

Rebecca A. Larsen

Doctoral Candidate, University of Texas at Dallas
Assistant Professor of Practice, Texas Tech University
Email: Rebecca.Larsen@UTDallas.edu

EDUCATION

Ph.D. of Public Policy and Political Economy, Expected 2026

School of Economic, Political, and Policy Sciences
The University of Texas at Dallas

Dissertation Proposal: "Policies Impacting People Held Pre-trial in the United States: A 3 Paper Proposal."

Master of Public Affairs, 2014

LBJ School of Public Affairs | The University of Texas at Austin

Master's Report: *Privately Run Health Care in Prisons: An Industry and Health Impacts Analysis*

Policy Research Project: Children's Issues in Texas with Texans Care for Children

Master of Science in Social Work, 2014

School of Social Work | The University of Texas at Austin

Capstone: *Privatized Health Care in Prisons: Evidence of Poor Quality of Care and Increased Mortality*

African Diaspora in the Americas and Brazil in Rio De Janeiro, Summer 2013

Bachelor of Arts, 2008

Major: Print Media/Communication, Minor: Political Science

The University of Texas System Archer Fellow, Fall 2007

Other Training

Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, Summer 2025

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

University of Michigan

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor of Practice, 9/2021 - Present

Texas Tech University, Department of Political Science - Waco, TX

Instructor of Political Science and Public Administration, 7/2016 - 8/2021

Texas Tech University, Department of Political Science - Waco, TX

Regional Site Manager, Department of Political Science, 7/2016-8/2021

Texas Tech University, Waco, TX

Part-Time Government Instructor, 1/2016 - 12/2019

McLennan Community College, Government Department - Waco, TX

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2013

The University of Texas at Austin, School of Social Work - Austin, TX

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Communications and Operations Coordinator, 7/2015-8/2016

Texas Jail Project, Austin & Waco, TX

Communication and Outreach Director, 1/2009-4/2011

Community Acts of Compassion, Grand Prairie, TX

Communication Consultant, 10/2008-12/2009
Quicksilver Strategies, Austin, TX

Communication Intern, 9/2007-8/2008
Save Darfur Coalition, Washington, DC

Disaster Relief Coordinator, 1/2004-7/2007
Christian Ministries Center, El Paso, TX

Graduate Field Practicums

MSW Intern, Spring 2014 - Summer 2014
Grassroots Leadership, Austin, TX

MPAff Budget Intern, Spring 2014
City of Austin Budget Office, Austin, TX

MSW Intern, Fall 2012 - Spring 2013
Hays Caldwell Women's Center, San Marcos, TX

TEACHING

Texas Tech University, Instructor / Assistant Professor of Practice

Graduate:

PUAD 5335: Management of Nonprofit Organizations

PUAD 5346: Public Financial Management

Undergraduate:

POLS 3314: Intro to Political Analysis (Research Methods & Quantitative Analysis)

POLS 3352: Constitutional Law: Powers

POLS 3353: Constitutional Law: Civil Rights and Liberties

POLS 3317: Campaigns and Elections

POLS 3300: Selected Topics: Criminal Justice Reform

POLS 3303: Selected Topics: Nonprofit Management

POLS 3318: Public Opinion

POLS 4000: Active Learning - Texas Legislative Advocacy

POLS 3329: Environmental Politics and Policy

POLS 3341: Administrative Process

McLennan Community College, Instructor

GOVT 2305: Federal Government

GOVT 2306: Texas Government

University of Texas at Austin, Courses Assisted

SW 385: Social Work Research Methods

SW 325: Foundations of Social Justice

Teaching Formats: Face-to-face, Hybrid, Synchronous Online (via Zoom), and Asynchronous Online.

