

**Elizabeth C. Matto, Ph.D.**

**Work Address**

Eagleton Institute of Politics  
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**Fields of Specialization**

Youth political and civic engagement, civic education, political participation, teaching and learning, interest groups, political parties, elections, political theory

**Education**

Ph.D. The Department of Political Science. The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. May 2000. Dissertation title: "Mobilization by Interest Groups for Congressional Elections," under the direction of John R. Wright.

M.Phil. The Department of Political Science. The George Washington University, Washington, D.C. June 1996.

B.A. Political Science and American Studies. Mount St. Mary's College, Los Angeles, CA. May 1992. Summa cum laude. Honors thesis title: "Application of the Views on Expression of Plato and John Stuart Mill to Contemporary Versions of Censorship," under the direction of Sharon Crasnow.

**Scholarship & Publications**

**Books**

*Citizen Now: Engaging in Politics and Democracy* (Manchester University Press, Fall 2017).

*Teaching Civic Engagement Across the Disciplines*, lead editor with Alison Rios Millett McCartney, Elizabeth A. Bennion, and Dick Simpson (American Political Science Association, 2017).

**Articles and Book Chapters**

Matto, Elizabeth C., and Mary McHugh. "Civic Engagement Centers & Institutes: Promising Routes for Teaching Lessons in Citizenship to Students of All Disciplines," in *Teaching Civic Engagement Across the Disciplines*, lead editor with Alison Rios Millett McCartney, Elizabeth A. Bennion, and Dick Simpson (American Political Science Association, 2017).

"Civic Spotlight: Teaching Political Engagement Inside and Outside the Classroom," *The Civic Educator* (November 19, 2017) <http://civiceducator.org/civic-spotlight-rutgers/>.

Matto, Elizabeth C., and Tim Vercellotti. "The Role of Media Use in the Classroom and at Home in Improving News Consumption and Political Knowledge," *Journal of Political Science Education*, Volume 12, 2 (April-June 2016) 151-168.

"The American Electoral Process: A Never-ending "Teachable Moment", *e-Journal of Public Affairs*, Volume 5, 2 (2016): <http://ejournal.missouristate.edu/index.php/ejournal/issue/view/15>.

Online companion to *Teaching Civic Engagement: From Student to Active Citizen*, editor (American Political Science Association, 2013), <http://community.apsanet.org/teachingcivicengagement/home>.

"Civics Lessons Under the Gold Dome," *School Leader*, Volume 45, 3 (November/December 2014) (with Sarah M. Schmidt).

"RU Ready - Extending Political Learning Outside the Classroom and into the Community" *PS Educator*, Volume 18, Issue 2 (Summer/Fall 2014).

Matto, Elizabeth C., and Tim Vercellotti. "Methodological Lessons Learned from Conducting Research in High Schools," *PS: Political Science and Politics* 45(4) (October 2012): 728-735.

"2013 APSA Teaching and Learning Conference and Track Summary. Civic Engagement II: Impact on Political Behavior," *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 46, pp 643-663. (with Elizabeth A. Bennion and Sharon Davis).

"The Classroom-Kitchen Table Connection: The Effects of Political Discussion on Youth Knowledge and Efficacy," The Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE), [civicyouth.org](http://civicyouth.org) (August 2010) (with Tim Vercellotti).

"Introduction: The Changing Face of the American Electoral Landscape" in *New Race Politics: Understanding Minority and Immigrant Voting*, edited by Jane Junn and Kerry L. Haynie (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2008) (with Jane Junn).

### Webinars

"Engaging Young Adults in the Midterm Elections and Beyond," New Jersey Campus Compact (September 10, 2018)

"Revitalizing Civics Education in American Schools," National Conference of State Legislatures (July 11, 2018)

"Teaching Civic Engagement Across the Disciplines," American Association of State Colleges and Universities *American Democracy Project* (November 1, 2017) (with Allison Rios Millett McCartney, Elizabeth Bennion, and Dick Simpson)

<https://aascu.adobeconnect.com/p99233xrbrve/?launcher=false&fcsContent=true&pbMode=norma>

## Podcasts

"Will #NeverAgain Bring Lasting Change?" *How Do We Fix It?: A Repair Manual for the Real World* (March 1, 2018) <http://www.howdowefixit.me/podcast-page-1a/neveragain>.

