

CURRICULUM VITAE
Colt Jensen

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Academic Appointments

2025 – Current	Assistant Professor , School of Government, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
2024 – 2025	Assistant Professor , Department of Public and Nonprofit Studies, Georgia Southern University

Education

Ph.D. in Public Administration and Policy (2024) University of Georgia
Committee: Eric Zeemering (Chair), Emily Bell, and Katherine Willoughby

Master of Public Administration (2019), Appalachian State University

Master of Arts in Political Science (2019), Appalachian State University
Concentration: United States Government

B.S. in Political Science (2017), Appalachian State University

Research Interests: State and Local Government, Public Management, Rural Governance, Collaborative and Regional Governance, Federalism, Trust in Government, Human Resource Management

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Ryan Lofaro, Elizabeth Bell, and **Colt Jensen**. (2026). Representative Bureaucracy and Administrative Burdens: Exploring the Intersection of Lived Experience, Gender, and Professional Qualities. *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. <https://doi.org/10.1093/jopart/muag018>

Jensen, C. (2026). 40 Years of Rural Research in Public Administration: Definitions, Evidence, and Future Avenues for Research. *Public Administration Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.70084>

Jensen, C. (2026). The Unionization of State Government Employees and the Cost of Government: Re-evaluating an Evolving Relationship. *Administration & Society*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/00953997251415556>

Jaclyn Piatak and **Colt Jensen**. (2026) Safeguarding Merit: Citizen Support for Civil Service Protections Against Political Interference. *Public Administration Review*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/puar.70079>

Colt Jensen and Jaclyn Piatak. (2026). Authoritarian Attitudes and Public Service Motivation: Examining Trust Across Levels of Government in the United States. *The American Review of Public Administration*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02750740261433596>

Nathan Favero, **Colt Jensen**, Minjung Kim, and Jaclyn Piatak. (2025). Which Public Values are Most

Important? Linking Political Ideology and Public Service Motivation to Public Values Preferences. *The American Review of Public Administration*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02750740251367718>

Jensen, C. (2025). Beyond Census Metrics: Toward a More Inclusive Understanding of Rurality and Its Effects on Organizational Capacity in Georgia. *The American Review of Public Administration*. <http://doi.org/10.1177/02750740251355241>

Jensen, C. & Chen, C. (2025). Governing AI in the EU: Public Perception, Policy Dilemmas, and the Path Forward. *Global Public Policy and Governance*. <http://doi.org/10.1007/s43508-025-00114-y>

Piatak, J. S. & **Jensen, C.** (2024). Public Values and Sector Service Delivery Preferences: Public Preferences on Contracting from Simple to Complex Human Services. *Public Administration Review*. <http://doi.org/10.1111/puar.13794>

Jensen, C. & Piatak, J. S. (2024). Public Service Motivation and Trust in Government: An Examination across the Federal, State, and Local Levels in the United States. *The American Review of Public Administration*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/02750740231200449>

Books

Carl Stenberg and **Colt Jensen**, eds. (Anticipated: 2027). *Intergovernmental Relations in Transition: Reflections and Directions (2nd Edition)*. Under contract with Routledge.

Book Chapters

Willoughby, K. G., & **Jensen, C.** (2021). Public Budgeting Mechanics. In B. D. McDonald & M. M. Jordan, *Teaching Public Budgeting and Finance* (1st ed., pp. 51–74). Routledge. <https://doi.org/10.4324/9781003240440-4>

Invited Book Reviews

Jensen, C. (2021). Public Service Motivation and Public Opinion: Examining Antecedents and Attitudes (Elements in Public and Nonprofit Administration), Piatak, Jaclyn, and Holt, Stephen, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2021, 84 pp., \$20.00 (pb), ISBN: 9781108964005. *Public Administration*. <https://doi.org/10.1111/padm.12767>

Professional Technical Reports

Colt Jensen and Selina Ayittah. (2026). “Local Government Collaboration in Georgia: Survey Evidence on Capacity, Staffing, and Intergovernmental Networks.” <https://colt-jensen.github.io/publications/>

Bell, Emily V., **Colt Jensen**, and Megan Mullin. (2021). “The State of Community Water Systems: Pressures, Goals, and Innovations in North Carolina.” <https://www.evbell.com/publications>

Special Issue Introduction and Editorial Assistance – State and Local Government Review

Kimberly Nelson, Eric Zeemering, and **Colt Jensen**. (2023). “Protecting Democracy: Virtual Issue for the 2023 American Society for Public Administration Conference.” https://journals.sagepub.com/topic/collections-slg/slg_1-protecting_democracy/slg

Manuscripts in Progress

Jaclyn Piatak and **Colt Jensen**. Does Leadership Messaging Influence Public Evacuations? Examining Public Compliance and Trust across Levels of Government. (Revise and Resubmit at *Public Management*)

Review)