RESEARCH

Book Chapter

Rountree, M.A., & Larsen, R. (2013). Health impacts on Black marriages. In Bent-Goodley, T. (Ed.),

By grace: The challenges, strengths, and promise of Black marriages. Washington, D.C.: NASW Press

Academic Articles, Not Peer-Reviewed

Dunklee, C. & **Larsen, R.** (2015). Examining the praised Texas prison reform model: How Texas is maintaining racial disparity and mass incarceration. The Institute of Urban Policy Research and Analysis, The University of Texas at Austin.

Rountree, M.A., Scott, J., **Larsen, R.** (2012). *Dean's Advisory Committee on Social Justice: Social Justice Week*, The University of Texas at Austin School of Social Work.

Nonprofit / Community Publications

Larsen, R. (2021). The Impact of Bail on McLennan County. *McLennan County Economic Justice Fund*.

Claitor, D., Young, A.L., Ling, E., **Larsen, R.** (2016). Jailhouse Stories: Voices of Pretrial Detention in Texas. *Texas Jail Project*. A two-year storytelling project to tell the stories of people held pre-trial in Texas county jails.

Bufkin, A., Dimitry, L., Garcia, E. ... **Larsen, R.** (2013). Solutions to our Texas challenge: 30 ways to build a better future for our kids and our state. *Texans Care for Children*.

Opinion Editorials

Larsen, R. & Ling, E. (2016, Jan 6). Stop jail suicides and deaths – here's how. *Houston Chronicle*.

Claitor, D. & **Larsen, R.** (2015, Dec 27). Diana Claitor, Rebecca Larsen, guest columnists: McLennan County Jail increasingly mired in abuse. *Waco Tribune*.

Dunklee, C. & **Larsen, R.** (2015, Aug 7). Setting the record straight on Texas "Prison Reform." Featured in: *San Antonio Express News*, *Houston Chronicle*, & *University of Texas at Austin News*.

Dunklee, C. & **Larsen, R.** (2015, Aug 5). Prison reform 'Texas Model' hasn't really solved problems. *Fort Worth Star Telegram*.

Broadcast Media

Larsen, R. & Lastrappe, A. (April 2020 - Spring 2022). *This is for the CV*. Podcast. Editor, Co-host, Co-creator. A podcast about politics and education by educators from different disciplines, backgrounds, and world views.

Research in Progress

Engaged Scholarship project with Texas Justice Initiative. Creating datasets from text documents of noncompliant jails and annual jail reports for public use and dissemination from nonprofit.

Larsen, R. "Revolving Door of Crime": Testing Claims and Efficacy of Statewide Bail Reform.

Larsen, R. Public Accountability and Perception of "Natural Cause" Deaths in Jail.

Larsen, R. State-level policy change impacts on county jail deaths.

Larsen, R. & Widner, K. Appellate Outcomes in Single vs. Bifurcated Courts of Last Resort: A Comparative Analysis of Death Penalty States.

AWARDS AND FUNDING

Faculty Awards

Outstanding Faculty Mentor, TTU Center for Transformative Undergraduate Experiences. 2024-2025

Arts & Sciences Students' Choice Top Faculty Member, TTU College of Arts & Sciences. 2022

Nonprofit Grants Funded

Cooper Foundation Grant. Co-authored for Wild Imaginings. 2021
Langloeth Foundation Grant. Co-authored for Grassroots Leadership. 2014
Resist Grant. Co-authored for Grassroots Leadership, Awarded. 2014

Academic Funding

Society for Political Methodology, Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier Award. 2025
University of Texas at Dallas, Government and Political Science Fellowship Award. 2023
University of Texas at Dallas, Government and Political Science Fellowship Award. 2022
University of Texas at Dallas, UTD Graduate Studies Scholarship. 2021
Texas Tech University. E-learning Course Development Grant. 2017
Texas Tech University. E-learning Distance/Online Education Travel Grant. 2017

PRESENTATIONS

Presented, Academic Peer-Reviewed:

Larsen, R. & Widner, K. (2025). *Appellate Outcomes in Single vs. Bifurcated Courts of Last Resort: A Comparative Analysis of Death Penalty States*. Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

Larsen, R. (2024). *Cash Bail Reform: Testing Competing Political Expectations*. Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference.