## Opinion

"Teaching Civic Engagement," *The Baltimore Sun* (September 19, 2017) (with Allison Rios Millett McCartney).

"Millennials and 2016 Elections -An Opportunity Not to Be Wasted," *NJ Spotlight* (October 19, 2015) <http://www.njspotlight.com/stories/15/10/18/op-ed-millennials-and-2016-elections-an-opportunity-not-to-be-wasted/>.

"Connect Young Voters to Political Process," *New Jersey Star-Ledger* (August 31, 2012).

## **Awards and Honors**

Recipient, American Political Science Association Member of the Month, May 2017.

Recipient, Craig L. Brians Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Mentorship, American Political Science Association, 2016.

Nominee, Malcolm Jewell Memorial Award - Southern Political Science Association. October 28-31, 1998. Panel: Interest Groups' Strategies at the State and Federal Level.

University Fellowship. The George Washington University. Spring 1993-Spring 1996.

President's Award. Mount St. Mary's College. May 1992.

Recipient, Joan M. Todd Award for Excellence in History/Political Science. Mount St. Mary's College. May 1992.

Recipient, The Harry S. Truman Award. 1990.

## **Teaching Positions**

Associate Research Professor. Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. Spring 2017-Present.  
Instructor for Internship in Political Science (Course 481/482), Topics in Political Science: Citizenship & Civic Engagement (250/251), and Practice of Politics/Undergraduate Associates (428).

Assistant Research Professor. Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. Fall 2009-Spring 2017.  
Instructor for Internship in Political Science (Course 481/482), Topics in Political Science: Citizenship & Civic Engagement (250/251), and Practice of Politics/Undergraduate Associates (428).

Research Associate. Eagleton Institute of Politics, Rutgers University. Fall 2006-Fall 2009, Summer 2003-Summer 2005.

Lecturer. Princeton University. Spring 2002. Course: Politics and Religion.

Lecturer. Princeton University. Fall 2001. Course: Political Philosophy.

Visiting Instructor. Temple University. Spring 2000. Courses: American Party System; American State and Local Politics; Individual, Race and American Political Life.

Visiting Instructor. Temple University. Fall 1999. Courses: Introduction to Political Philosophy; Campaigns, Elections, and the Media; Individual, Race, and American Political Life.

Adjunct Professor. The George Washington University. Spring 1999. Course: Introduction to American Politics.

Adjunct Professor. The George Washington University. Fall 1998. Course: U.S. Political Parties and Politics.

Teaching Assistant. The George Washington University. Fall 1993-Spring 1994, Fall 1995-Fall 1996. Course: Introduction to American Politics.

### **Public Service & Education, Applied Research**

Director, Center for Youth Political Participation Program (CYPP) (formerly Youth Political Participation Program), Eagleton Institute of Politics, Fall 2006-Present

- Responsible for articulating the program's vision, bringing vision to life, and securing funding for all CYPP projects.
- Created and administer the Center Youth Political Participation Internship in the Department of Political Science program (Course 481/482).
- Responsible for media requests regarding youth civic and political engagement and have been featured in local, state, national, and international media. Also maintain the Center for Youth Political Participation website (cypp.rutgers.edu) and social media platforms.

Director, Darien Civic Engagement Project, 2012-Present

- The Darien Civic Engagement Project brings together students with a shared passion for political learning and action. Students consider American political thought in relation to contemporary politics and complement their study with hands on experiences that allow them to put the theory of politics into practice.
- Serve as co-principal investigator for research studying the effects of the project on students' political knowledge, skills, and attitudes.