Colt Jensen. Presidential Vote Share and Municipal Partisan Context: A Five-State Panel Dataset Using VEST Precinct Returns, 2016–2024. (Revise and Resubmit at *Urban Affairs Review*)

Ryan Lofaro, Elizabeth Bell, **Colt Jensen**, and Donald Moynihan. Burdens, Beliefs, and Ballots: How Voting Burdens Undermine Trust and Democratic Participation. (Under Review)

Ryan J. Lofaro, Elizabeth Bell, Frederik Godt-Hansen, and **Colt Jensen**. How Does Outcome Favorability Influence Perceptions of Administrative Burden? (Under Review)

Colt Jensen. Borrowing From Biology: Toward an Ecological Theory of Rural Organizational Capacity and Cooperation. (Under Review)

Teaching Experience

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill – Graduate Level Courses

PUBA 720: Applied Research for Public Administrators II (Quant. Methods) Spring 2027

PUBA 739: Governing Across Boundaries: IGR and Cross-Sector Collaboration Fall 2026

PUBA 751: Local Government Management Spring 2026 (Online)

PUBA 709: Foundations of Public Administration Fall 2025 (Online)

Georgia Southern University – Graduate Level Courses

PBAD 7134: Advanced Management Spring 2025 (Online)

PBAD 7631: Foundations of Public Administration Spring 2025 (Online)

PBAD 7430: Public Human Resource Management Fall 2024

Georgia Southern University – Undergraduate Level Courses

PBAD 3331: Applied Public Management Fall 2024 (Online)

University of Georgia

Instructor of Record: PADP 4200 – Introduction to Local Government Spring 2024

Teaching Assistant: POLS 1101 – American Government Fall 2023

Appalachian State University

Lecturer Fall–Spring: 2018–2019

BUS 2001 – Resume Writing & Professional Development Spring–Summer: 2020 (Online)

Professional Service

Board Member, ASPA Section of Intergovernmental Administration and Management, Current
Committee Member, NASPAA Local Government Management Education Committee, Current
Committee Member, ICMA Academic Relations Committee, Current
Co-Chair, Tribal Relations Working Group, which is housed within ASPA-SIAM, Current

Graduate Student Advisory Board, International Public Management Journal, 2023–2025

Manuscript Reviewer: *Journal of Public Administration Research & Theory*, *Public Administration Review*, *International Public Management Journal*, *Public Performance & Management Review*, *State and Local Government Review*, *Local Government Studies*, *Administration & Society*, *International Journal of Public Administration*, *Global Public Policy and Governance*

Selected Funding and Grants

2026	ICMA – Form of Government Database Creation and Maintenance Grant (\$315k) Lead PI: Dr. Kim Nelson. Co-PIs: Rebecca Fisher-Gabbard, Colt Jensen, and Obed Pasha
2026	ICMA – Structure, Form, and Ethics Call for Proposals: <i>High-Reliability Local Government: Applying Healthcare Organizational Design Principles to Professional County and Municipal Management</i> (\$20k) Sole PI: Colt Jensen
2026	ncIMPACT – GPS NC Faculty Grant: <i>Governing Board Climate Project: Measuring Conflict, Collaboration, and Effective Governance in North Carolina Local Governments</i> (\$10k) Co-PIs: Colt Jensen and Rebecca Fisher-Gabbard
2023	UGA Dept. of Public Administration Dissertation Research Grant (\$3,000)
2022	The Nigro Fellowship for PMRC Travel, University of Georgia (\$1,800)

Honors and Awards

2024	ASPA Founders' Fellow
2024	ASPA-SIAM Donald C. Stone Best Student Paper Award

Professional Affiliations

Public Management Research Association (PMRA)
American Society of Public Administration (ASPA)
 Section of Intergovernmental Administration and Management (ASPA-SIAM)
 Tribal Relations Working Group (ASPA-SIAM-TRWG)
International City/County Management Association (ICMA)
NASPAA Local Government Education Committee

Invited Presentations

Symposium on Trust in Local Government, speaker and co-organizer with Jaclyn Piatak, hosted by the National Academy of Public Administration (NAPA) (5/7/2026), co-sponsored by ICMA, GFOA, NLC, NACo, NRPA, APWA, PSHRA, and IEDC

Homeland Security and Justice Article Club and Emergency Management Community of Practice at the Government Accountability Office (GAO) (4/1/2026) – *Citizen Perspectives on Emergency Preparedness and Response*. Co-authored work presented by Jaclyn Piatak and Robert Hines.