Larsen, R. (2024). *Impact of Local Official Framing on Perceptions of Jail Deaths: A Text Analysis and Survey Approach*. Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference.

Larsen, R. (2023). *Cash Bail Reform: Testing Competing Political Expectations*. American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.

Lastrappe, A. & Larsen, R. (2021). “*I Call it Matilda’s Law*”: Governor’s Presidential Rhetoric. Political Communication Division. Southern States Communication Association.

Presented, Academic Conference Panels:

Larsen, R. (2022). *Online Courses and Student Engagement*. Chair of Panel. Midwest Political Science Association.

Larsen, R. (2022). *Being Faculty at a Regional University*. Panel Discussant. Midwest Political Science Association.

Larsen, R. (2022). *Experiential Learning in the Classroom*. Panel Discussant. Midwest Political Science Association.

Larsen, R. (2018). *It’s Not a MOOC: Delivering Quality Online Education to Large Programs*. Presented at Online Learning Consortium Accelerate Conference.

Presented, Community Presentations and Guest Lectures:

Larsen, R. (2023). *Cash Bail Reform: State Level Outcomes*. Working Paper Series, University of Texas at Dallas. Richardson, TX.

Larsen, R. (2021). *Engaging in Bail Reform in McLennan County*. Presented to: Poor People’s Campaign. Waco, TX.

Larsen, R. (2021). *Considering the Death Penalty in the Human Rights Context*. Invited Guest Lecture in PSCI 4357: Human Rights. University of Texas at Dallas.

Larsen, R. (2021). *The Evolving Administration of the Endangered Species Act*. Invited Guest Lecturer in BIO 4101: Biology Seminar. Texas Tech University.

Larsen, R. (2020). *Policy of Animal Conservation: Examining the Evolving Administration of the Endangered Species Act*. Invited Guest Lecturer in Biology 4101: Endangered Species and Conservation. Texas Tech University.

Larsen, R. (2020). *The Forefront with Art Aguirre. Episode: “Rebecca Larsen.”* Guest on podcast to discuss the function of the Supreme Court, the legacy of Justice Ginsburg, and the nominee confirmation process.

Larsen, R. (2019). *Teaching classes synchronously using Zoom*. Texas Tech Waco Advising Workshop.

Larsen, R. (2019). New Student Orientation, Session 1 & 2. Invited Workshop Presenter.

Larsen, R. & Button, A. (2019). *2019 Summer Teaching Academy*. A 2-day continuing education workshop organized and taught by Texas Tech Waco faculty and staff.

Larsen, R. (2019). Texas Tech Waco Advisor Workshop, Invited Workshop Presenter.

Larsen, R. (2018). *Where the Dream Act Stands: A Policy Briefing*. Presented at A Clean Dream Act. Panel discussant at Community Conversations at Seventh and James.

Larsen, R. (2018). *Dreamers and the Dream Act*. Panel discussant at Community Race Relations Coalition.

Larsen, R. (2018). *Our Evolving Right to Privacy*. Presented at Constitution Day, Social Media and the Constitution, McLennan Community College.

Larsen, R. (2017). *A Conversation with Texas Tech University Systems Chancellor Duncan*. Facilitated.

Larsen, R. (2016). *The Thirteenth Amendment and Rights of the Criminally Accused*. Presented at Constitution Day, The Unfinished Business of the Constitution: The Search for Equality, McLennan Community College.

Media Contributions

Texas Tech Now. (April 18, 2024). First-Gen alumna finds success through Texas Tech’s Waco site. Quoted in article.

KXXV TV. (Sept 13, 2016). Texas to appeal for tougher voter identification law. Quoted in article.

The Washington Times. (May 22, 2016). Obama’s plan to reintegrate ex-convicts into society raises crime fears. Quoted in article.

