

Jonathan W. A. Ruff

Ph.D., MPA

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Updated August 2026

Academic and Administrative Appointments

2025-present. Assistant Professor of Political Science. South Dakota State University, School of American and Global Studies, Brookings, South Dakota.

2025-present. Coordinator, Mike Huether Public Service Academy. South Dakota State University, Brookings, South Dakota.

2024-2025. Adjunct Professor of Political Science. Oregon State University, School of Public Policy, Corvallis, Oregon.

2018-2022. Doctoral Fellow and Instructor of Record in Political Science. Oregon State University, School of Public Policy, Corvallis, Oregon.

2017. Instructor of Record in Research Methods. Montana State University, Department of Political Science, Bozeman, Montana.

Education

2023. Doctor of Philosophy in Public Policy, Science and Technology Policy. Oregon State University, Corvallis, Oregon.

Dissertation: A Narrative Policy Framework Analysis of U.S. Space-Defense Policy and the Operationalization of Plot.

2017. Master of Public Administration. Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.

Thesis: Commercial Space Available: A Review of Special Interest Group Influence on Commercial Space Policy.

2013. Bachelor of Science in Psychology. Colorado State University, Fort Collins, Colorado.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

- **Ruff, Jonathan W. A.** 2025. "Structure, Valence, and Causality: A Scoping Review of Plot Concepts and Measurements in the Narrative Policy Framework." *Policy Studies Journal*. DOI: [10.1111/psj.70066](https://doi.org/10.1111/psj.70066).
- **Ruff, Jonathan W. A.**, Gregory Stelmach, and Michael D. Jones. 2022. "Space for Stories: Legislative Narratives and the Establishment of the U.S. Space Force." *Policy Sciences* 55: 509-553. DOI: [10.1007/s11077-022-09455-5](https://doi.org/10.1007/s11077-022-09455-5).

Non-Refereed Publications

- Frederick, T., and **Jonathan W. A. Ruff**. 2021. *Global Ties, Local Memories: La Virgen de Luna - A Patron Saint of Astronauts*. NASA History Office.

Manuscript Under Revision

- **Ruff, Jonathan W. A.** "In Defense of the Politics-Administration Dichotomy: An Analysis of Elected and Administrative Space Force Narratives." Revise and resubmit, *Review of Policy Research*.

Manuscripts in Preparation

- Jeshke, N., **Ruff, J.W.A.**, McGovern, R. and Schugurensky, A. "Reliability in the Narrative Policy Framework" Research Note. Anticipate submission to *Policy Studies Journal* in September 2026.
- Black, C. and **Ruff, J.W.A.** "From Execution to Orchestration: State Capacity in a Privatizing Policy Subsystem" Anticipate submission to *Policy Design & Practice* in October 2026.

Awards and Honors

Grant Support

2026. **Open Educational Resources Grant**. South Dakota State University.

Honors and Fellowships

2022-2023. **Public Service Fellowship**. Hatfield School of Government, Portland State University.

2017. **Outstanding Master of Public Administration Student Award**. Montana State University.

2016-17. **Graduate Teaching and Research Assistantship**. Montana State University.

Teaching

Graduate Courses

- Understanding Social Research
- Qualitative Research Methods
- Research Methods II

Undergraduate Courses

- Introduction to American Government
- American Civics
- State and Local Government
- Public Administration
- Science and Politics
- Politics of Climate Change
- Public Policy Problems
- Introduction to International Relations
- Political Science Capstone

Institutional and Professional Service

Institutional Service

2025-present. **Coordinator, Mike Huether Public Service Academy.** South Dakota State University.

2025-present. **Internship Coordinator, School of American and Global Studies.** South Dakota State University.

2025 – present. **Library Representative, School of American and Global Studies.** South Dakota State University.

2020-2021. **Doctoral student representative, School of Public Policy.** Oregon State University.

Peer Review

2020-present. Ad hoc reviewer for *Public Policy and Administration*; *Policy Studies Journal*; *Review of Policy Research*; *Defense Studies*; and *Policy Sciences*.

Editorial Contributions

- 2024. *NASA and the American South*. Edited by Brian Odom and Stephen Waring.
- 2022. *A Wartime Necessity: The National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics (NACA) and Other National Aeronautical Research Organizations' Efforts at Innovation During World War II*. Alex Spencer.
- 2021. *50 Years of Solar System Exploration: Historical Perspectives*. Linda Billings.

- 2017. *Revitalization of Indigenous Languages*. Cogent Education special collection.

Conference Activity

Conference Presentations

- 2026. "Role-based Storytelling: Narrative Form and the Politics-Administration Dichotomy in US Space Defense." Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA). Chicago, IL. April.
- 2026. "In Defense of the Politics-Administration Dichotomy: An analysis of elected and administrative Space Force Narratives" Conference on Policy Process Research (COPPR) Bern, Switzerland. January.
- 2025. "Structure, Valence, and Causality: A Scoping Review of Plot Concepts and Measurements in the Narrative Policy Framework." Narrative Policy Framework Community Meetings, Omaha, NE. October.
- 2025. "Structure, Valence, and Causality: A Scoping Review of Plot Concepts and Measurements in the Narrative Policy Framework." International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP7), Chiang Mai, Thailand. July.
- 2025. "In Defense of the Politics-Administration Dichotomy: An Analysis of Political and Administrative Space Force Narratives." International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP7), Chiang Mai, Thailand. July.
- 2023. "The Plot Thickens: A Scoping Review of Narrative Policy Framework Scholarship on Plot." Conference on Policy Process Research, Denver, CO. January.
- 2021. "Space for Stories: Legislative Narratives and the Development of the U.S. Space Force." International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP5), Barcelona, Spain. June.
- 2021. "Space for Stories: Legislative Narratives and the Development of the U.S. Space Force." Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, IL. April.

Conference Leadership

- 2026. Chair, "New Frontiers in the NPF." Conference on Policy Process Research (COPPR) Bern, Switzerland, January.
- 2025. Co-chair, "Exploring the Final Frontier: Emerging Trends and Interdisciplinary Approaches in Space Policy and Governance Research." International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP7), Chiang Mai, Thailand, July.
- 2025. Co-chair, "Narrative Policy Framework: Theory, Concepts, Methods, and Practice." International Conference on Public Policy (ICPP7), Chiang Mai, Thailand, July.

Recent Professional Development

June-July 2026. South Dakota State University Instructional Design Course Enhancement Institute.

March 2026. NextGen Service Corps Annual Member Support Retreat.

May 2026. NextGen Service Corps Member Support Workshop.

November 2025. NextGen Service Corps Member Support Workshop.

April 2025. NextGen Service Corps Annual Member Support Retreat.

Relevant Professional Experience

Government

August 2022-December 2024. **Program Technician.** Oregon Metro Regional Government, Portland, Oregon.

January-May 2021. **Intern, History Program Office.** NASA Headquarters, Washington, D.C.

Research Laboratory

May 2017-August 2018. **Project Manager, HELPS Lab.** Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.

Professional Memberships

2021-present. **Midwest Political Science Association.**

2021-present. **International Public Policy Association.**