

KARRA MCCRAY GIBSON

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EDUCATION

Brown University, Providence, RI

Ph.D. in Political Science

2025 (*expected*)

Dissertation Title: *Black Representation and Congress: Identity, Ideology, and Geography*

Committee: Professor Katherine Tate (Chair), Professor Marion Orr, Professor Wendy Schiller, Asst. Professor Paul Testa

Howard University, Washington, DC

MA in Political Science

2018

Subfields: Black Politics, American Politics

University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC

BA in Political Science and English, *Magna Cum Laude*

2016

Academic Awards: Leadership Distinction in Professional & Civic Engagement, President's List, Dean's List

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Gibson, Karra McCray and Katherine Tate. "Black Legislators and the Politics of Squad Democrats in the U.S. Congress." *National Review of Black Politics*. **Forthcoming**.

McCray, Karra W. 2022. Review of *The Congressional Black Caucus: Fifty Years of Fighting for Equality*. *National Review of Black Politics*, 3-3.4.

PROFESSIONAL PUBLICATIONS

McCray, Karra W. 2023. [Singular vs. Plural: How Wars Shape Imagined Sovereignty](#) *Political Science Now*. American Political Science Association.

McCray, Karra W. 2023. [You Can Run from Racism, But You Can't Hide – Or Can You?](#) *Political Science Now*. American Political Science Association.

McCray, Karra W. 2023. [Douglass Did Not Imitate Classical Rhetoric; He Transformed It](#) *Political Science Now*. American Political Science Association.

McCray, Karra W. 2023. [Which Groups Win Meetings with the President?](#) *Political Science Now*. American Political Science Association.

McCray, Karra W. 2023. [Traumatic Events Are Decreasing Voter Turnout in Affected Areas](#). *Political Science Now*. American Political Science Association.

McCray, Karra W. 2022. [Linear Development in the Global South? We've Had It All Wrong](#). *Political Science Now*. American Political Science Association.

McCray, Karra W. 2022. [Under Which Conditions Will Latinos Show Anti-Black Racism](#). *Political Science Now*. American Political Science Association.

McCray, Karra W. 2022. [Black Representation Among Commissioned Officers in the Biden White House](#). Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

McCray, Karra W. 2021. [Report Card on Black Chiefs of Staff to Cabinet Secretaries in the Biden Administration](#). Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

McCray, Karra W., Donald Bell, and Spencer Overton 2018. [Racial Diversity Among Top Staff of the \(Virginia; Tennessee; Pennsylvania; Mississippi; Maryland; Delaware\) Congressional Delegation](#). Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

Scott, Elsie. L., Karra W. McCray, Donald Bell, and Spencer Overton. 2018. [Diversity Among Top U.S. House Staff](#). Joint Center for Political and Economic Studies.

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

Testa, Paul, Tarah Williams, Kylee Britzman and Karra W. McCray. “Does the Messenger Shape the Message’s Effect? Race, Black Lives Matter, and the Efficacy of Social Movement Messages” *Invited to Revise and Resubmit at the Journal of Politics*.

Garcia, Jennifer, Karra McCray Gibson, Christopher Stout, and Katherine Tate. “Does Descriptive Representation Matter More Now Than in The Past? A Reexamination of Black Faces in the Mirror in a Most-Racial Era” *Invited to Revise and Resubmit at Politics, Groups, and Identities*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Women in Legislative Studies Annual Conference 2023

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2023, 2022

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2022

National Conference of Black Political Scientists 2024, 2023, 2022, 2017*, 2016

University of South Carolina Advising Conference 2018

**Paper accepted for presentation but could not be presented due to death in family.*

INVITED TALKS

Teaching Tips Professionalization Seminar, Political Science Dept., Brown University 2023

“So You’re Thinking about a PhD?” - Howard University Pre-PhD Summer Enrichment Program 2023

“State of Black Women Union Roundtable” - Choose T.R.U.E. Project 2023

“2021 and Beyond: Building Equitable Futures” - Brown University Graduate Panel 2021

“The Importance of Voting” - Why Not Young Lives Matter Nonprofit Organization 2020

“Let’s Talk about Colorism” - Xi Beta Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Inc. 2018

GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS

Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy Graduate Research Fellowship Award (\$2,500) 2023

Office of the Dean of the Faculty & the Dept. of Political Science, Brown University (\$2,268) 2023

Ruth B. Mandel Dissertation Research Award (\$2,000) 2023

Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship (\$27,000/yr)	2023-2026
APSA Public Scholarship Fellow (\$2,000)	2022-23
2022 APSA Summer Centennial Center Research Grant (\$1,309) for the “The Persuasive Power of Black Women” with Paul Testa, Kylee Britzman, and Tarah Williams	2022
New Perspectives in American Governance Grant (\$11,000), Center for Congressional and Presidential Studies with Katherine Tate	2022
Dr. Bernard Edwin Bruce Endowed Fellowship, Brown University Graduate School	2021

HONORS & AWARDS

Paul L. Beasley Trio Trailblazer McNair Alumni Award	2024
Continuity of Government Paper Graduate Student Award hosted by the Democracy Fund, NCOBPS and the Ronald Walters Center for Leadership and Public Policy	2022
P. Terrence Hopmann Award for Teaching Excellence, Brown University	2023, 2021
Ford Foundation Pre-Doctoral Fellowship Honorable Mention	2022, 2021
Outstanding Advocate for First-Year Students Award, UofSC	2020
Outstanding Service to Students - Division of Academic Affairs & Student Support, UofSC	2020
Nominated for M. Stuart Hunter Award for Outstanding Teaching in University 101, UofSC	2020
Nominated for Outstanding New Staff Member and the Excellence in Collaboration Award, UofSC	2019
Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities, UofSC	2016
Greek Woman of the Year by the Office of Fraternity and Sorority Life, UofSC	2015
Dr. Kendra Ogletree-Cusaac Spirit Award, Ronald E. McNair Achievement Program, UofSC	2015
Opportunity Scholars Program Tutor of the Year, UofSC	2015

TEACHING

Instructor

University 101 —University of South Carolina	Fall 2018
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Teaching Assistant

Campaign & Elections — Brown University	Fall 2022
African American Politics — Brown University	Spring 2022
U.S. Congress— Brown University	Spring 2023, Fall 2021
Introduction to the American Political Process —Brown University	Summer 2021
State and Local Government — Howard University	Fall 2017

RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Assistant Professor Paul Testa, Brown University	2023
Professor Katherine Tate, Brown University	2022
Professor Wendy Schiller, Brown University	2021
Ronald E. Walters Leadership and Public Policy Center, Howard University	2018

ACADEMIC SERVICE

Reviewer, <i>Politics, Groups, and Identities</i>	2024
Research Mentor, Lumiere Education	2023
Graduate Organizer, Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS-20)	2023
President, Nabrit Black Graduate Student Association, Brown University	2022-2023
Advocacy Chair, Nabrit Black Graduate Student Association, Brown University	2021-2022
Graduate Student Representative, Political Science Dept., Brown University	2021-2022

TRAINING

Teaching Seminar, Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University	2021
Ronald E. McNair Post-Baccalaureate Achievement Program, UofSC	2015-2016

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Assistant Faculty Principal - International House at Maxcy College <i>University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC</i>	2018-2020
Legislative Aide <i>SC House of Representatives, Columbia, SC</i>	2012-2016
Political Operant <i>Jack Scoville Attorney-at-Law, Georgetown, SC</i>	2013

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association
National Conference of Black Political Scientists
Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Incorporated

SKILLS

Programming Languages: R (Tidyverse, ggplot)
Software: L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office Suite