STUDENT MENTORING

Internship Advisor:

Lincoln Crowder. McLennan County Democratic Party. June 2, 2019 - August 8, 2019.

Undergraduate Student Mentorship:

2024: Wrote 21 letters of recommendation and had 40 one-on-one meetings with undergraduate students to discuss career advice, GRE/LSAT preparation, and graduate school applications.

2023: Wrote 13 letters of recommendation and met with 29 current and recently graduated students to discuss career advice, resume improvement, graduate application edits, and LSAT/GRE prep resources.

2022: Wrote 13 letters of recommendation and met with 20 current and recently graduated students. Supported a group of Baylor undergraduate students' research by serving as a source on criminal justice policy in Texas.

2021: Wrote 10 letters of recommendation and met with 15 current and recently graduated students concerning career and graduate school advice.

2020: Wrote 10 letters of recommendation and met with 12 current and recently graduated students concerning career and graduate school advice.

SERVICE (SELECTIVE)

University

Faculty Cohort Member. Canvas Early Adoption Teaching Cohort, September 27, 2024 – Present.

Political Science and Public Administration Recruiter. TTU Transfer Expo at McLennan Community College, Spring Semesters 2021 – Present.

Committee Member. TTU Waco Faculty Council, January 2020 – Present.

Committee Chair. TTU Waco New Faculty and Adjunct Orientation, January 2020 – Present.

Member. Pedagogy and Educational Technology Committee, September 2018 – Present.

Attendee. TTU Master of Public Administration New Student Orientations, Each Semester, August 10, 2017 – Present.

Attendee. Graduation Reception for TTU Waco Students, Spring/Summer/Fall Ceremonies, December 6, 2016 – Present.

Cohort Mentee. Teaching, Learning & Professional Development Center Faculty Mentorship Academy, October 1, 2024 – May 30, 2025.

Committee Member. Regional Site Student Resources Project, October 11, 2022 - January 10, 2024.

Faculty Member. Texas Tech Waco Student Pride Ally Coalition, January 28, 2020 - January 1, 2024.

Committee Member. Search Committee, TTU Waco Academic Advisor, January 15, 2023 – February 10, 2023.

TTU MPA Faculty Representative. Texas City Management Association Conference, June 8, 2023 – June 10, 2023.

TTU Waco Site Committee Member. Excellence in Teaching Committee, November 18, 2022 - January 24, 2023.

TTU Waco Participant. University Center Pancake Bonanza, making and serving students pancakes during finals. December 1, 2016 – December 4, 2019; November 29, 2022.

Recruiting Presenter. Presentations in McLennan Community College Government Classes, January 2017 – January 2020.

Political Science and Public Administration Recruiter. Majors and Minors Fair, Yearly, October 10, 2018 - March 15, 2020.

Outreach event worker. Miracle Match Marathon Water Stop, January 22, 2017 – January 26, 2020.

TTU Waco Faculty Representative. Waco Day at the Texas Capitol. Collaborated with the chamber and 5 TTU Political Science students to visit legislators. Austin, TX, April 8, 2019.

Faculty Coordinator. Service-Learning Project with Talitha Khoum and Political Science Students. April 13, 2019.

Task Force Member. Johnson County Jamboree - First Fundraiser for TTU at Hill College, May 25, 2019.

Coordinator of Political Science sponsored table and event logistics. Chords and Conversations - 2nd Annual Fundraiser for TTU Waco Students, March 30, 2019.

Committee Member. eLearning Council TTU Waco and College of Arts and Sciences representative as needed. September 15, 2016 – May 15, 2018.

Planning Committee Member. Chords and Conversations – 1st Annual Fundraiser for TTU Waco Students, February 3, 2018.

Rotating TTU Representative. P-20 Council, January 11, 2017-June 13, 2018.

Political Science Representative. New Student Orientations for TTU Waco, Tabling, Set up, and Tear Down. Each Semester, January 10, 2017 - January 10, 2019.

