Ruth Bloch Rubin

University of Chicago, Pick Hall 426, 5828 S. University Ave., Chicago, IL 60637
blochrubin@uchicago.edu

Academic Appointments

University of Chicago

- Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, 2025-present
- Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2016-2024

Harvard University | Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research, 2014-2016

Education

University of California, Berkeley | Ph.D. in Political Science, 2014

Brandeis University | B.A./M.A. in Politics (*summa cum laude*), 2008

Books

Building the Bloc: Intraparty Organization in the U.S. Congress (Cambridge University Press, 2017).

- Awarded the 31st D.B. Hardeman Prize by the Lyndon B. Johnson Foundation for the best book on the U.S. Congress by a political scientist, historian, journalist, or biographer (2020)
- Awarded the Alan Rosenthal Prize by the APSA Legislative Studies Section for the best work on legislative politics by a junior scholar (2018)
- Reviewed in *Journal of Politics*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Congress & the Presidency*, *The Forum*, *R-Street* and *LegBranch* and profiled on several podcasts, including *Bloc Party, The Briefing with Steve Scully,* and *The Gist*
- Subject of roundtables at Western Political Science Association (2018) and Midwest Political Science Association (2018)

Divided Parties, Strong Leaders (University of Chicago Press, 2025).

Co-editor (with Lawrence C. Dodd, Bruce I. Oppenheimer, and C. Lawrence Evans), *Congress Reconsidered, 13th ed.* (CQ Press/Sage, 2024).

Legislating Rights: Congress and the Making of American Indian Law, 1924-1978 (with Gregory Elinson, in progress).

Articles

"Organizing at the Extreme: Hardline Strategy and Institutional Design," *Congress & the Presidency* 49:1 (2022): 1-30.

- Winner of the inaugural James A. Thurber Article of the Year Award

"State Preventive Medicine: Public Health, Indian Removal, and the Growth of State Capacity, 1780-1850," *Studies in American Political Development* 34:1 (2020): 24-43.

"Anatomy of Judicial Backlash: Southern Leaders, Massive Resistance and the Supreme Court, 1954-1958," *Law & Social Inquiry* 43:3 (2018): 944-980 (with Gregory Elinson).

"Organizing for Insurgency: Intraparty Organization and the Development of the House Insurgency, 1908-1910," *Studies in American Political Development* 27:2 (2013): 86-110.

Chapters in Edited Volumes

"Legacies of Leadership in the Contemporary House of Representatives," in *Congress Reconsidered*, eds. Lawrence C. Dodd, Bruce I. Oppenheimer, C. Lawrence Evans, and Ruth Bloch Rubin. Washington D.C.: CQ Press/Sage, 2024.

"Macro-Level Pluralism: Integrating Qualitative and Quantitive Approaches in the Study of Political History," in *The Oxford Handbook of Methodological Pluralism in Political Science*, eds. Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Dino P. Christenson, and Valeria Sinclair-Chapman. New York: Oxford University Press, 2023 (with Gregory Elinson and Calvin TerBeek).

"House Parties, Divided: Intraparty Organization in the Contemporary Congress," in *Congress Reconsidered*, eds. Lawrence C. Dodd, Bruce I. Oppenheimer, and C. Lawrence Evans. Washington D.C.: CQ Press/Sage, 2021.

"Lessons from the History of Reform" in *Congress Overwhelmed: The Decline in Congressional Capacity and Prospects for Reform*, eds. Timothy M. LaPira, Lee Drutman, and Kevin R. Kosar. Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 2020.

"Congress and American Political Development" in *The Oxford University Handbook of American Political Development*, eds. Richard M. Valelly, Suzanne Mettler, and Robert C. Lieberman. New York: Oxford University Press, 2016 (with Eric Schickler).

Other Writing

Review of Phillip A. Wallach, *Why Congress?* in *Perspectives on Politics* (Spring 2024).

"More Parties, More Problems? Why PR Might Not Work," *Democracy Journal*, Fall 2023 (with Gregory Elinson).

- Profiled on *NPR*'s Election Explainer: "Many voters say Congress is broken. Could proportional representation fix it?" (November 2023)

Review of Jordan M. Ragusa and Nathaniel A. Birkhead, *Congress in Reverse: Repeals from Reconstruction to the Present* in *Political Science Quarterly* (Spring 2022).

Review of Brian T. Gervais and Irwin L. Morris, *Reactionary Republicanism: How the Tea Party in the House Paved the Way for Trump's Victory*, in *Congress & the Presidency* (Spring 2020).