#### Project Director, RU Ready, Winter 2007-Present

- Created the project and piloted it in New Brunswick and Perth Amboy High Schools with a grant from the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation in the fall of 2007.
- RU Ready is an initiative designed to provide high school students in economically challenged communities with the encouragement and tools to be civically-engaged.
- As part of a collaboration with Rutgers University's Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, mentored doctoral student Matt Strobel and worked with him to pilot RU Ready in schools within Middlesex Regional Educational Services Commission that serve young people with emotional and behavioral disabilities. 2007-2008 academic year.
- Serve as principal investigator for qualitative research studying the effectiveness of RU Ready and exploring the contours of political efficacy among the students exposed to the program.

#### Project Director, RU Voting, Fall 2006-Present

- RU Voting is an initiative to register, educate, and mobilize Rutgers students to participate in local, state, and national elections. Work includes conducting registration and get-out-the-vote drives, hosting debate watches and public forums, maintaining the RU Voting website.
- Rutgers University-New Brunswick's representative for voter engagement efforts including Students Learn Students Vote, the All in Voting Challenge, the Big Ten Voting Challenge, and New Jersey's Ballot Bowl.
- Eagleton's administrative representative for the National Campaign for Civic and Political Engagement, Harvard University's Institute of Politics. The National Campaign consists of a collection of over 20 colleges and universities from around the country.
- Principal investigator for an original qualitative research project entitled "What RU Thinking?" – a series of focus groups with Rutgers students designed to better understand the contours of political and civic engagement and the attitudes underlying such behavior.

#### Project Director, Young Elected Leaders Project, Fall 2006-Present

- Launched in 2002 with funding from the Pew Charitable Trusts, the Young Elected Leaders Project (YELP) studies and works with young people who run for public office. With this work, Eagleton constructed a database of young elected officials; conducted a survey of young elected leaders regarding their background and leadership experience; convened a conference of young leaders in May 2003; and issued a report entitled *Political Generation Next: America's Young Elected Leaders*. Serve as principal investigator on current YELP research.
- As extension of Young Elected Leaders Project and in partnership with the League of Women Voters of New Jersey's Young Peoples Network, piloted *RU Running?*, a campaign training for college students. Spring 2016.

#### Other

Co-Chair, Division 10: Political Science Education, 2019 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.

Member, Rutgers University Senate, representing New Brunswick Campus Research Centers, Bureaus, and Institutes, July 1, 2017-June 30, 2020. Co-Chair, Student Affairs Committee, July 1-2018-June 30, 2019.

Member, School of Arts and Sciences Honors Program Faculty Mentor Program, 2017-present.

Member, RU CARES (Community, Action, Respect, Engagement, and Service) Working Group, The Collaborative Center for Community-Based Research and Service, Rutgers University.

Co-Chair, Teaching and Learning Conference Program Committee, 2018 American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference.

Member, Teaching and Learning Conference Program Committee, 2017 American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference.

Chair, Rutgers-Eagleton Washington Internship Award Program Selection Committee, 2016-present.

Member, Eagleton Fellows Selection Committee, Eagleton Institute of Politics, Spring 2018.

Member, Undergraduate Associates Selection Committee, Eagleton Institute of Politics, 2011-present.

Member, Collaborative Faculty Council, Rutgers University. September 2015-present.

Editorial Board, *Journal of Political Science Education*. Summer 2017-present.

Editorial Board, *Collaborations: Journal of Community-Based Research and Practice*.

Participating Faculty, Aresty Research Center. 2010-2011 – present.

Consultant, documentary "We the Voters" produced by *Show of Force*. Fall 2015.

Reviewer, *American Politics Research*.

Judge. *Project Citizen & We the People* competitions. New Jersey Center for Civic Education.

Seminar Leader, New Jersey Council for the Humanities Summer Teacher Institute "From the Textbook to the Polling Booth: Politics in Theory and Practice". July 21, 2013 – July 26, 2013.