Networks and Governance Lab at the University of Illinois Chicago (1/23/2026) – *Georgia's Service Delivery Strategy Plans as a Complementary Research Opportunity to Iowa's 28E Data*

ASPA Founders' Fellows Webinar (10/14/2025) – *Maximizing Your Mentoring Relationship* (panel with Carl Stenberg, Hillary Knepper, and Georgia Noone-Sherrod)

Conference Presentations

Public Values and Citizens' Perceptions of AI in Service Delivery. PMRC. June 2026. (with Julie Beasley, Minjung Kim, and Jaclyn Piatak)

Working Smart or Burning Out? AI's Influence on Public Servants. PMRC. June 2026. (with Julie Beasley, Leshia Dehart-Davis, and Jongmin Lee)

How Electoral Outcomes Shape Perceived Administrative Burdens in Voting. PMRC. June 2026. (with Elizabeth Bell, Frederik Godt Hansen, and Ryan Lofaro)

Citizens' and Government Telework: How Telework Shapes Government Performance Evaluation. PMRC. June 2026. (with Ju Won Park)

Intergovernmental Innovation: Local-Tribal Collaboration in Practice. ASPA. March 2026. (Moderated panel with Luke Jones, Cheryl Ellenwood, Mitchell Berg, Heather Valdez Freedman, and Alexandra Ferguson Valdes)

The Role of Capacity and Intergovernmental Collaboration in Grant Acquisition Success: Evidence from Georgia Local Governments. ASPA. March 2026. (with Selina Ayittah)

Citizen Preferences for Service Delivery: Trust, Social Capital and Values. ASPA. March 2026. (with Robert Hines, Suzanne Leland, and Jaclyn Piatak)

Who Should Be Responsible for Emergency Response? Examining Trust, Civic Engagement, and Level of Government Preferences. SPSA. January 2026. (with Robert Hines, Suzanne Leland, and Jaclyn Piatak)

Will Citizens Pre-Pay for Adaptation? ABFM. October 2025. (with Robert Hines, Suzanne Leland, and Jaclyn Piatak)

Stigma, Masculinity, and Asking for Help with Administrative Burdens. PMRC. June 2025. (with Shaun Khurana)

Fear or Loathing: Are Government Funding Preferences Driven by Risk Exposure, Values, or Partisanship?. PMRC. June 2025. (with Robert Hines, Suzanne Leland, and Jaclyn Piatak).

Do Burdens Undermine Democracy? How Voting Burdens Impact Democratic Outcomes. PMRC. June 2025. (with Elizabeth Bell and Ryan Lofaro)

The U.S. Department of Energy's State and Tribal Government Work Group: A 35-Year Retrospective. ASPA. Deil Wright Symposium. March 2025. (Moderated panel with Luke Jones and Lenny Powell)

Intergovernmental Collaboration: What Does the Public Want? ASPA. Deil Wright Symposium. March 2025. (with Jay Rickabaugh, Serena Kim, and Jonathan Lubin)

Safeguarding Merit: Citizen Support for Civil Service Protections Against Political Interference. Political Polarization and Its Policy Consequences. Conference. March 2025. (with Jaclyn Piatak)

Authoritarian Personality Attitudes and Public Service Motivation: Exploring Trust in Multilevel Governance. SPSA. January 2025. (with Jaclyn Piatak)

Does Leadership Style Influence Public Evacuations? Examining Public Compliance and Trust across Levels of Government. SPSA. January 2025. (with Jaclyn Piatak)

Safeguarding Merit: Citizen Support for Civil Service Protections Against Political Interference. SECoPA. September 2024. (with Jaclyn Piatak)

40 Years of Rural Research in Public Administration: Conceptualization, Evidence, and Future Avenues for Research. PMRC. June 2024.

40 Years of Rural Research in Public Administration: Evidence and Future Avenues. ASPA. April 2024.

Unpacking the Impact of Rurality on Local Government Capacity: A Multidimensional Analysis of Municipalities and Counties in Georgia. SECoPA. September 2023.

What Should Public Organizations Prioritize? Exploring Different Value Hierarchies among the Public. MPSA. April 2023 (with Nathan Favero, Minjung Kim, and Jaclyn Piatak).

The Urban-Rural Economic Development Divide in Georgia: Understanding Differences in Strategy. ASPA. March 2023.

State-Level Government Employee Wage Spending: Do Labor Unions Move the Needle? ASPA. March 2023.

Rural Local Governments in the United States: Collaboration and Innovation. AoM. August 2022.

Understanding Public Service Delivery Preferences: An Examination of Public Values and Public Service Motivation. PMRC. June 2022 (with Jaclyn Piatak).

The Influence of Public Service Motivation on Trust in Multilevel Governance. IRSPM. April 2022 (with Jaclyn Piatak).

How do Threats of Assault Influence Federal Employee Attitudes about the Workplace? Southern Political Science Conference. January 2022 (with Gene Brewer).

The Influence of Local Government Structure on Multiplex Advice Relationship Formation. SECoPA. September 2021 (with Eric Zeemering).

International Patterns of Learning Disparities Regarding Public Personnel Policies among Public Sector Employees: Evidence from Australia, Canada, the U.S., and the U.K. IPMN. August 2021 (with Gene Brewer).

Languages

Native: English

Advanced: Portuguese