Review of Matthew N. Green and Douglas B. Harris, *Choosing the Leader: Leadership Elections in the U.S. House of Representatives*, in *The Forum* (Spring 2020).

Review of Eric J. Engstrom and Samuel Kernell, *Party Ballots, Reform, and the Transformation of America's Electoral System*, in *The Journal of Politics* 78:4 (2016).

"Will Nancy Pelosi be the next speaker of the House? Here are 4 lessons for her challengers," November 27, 2018, *The Monkey Cage*, *Washington Post.*

"This is why the Freedom Caucus called the shots on Trump's health-care bill," March 27, 2017, *The Monkey Cage*, *Washington Post.*

Selected Fellowships and Grants

Faculty Research Grant, "The Infrastructures of American Hegemony" | University of Chicago Neubauer Collegium for Culture and Society (with Austin Carson, 2020-2022)

Congressional Research Award | Dirksen Congressional Center (with Danielle Thomsen, 2019)

Negotiating Agreement in Congress Grant | Social Science Research Council (2018)

American Political Economy and Democracy Program Research Grant | University of California, Berkeley (2012)

Congressional Research Award | Dirksen Congressional Center (2011)

Mike Synar Graduate Research Fellowship | Institute of Governmental Studies, University of California, Berkeley (2011)

Graduate Research Fellowship | National Science Foundation (2010-2013)

Outstanding Graduate Student Instructor Award | University of California, Berkeley (2010)

Fechtor Family Prize in Political Science | Brandeis University (2008)

Invited Talks

2024: Berkeley Law School; Northern Illinois University

2022: Yale; Marquette

2021: University of California, Berkeley; Columbia; Sunwater Institute (Washington, D.C.)

2020: University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill

2019: University of Texas, Austin

2018: Yale; University of Illinois at Chicago

2017: Northwestern; University of Wisconsin, Madison

2016: Brandeis

Conference Presentations

American Political Science Association: 2011, 2012, 2013, 2017, 2020, 2023

Congress and History Conference: 2012, 2014, 2018, 2024

Midwest Political Science Association: 2010, 2018, 2019, 2022

National Conference of Constitutional Law Scholars: 2024

Policy History Conference: 2016, 2018, 2022, 2023

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholars in Health Policy Research Annual Meeting: 2014, 2015, 2016

Social Science History Association Annual Conference: 2021

Women in Legislative Studies Conference: 2022, 2023, 2024

University of Georgia Conference on American Political History: 2021

Columbia World Projects Workshop on Political Parties: 2019; 2025

Yale Workshop on Party Discipline: 2019

Teaching Experience (University of Chicago)

Undergraduate Classes
America in World Civilization (Winter 2019)
Congress in Chaos: Legislative Function and Dysfunction (Summer 2024)
Introduction to American Politics (Fall 2016, Fall 2017, Fall 2020. Fall 2021, Winter 2024)
Political Parties in the United States (Winter 2017, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2022)
Southern Politics in State and Nation (Winter 2018)
U.S. Congress (Spring 2024)

Graduate Seminars
American Field Seminar (Fall 2017, Fall 2021, Winter 2024)
American Political Development (Fall 2016, Spring 2019, Winter 2023, Spring 2024)
Race and the American State (Winter 2018)
U.S. Congress (Winter 2017, Winter 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2022)

Professional Service

Legislative Reform Task Force Member: American Academy of Arts and Sciences Working Group on Enlarging the U.S. House of Representatives (2020-2021); APSA Presidential Task Force on Congressional Reform (2019); Hoover Institution House Rules Reform Task Force (2024); Princeton School of Public Affairs Article One Initiative (2023).

- Invited to testify before the House Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress (2020)

Referee: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Congress & the Presidency*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Policy History*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly, Studies in American Political Development*, and Cambridge University Press.

Editorial Boards, Conference Organizing, and Prize Committees: APSA Legislative Studies Section Alan Rosenthal Prize Committee (2019); Editorial Board of the *Journal of Policy History* (2022-present); MPSA Section Chair, Politics and History (2023), APSA Barbara Sinclair Award and Lectureship Committee (2024).

University Service

University of Chicago, Department of Political Science: Member of the Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee (2025); Member of American Politics Search Committee (2022-23, 2023-24); Member of American Politics Exam Committee (2022); Chair of Graduate Placement Committee (2021-22); Faculty Advisor of Research Workshop in American Politics (2018-19, 2023-24); Member of Graduate Admissions Committee (2018-19, 2020-21, 2022-23); Member of Graduate Placement Committee (2017-18).