Dissertation committee member for Matt Strobel, Graduate School of Applied and Professional Psychology, Rutgers University.

Research Associate, Eagleton Institute of Politics' webpage, "America's Newest Voters: Understanding Immigrant and Minority Voting Behavior". The material included data regarding the political participation of minority populations and served as a companion to *New Race Politics: Understanding Minority and Immigrant Voting*, Eds. Jane Junn and Kerry L. Haynie. New York: Cambridge University Press. Summer 2003-2005.

Rapporteur, "Political Generation Next: America's Young Elected Leaders". Eagleton Institute of Politics. May 15-18, 2003.

Academic Advisor. Temple University. Fall 1999-Spring 2000.

Program Coordinator, Next Generation Leadership Program. The George Washington University. Fall 1994-Spring 1995.

### **Conference participation**

#### **Presenter**

- “Centers and Institutes of Civic Engagement: Exploring What They Do and the Role of Politics.” February 2-4, 2018. Presented at the APSA Teaching and Learning Conference with Mary McHugh.
- “Excellence in Pedagogy Roundtable.” August 31-September 3, 2017. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.
- “Teaching Civic Engagement Across the Disciplines Roundtable.” August 31-September 3, 2017. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.
- “RU Ready - Political Learning Outside the Classroom”. September 1-4, 2016. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.
- “Citizen Now: Untangling the Web of Youth Engagement”. November 13-15, 2014. Presented at the annual meeting of the Northeast Political Science Association.
- “The Learning Community: Building a Model for Civic Education and Engagement”. February 7, 2014. Presented at the annual APSA Teaching and Learning Conference with Andrew R. Murphy.
- “The Role of Media Use in the Classroom and at Home in Improving Political Knowledge” January 25, 2013. Presented at the annual APSA Teaching and Learning Conference with Tim Vercellotti.
- “Citizenship in the Millennium: Sketching the Millennial Generation's Conception of Civic Duty and Forecasting Implications”. November 15-17, 2012. Presented at the annual meeting of the Northeast Political Science Association.
- “Passing the Torch: Millennials’ Attitudes Towards Civic and Political Engagement”. November 17-20, 2011. Presented at the annual meeting of the Northeast Political Science Association with Kimberly Martin.
- “More to Us Than You Think: Considering Efficacy in Light of the “Civic Opportunity Gap””. November 11-13, 2010. Presented at the annual meeting of the Northeast Political Science Association.
- “From the Classroom to the Kitchen Table: An Experiment in Building Efficacy”. November 19-21, 2009. Presented at the annual meeting of the Northeast Political Science Association with Tim Vercellotti.

“From the Classroom to the Kitchen Table: An Experiment in Building Youth Political Knowledge and Efficacy”. April 2-5, 2009. Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association with Tim Vercellotti.

“The Media and Women: Covering Women or Covering Mothers?”. August 31-September 3, 2006. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.

“The Politicization of Motherhood: The Increase in Attention Paid to Mothers in Campaigns”. November 17-19, 2005. Presented at the annual meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association.

#### Chair/Discussant

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA. “Teaching Civic Engagement Across the Disciplines in the Twenty-First Century Roundtable” (Chair); “Enhancing Teaching and Learning” (Chair); “Civic Engagement and Democratic Practice” (Discussant) (September 1-4, 2016).

American Political Science Association Teaching and Learning Conference. Washington, D.C. Track: Civic Engagement I. Session C: Student Engagement and Civic Learning (February 17-19, 2012).

Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA. Panel: Socialization and Context Effects on Attitudes and Behavior (November 17-20, 2011).

Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association. Boston, MA. Panel: Interest Groups and Social Movements (November 11-13, 2004).

#### **Grants & Gifts in Support of Programs and Research**

League of Women Voters of New Jersey’s Young People’s Network. Support for *RU Running?*. 2016.

