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Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, 2011 (Expected)
Major Field: American Politics
Minor Field: Methodology

Dissertation Topic: Cosponsorship in State Legislatures and Comparative Social Network Analysis

M.A. Political Science, Appalachian State University, 2007
Emphasis: American Politics

B.A. Government, Campbell University, 2003

Research Interests

Legislative Politics
Methodology
Judicial Politics

State and Local Politics
Game Theory
Organized Interests

Publications

“Understanding the Relationship between Health PACs and Health Lobbying in the American States.” (2009) with David Lowery, Virginia Gray, Jennifer Benz, Mary Deason, and Jennifer Sykes. *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*. Winter 2009.

Working Papers

“Wallet Based Redistricting and Multi-Goal Political Parties.” Under Review at *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.

“Mediated Density: The Indirect Relationship Between Public Policy and PACs” with David Lowery, Virginia Gray, Jenny Benz, Mary Deason and Jennifer Sykes. Under Review at *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.

“Experience, Legislative Expertise and Agenda Setting in Legislative Committees.” with Jeff Harden.

“Does Power Pay? Party Control and PAC Contributions in the American States.” with Virginia Gray and David Lowery.

“Network Modularity and Conflict in International Relations.” with Skyler Cranmer, Bruce Desmarais, Peter Mucha and Amanda Traud.

“Tracing Causal Effects in Social Networks.” with Skyler Cranmer and Bruce Desmarais.

“Dynamic Analysis of the International Relations Networks.” with Skyler Cranmer and Bruce Desmarais.

“Public Opinion and the US Court of Appeals: The Case for a Counter-Majoritarian Judicial Branch.” with Jason Windett.

Conference Papers

“Does Power Pay? Party Control and PAC Contributions in the American States.” American Political Science Association, Toronto, ON, Canada. with Virginia Gray and David Lowery. September 2009.

“Asymmetric Information and Agenda Setting in Legislative Committees.” State Politics and Policy Conference Chapel Hill, NC. with Jeff Harden. May 2009.

“Multi-Goal Political Parties and Redistricting.” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 2009.

“Health Care PACs and Policy Space Complexity in State Interest Communities.” State Politics and Policy Conference, Philadelphia, PA. With Virginia Gray, David Lowery, Mary Deason, Jenny Benz, and Jennifer Sykes. May 2008.

“What Do Health PACs Purchase? Policy and Access in State Interest Communities.” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. With Virginia Gray, David Lowery, Mary Deason, Jenny Benz, and Jennifer Sykes. April 3-6, 2008.

“Saliency and Interest Group Access.” Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 12-15, 2007.

“Term Limits and Female Legislators.” Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA. With Phillip Ardoin and Jason Windett. January 4-6, 2007.

“Term Limits and Female Legislators.” North Carolina Political Science Association, High Point University. With Jason Windett. March 31, 2006.

Teaching and Research Experience

Research Assistant, Skyler Cranmer, University of North Carolina, Summer 2009

Teaching Assistant, State and Local Politics, University of North Carolina, Fall 2008—Fall 2009

Research Assistant, Virginia Gray, University of North Carolina, Summer 2007—Present

Honors and Awards

Travel Grant, Graduate and Professional Student Federation, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, 2009.

American Politics Research Group, Summer Research Fellowship, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, 2008.

Q. Whitfield Ayres Fellowship, University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, 2007-2008.

Travel Grant, Office of Student Research, Appalachian State University, Spring 2007.

Travel Grant, Graduate Student Senate, Appalachian State University, Spring 2007

Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honor Society, 2007.

Computer Skills

Intermediate: LaTeX

Intermediate: R

Intermediate: Stata