

Elizabeth L. Thom

 lizthom.com |  ethom@northwestern.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Northwestern University

College Fellow

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Evanston, IL

2025 – 2026

2026 –

- Joint appointment with the Program in Environmental Policy and Culture
- Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research

EDUCATION

Harvard University

Ph.D. in Government & Social Policy

Cambridge, MA

May 2025

University of Oxford

M.Sc. in Comparative Social Policy

Oxford, United Kingdom

November 2017

University of Pennsylvania

B.A. in Political Science and Hispanic Studies

Philadelphia, PA

May 2014

- *Summa Cum Laude*, Phi Beta Kappa, Distinction in Political Science

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social policy, inequality, and American political economy; energy and climate change; mixed methods.

PUBLICATIONS

Thom, Elizabeth and Theda Skocpol, “Trump’s Trump: Lou Barletta and Anti-Immigrant Politics in Pennsylvania” in *Upending American Politics: Polarizing Parties, Ideological Elites, and Citizen Activists from the Tea Party to the Anti-Trump Resistance*, ed. Theda Skocpol and Caroline Tervo. Oxford University Press, 2020.

Dionne, E.J. and **Elizabeth Thom**. “The Way Forward: Progressive Problems, Progressive Hopes,” in *Progressivism in America: Past, Present and Future*, ed. John M. Thomson and David Woolner. Oxford University Press, 2015.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Withering On The Vine: Political and Policy Lessons from Extractive Industry Decline” (book project).

“The Political Consequences of Policy Concentration: Policy Feedback at the Community Level.”

“The Politics of Delay: Challenges and Opportunities for Building America’s Energy Infrastructure” with Stephen Ansolabehere, Parrish Bergquist, and Quinn Lewis (book project).

“Roll Back of the Biden Administration’s Clean Energy Policies: Making Sense of Patterns of Durability and Change” with Parrish Bergquist, Sara Constantino, and Eric Patashnik.

“LIHEAP and the Political Economy of Energy Insecurity in the United States” with Meredith Dost and Sarah James.

OTHER WRITING

Select chapters from "Crossed Wires: The Development of High-Voltage Transmission Lines in the United States," and "How Grid Projects Get Stuck: Four Cases in Long-Distance Transmission Development in the United States," *MIT Roosevelt Project and Harvard Salata Institute*. June, 2024.

"Challenges and Opportunities in a Diversified Society," in "A Low Carbon Energy Transition in Southwest Pennsylvania," *Roosevelt Project and MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research*. November, 2021.

Ansolabehere, Stephen, **Thom, Elizabeth** and Dustin Tingley, "Public Attitudes on Energy and the Climate," *Roosevelt Project and MIT Center for Energy and Environmental Policy Research*. September, 2020.

"New survey reveals an anxious and nostalgic America going into the 2016 election," *Brookings Institution FixGov Blog*. November 18, 2015.

GRANTS & AWARDS

Energy & Environment Co-PI Grant Recipient (\$750,000), Alfred P. Sloan Foundation	2026
Harold D. Lasswell Award for Best Dissertation in the field of Public Policy, American Political Science Association	2026
Best Dissertation in American Political Economy, American Political Science Association	2026
Senator Charles Sumner Dissertation Prize, Government Department, Harvard University	2025
Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University	2024
Sid Verba Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Teaching, Harvard Government Department	2023
Weatherhead Research Cluster on Business and Government Research Grant, Harvard University	2023
Stone Program in Wealth Distribution, Inequality, and Social Policy Research Grant, Harvard Kennedy School	2022
Division of Social Sciences Fund Research Grant, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences	2022
Graduate Society Summer Predissertation Fellowship, Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences	2021
Graduate Seed Grant, Center for American Political Studies, Harvard University	2019, 2020
Malcolm Hewitt Wiener Ph.D. Fellowship in Poverty and Justice, Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality & Social Policy, Harvard University	2019
Thouron Award U.K. Graduate Scholarship	2016-17

INVITED TALKS

Northwestern Energy Innovation and Emerging Technologies Conference	2026
Northwestern Energy Innovation Lab Faculty Spotlight	2026
Harvard Salata Institute Grid Engineering & Social Sciences Conference	2025
Harvard Voices on Climate Change: Building the U.S. Power Grid for AI and Clean Energy	2024
MIT Energy Initiative Annual Research Conference	2024
Weatherhead Research Cluster on Climate Change	2024
Harvard University Center for the Environment	2021

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2026, 2024, 2023
Consortium on the American Political Economy Annual Conference	2024
Climate Pipeline Project Annual Conference	2024
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2026, 2025, 2024, 2023, 2020
Journal of Policy History Annual Conference	2024

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer, *Perspectives On Politics*

APSA 2025 Best Paper Award Committee, Class & Inequality Section

OTHER SKILLS & AFFILIATIONS

- *Affiliations:* Salata Institute for Climate and Sustainability, Institute for Quantitative Social Science (IQSS), American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management.
- *Languages:* Spanish Proficiency.

REFERENCES

Theda Skocpol

Victor S. Thomas Professor of Government
and Sociology
Harvard University
617-496-0966
skocpol@fas.harvard.edu

Stephen Ansolabehere

Frank G. Thompson Professor of Government
Harvard University
617-495-2097
sda@gov.harvard.edu

Daniel Carpenter

Allie S. Freed Professor of Government
and Departmental Chair
Harvard University
617-495-8280
dcarpenter@gov.harvard.edu

Stephanie Ternullo

Assistant Professor of Government
Harvard University
617-495-2097
sternullo@fas.harvard.edu