Committee Member. TTU Waco Academic Advisor Search Committee. Final Round, August 29, 2018.

TTU Waco Rotating Representative. Campus Town, January 25, 2017 - May 31, 2018.

TTU Waco Program Representative. 2017 Waco ISD Summer Internship Program, April 2017 – July 2017.

Committee Member. TTU at Hill College Academic Advisor Selection Committee, 26, 2017 - February 10, 2017.

Profession

Scholarship Juror. The Archer Center, January 24, 2024 – Present.

Faculty Sponsor for undergraduate essay submission. Bert & Phyllis Lamb Prize in Political Science, November 1, 2024 – February 10, 2025.

Book Reviewer. *Empirical Research and Writing: A Political Science Student's Practical Guide (2e)*. Cambridge University Press, August 20, 2024.

Book Reviewer. *Public Opinion: Democratic Ideals, Democratic Practice (5e)* by Clawson and Oxley. CQ Press, May 17, 2024.

Paper Discussant. Southern Political Science Association, January 12, 2024.

Attendee. Institute for Civically Engaged Research, Roundtable on Civic Engagement. American Political Science Association, July 13, 2023.

Mentor. LBJ Mentorship Program, University of Texas at Austin, 2020 – 2021.

Co-planner and event logistics. Stories Beyond Borders - Film Screening and Panel, October 22, 2019.

Planning Committee Member and Event Personnel. Midterm Election Night Watch Party. McLennan Community College, November 6, 2018.

Election Program Manager. Texas Tech Waco. Planned and coordinated faculty and staff team to table election day information and transportation to polling site, November 6, 2018.

Planning Committee Member and Event Personnel. Presidential Election Night Watch Party. McLennan Community College, November 8, 2016.

Community

Member. Waco Foundation, The Forever Fund. A group of young Wacoans dedicated to fostering a culture of philanthropy and giving back to our community. Built a membership of 200 members in first year and awarded the first grant to Transformation Waco, and the second grant to The Cove. September 16, 2024 – Present.

Chairperson. Central Texas Economic Justice Fund, June 5, 2022 – Present.

Committee Member, League of Women Voters of Waco, January 2020 – Present.

Pro Bono Consultant on Nonprofit Formation. Society for Research in Human Development, September 13, 2024.

Texas Voter Guide Sponsor. League of Women Voters of Texas, September 6, 2024.

City of Waco Equal Employment Opportunity Advisory Committee, City Council Nominated and Approved.
Vice President, October 30, 2023 – May 1, 2024.
Member, October 1, 2020 – October 30, 2023.

Board Member. Wild Imaginings, May 17, 2020 – August 3, 2023.

Board Member. Waco Immigrants Alliance. Leadership Team, then Board Member, August 15, 2015- May 1, 2023.

Task Force Member. Change Waco, Task Force Member, July 1, 2021 – December 30, 2022.

Waco Immigrants Alliance, Waco, TX.

Board Member, December 2, 2017 – January 3, 2022.
Leadership Team, August 15, 2015 – December 2, 2017.

Community Participant. Out on the Brazos, October 8, 2022.

Trustee Member. Friends of the Archer Center Trust, August 1, 2018 – August 31, 2019.

Photographed and managed social media for the hosting agency. El Paso Firme - A Vigil in Solidarity with El Paso. August 7, 2019.

Program Coordinator. Families Belong Together Community Event. Worked event, coordinated logistics, and photographed, June 15, 2019.

LICENSURES AND CERTIFICATIONS

Human Subjects Research, Social and Behavioral Certification, CITI Group, 2023 – 2026.
Human Subjects Research, Basic, CITI Group, 2023 – 2026.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

Archer Fellow Alumni Association, 2008 – Present
Leadership Plenty Institute, Alumni Network Member, 2017 – Present
Midwest Political Science Association, 2018 – Present
Southern Political Science Association, 2023 – Present