

Julianna J. Thomson

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Education

George Mason University	Expected May 2026
Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science	
Comprehensive Exams: American Government, International Relations	
Committee: Mark J. Rozell (Chair), James P. Pfiffner, Kendrick Kuo, Robert J. McGrath	
Dissertation: Sacred Speech in a Secularizing Society: Congress, the President, and the Politics of Religious Rhetoric	
Villanova University	2022
M.B.A.	
Specialization: Strategic Management	
Dartmouth College	2020
B.A., Religion	
Exchange Program: New College School of Theology, University of Edinburgh	

Additional Training

The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Syracuse University	Scheduled, 2025
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Forthcoming Work

Book Chapters

1. Carty, Thomas J., and **Julianna J. Thomson**. 2025 “Catholic Senators and Abortion Politics: The Cases of Joe Biden and Ted Kennedy.” In *Congress and Religion: The Intersection of Faith and Politics*, edited by David Dulio and Colton Campbell. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner Publishers. - *Forthcoming June 2025*.

Works in Progress

“Sacred Speech: Analyzing the Influence of Congressional Leadership on Religious Rhetoric” with Alena Smith (Stanford University) – *Revised and resubmitted*.

“Challenges to Protecting Religious Freedoms: The Roles of Government and Societal Norms” with Mark J. Rozell (George Mason University) - *Submitted for review*.

The Christian Right: What Everyone Needs to Know with Mark J. Rozell (George Mason University) and Clyde Wilcox (Georgetown University) - *Under contract*.

“The State of NCAA Student Athletes’ Voting, Civic Engagement, and Community Leadership” with Cammie Jo Bolin (University at Albany).

“God and War on Capitol Hill” with Andrew Kenealy (Duke University).

“Leathernecks and Lexicon: Exploring Partisanship in the US Military” with Ryan Pallas (George Mason University).

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record
Religion and the American Presidency, Encore Learning Fall 2024

Research and Work Appointments

Graduate Research Assistant, Schar School of Policy and Government 2022-2026
Research Assistant to Dr. Mark J. Rozell, Dean of the Schar School of Policy and Government

Business Research Fellow, Villanova School of Business 2020-2022
Research Assistant to Dr. Jonathan Doh, Senior Associate Dean for Research
Research Assistant to Dr. Denise Downey, KPMG Endowed Professor in Accounting

Senior Admissions Fellow, Dartmouth College 2019-2020

Research Intern, Council for Advancement and Support of Education 2018

Awards, Fellowships, and Grants

George Mason University

Presidential Scholarship (full tuition and stipend) 2022–2026
Schar School IQMR Grant (\$3025) 2025
May La Due Bishop Book Fund (\$1200) 2024
Schar School Conference Travel Grant (total \$3300) 2023, 2024, 2025

Villanova University

Graduate Research Fellowship (full tuition and stipend) 2020–2022

Dartmouth College

Religion Department Faculty Prize (\$750) 2020
Citation for Meritorious Performance 2019

External

Graduate Student Workshop Grant, ASREC (\$800) 2023
All-Academic First Team, Big East Conference 2021, 2022

Conference Presentations

7. “Presidential Religious Rhetoric and War.” 2025 West Point Social Sciences Seminar, West Point, NY. February 2025. *Paper presentation.*
6. “Leathernecks and Lexicon: Exploring Partisanship in the US Military.” The Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society Canada Conference, Ottawa, Canada. October 2024. *Paper presentation (Virtual).*
5. “Sacred Speech: Analyzing the Influence of Congressional Leadership on Religious Rhetoric.” Society for the Scientific Study of Religion Annual Meeting, Pittsburgh, PA. October 2024. *Paper presentation.*
4. “From Silence to Speech: Women’s Participation in Christian Nationalism.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. September 2024. *Paper presentation.*
3. “Leathernecks and Lexicon: Exploring Partisanship in the US Military.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA. September 2024. *Paper presentation.*
2. “Leathernecks and Lexicon: Exploring Partisanship in the US Military.” US Army War College Civil-Military Relations Center Annual Conference, Carlisle, PA. May 2024. *Paper presentation.*
1. “Faithful Leadership: Analyzing the Influence of Speaker Mike Johnson’s Religious Identity in the House.” Henry Institute Symposium on Religion and Public Life, Grand Rapids, MI. April 2024. *Paper presentation.*

Service and Leadership

Treasurer, Schar PhD Student Association, George Mason University	2024-Present
Consultant, Writing Support Lab, George Mason University	2024-Present
<i>Panel Chair</i>	
West Point Social Sciences Seminar	2025
Henry Symposium on Religion and Public Life	2024
<i>Conference Discussant</i>	
Henry Symposium on Religion and Public Life	2024
<i>Reviewer</i>	
Stearns Center Innovations in Teaching and Learning Conference	2024

Professional Memberships

Political Studies Association	2025-Present
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion	2024-Present
American Political Science Association	2023-Present

Skills

Computing: R, R Markdown, L^AT_EX, Microsoft Suite
Language: English (native), French (basic)

References

Ryan Pallas
Lieutenant Colonel, United States Marine Corps
Commandant of the Marine Corps Strategist Fellow, George Mason University
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