Starving Kids and Selfies: How News on Social Media Trivializes Politics," with Tyler Leigh, and Abigail Hemmen.
- "Pathbreaker or Underdog? Women's Ambition for Local Political Office," with Christina Wolbrecht, Mirya R. Holman, Emma Schroeder, and David E. Campbell.

## Grants and Awards

- Democracy Initiative – Democracy Catalyst Grant ($5,000)
- Franco Institute Graduate Student Research Award ($2,500)
- Graduate School Professional Development Award ($2,000)
- Graduate Student Government – Conference Presentation Grant ($500)

## Teaching Experience

### University of Notre Dame

Fall 2026 Teaching Assistant, POLS 30189, "Gender, Politics, and Power"
Fall 2025 Teaching Assistant, POLS 10100, "American Politics", with discussion sections

## Professional Development & Service

### Research Assistantships

- Spring/Summer 2026 – Research Assistant, Christina Wolbrecht
- Summer 2025 – Research Assistant, Representation of Women Lab

### Department Service

- 2026–27 – VP & Social Chair, Notre Dame Political Science Graduate Organization

### Lab Memberships

- Politics, Organizations, and Psychology (POP) Lab (University of Notre Dame)
- Representation of Women (ROW) Lab (University of Notre Dame)

### Professional Memberships

- Midwest Political Science Association, Spring 2025 – Present
- The European Consortium For Political Research, Spring 2026 – Present
- American Political Science Association, Spring 2026 – Present

## Skills

### Software

- R, LaTeX, Qualtrics