Fund for Civic Engagement and Education. Research support for RU Voting and Young Elected Leaders Project. 2013-2014 & 2015-2016.

New Brunswick Public Schools. In-kind and monetary support for RU Ready. September 2007-present.

Office of the President, Rutgers University. Support for RU Voting. 2008-2009 to the present.

Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs. Support for RU Voting. 2014-2015, 2015-2016.

Office of the Vice-President for Student Affairs. Support for RU Voting. 2008-2009 - 2014-2015.

Office of the Dean of Douglass College. Support for RU Voting. 2008-2009, 2011-2012 - 2014-2015.

New Jersey Manufacturers. Support for RU Ready. 2012-2013 - 2014-2015.



New Jersey Education Association. Support for RU Voting. 2008-2009 - 2013-2014. Support for *RU Running?*. 2017.

Office of the Vice-President for Undergraduate Education. Support for RU Voting. 2008-2009 - 2011-2012.

Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation. Project development and support for RU Ready. January 2007 - Summer 2010.

MagyarBank Charitable Foundation. Project support for RU Ready. 2009-2010.

Center for Information and Research on Civic Learning and Engagement (CIRCLE). Support for research project, "The Classroom-Kitchen Table Connection: The Effects of Political Discussion on Youth Knowledge and Efficacy" with co-principal investigator Tim Vercellotti. Grant awarded to Tim Vercellotti in August 2006 and Elizabeth Matto joined as co-principal investigator in 2007.

### **Invited Talks**

Presentation, Scholars Strategy Network, January 18, 2019. "Campus Civic Engagement: Getting Ready for 2020".

Presentation, League of Women Voters, Highland Park, NJ, November 14, 2018. "Preparing Our Next Generation of Informed and Engaged Citizens".

Presentation, Raritan Valley Community College, October 4, 2018. "Getting Out the Vote: Engaging Young Adults in the Midterm Elections and Beyond".

Presentation, League of Women Voters, Princeton, NJ, May 16, 2016. "Engaging Young People in Politics & Voting: An Upbeat Report".

Presentation, League of Women Voters, New Providence NJ, November 17, 2014. "Today's Youth and Politics".

Presentation, New Jersey Social Studies Supervisors Association, Fall 2012. With co-author New Brunswick Public School Social Studies Supervisor Claire Berkowitz, presented *Election 2012 Teaching Resource*.

Presentation, Graduate School of Education, Rutgers University. Delivered presentation regarding the theory and practice of teaching active citizenship to graduate students studying teaching methods. William Fernekes, Professor. March 1, 2012.

Panelist. "Why Voting in the Primaries Matters". Middlesex County College, Political Discussion Club. Panelists: Renee Koubiadis, Citizens Campaign; Honorable Janice Kovach, Mayor of Clinton, NJ.

Presentation, Hunterdon Central Regional High School Board of Education. Delivered a presentation regarding the need for civic and political assessment and preliminary findings of "The Eagleton Assessment" project. January 24, 2011.

Presentation, Social Studies Department of Hunterdon Central Regional High School. Delivered a presentation regarding the need for civic and political assessment and preliminary findings of "The Eagleton Assessment" project. October 4, 2010.

Presentation, New Brunswick Board of Education. Delivered a presentation regarding the RU Ready™ program and effects on civic and political engagement of students. September 21, 2010.

Panel Member. Human Rights Workshop, New Jersey Association on Correction, Middlesex County Resource Center. January 2009-May 2009.

*The Morning After*, Eagleton Institute of Politics, November 5, 2008. Invited to speak about youth voter turnout in the 2008 Presidential election.

Member of panel discussing 2008 Presidential Election, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute at Rutgers University (OLLI-RU) course, Ingrid Reed Instructor, November 2008, Eagleton Institute of Politics.

Featured speaker. "Citizenship, Why It Matters." Old Bridge Library, November 20, 2006.

Moderator. Organized and moderated discussion of voter apathy. Eagleton Institute of Politics. February 10, 2003.