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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Political Science, University of California, Davis (expected June 2012)
Major Field: American Politics
Minor Fields: International Relations and Political Methodology
- M.A. Russian and East European Studies, University of Kansas, 2004
- B.A. Political Science, University of California, Davis, 2003
- B.A. Russian Language, University of California, Davis, 2003

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Summer 2011 Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis & Collection, University of Essex
Courses: Quantitative Text Analysis, Mathematics for Social Scientists

DISSERTATION

Legislating the Border: Congressional Responses to Immigration

Abstract: My dissertation examines Congressional position-taking and the issue of immigration. In the first section, I demonstrate that there is little evidence members of Congress rely on district preferences to guide their position-taking at the beginning of a bills life. Instead, I show constituent opinion with respect to immigration to be most significant at the roll call stage when the outcome of the legislation has practical policy implications. Second, I turn this question to state legislatures, and examine why states with growing numbers of Hispanic votes and Hispanic representatives still support anti-immigrant policies. The third section provides evidence position-taking behavior varies over time as a function of changes to the national political agenda. The first three sections rely on recorded positions to estimate legislators policy preferences, however, most positions are never recorded. With this in mind, the final essay uses a quantitative approach to text analysis to illustrate a novel way to estimate legislator policy goals.

Committee: Bradford Jones (chair), Erik Engstrom, and Benjamin Highton

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Constituency Opinion and Position Taking on Immigration” (In preparation for submission)

“Working for the Clampdown: Congressional (In)Action and Immigration Position-Taking” (with Bradford S. Jones)

“Who Represents Latinos? Descriptive and Substantive Representation in the United States”

“Putting Time on Their Side: Timing of Cosponsorship in the U.S. House”

“Party Responsiveness at Home and Abroad: Comparing Party-Voter Linkages in Different Issue Areas” (with Debra Lynn Leiter)

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2011 “Who Represents Latinos? Descriptive and Substantive Representation in the Western U.S.” To be presented at the 2011 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association.
- 2011 “Party Responsiveness at Home and Abroad: Comparing Party-Voter Linkages in Different Issue Areas.” Presented at the 2011 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (with Debra Lynn Leiter).
- 2011 “Constituency Opinion and Position Taking on Immigration.” Presented at the 2011 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.
- 2010 “Putting Time on Their Side: The Timing of Cosponsorship Decisions on Immigration in the 109th House.” Presented at the 2010 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.
- 2009 “Threat and Congressional Response to Immigration.” Presented at the 2009 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (with Bradford S. Jones).

INVITED TALKS

- 2011 “Constituency Opinion and Position Taking on Immigration.” Latino Politics Workshop at the Western Political Science Association.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2010-2012 **Associate Instructor**, UC Davis:
California Politics
- 2010-Present **Research Assistant**, UC Davis (Professor Bradford S. Jones)
- 2006-2011 **Teaching Assistant**, UC Davis:
Introduction to American Government (Winter, Spring 2010, Winter, Fall 2011)
Legislative Process (Winter 2009)
Chicano Politics (Winter 2008, Summer 2010, 2011)
The Presidency (Spring 2009)
Introduction to International Relations (Fall 2007, Spring, Fall 2008)
US Foreign Policy (Winter, Summer 2007)
Politics of Global Inequality (Spring 2007)
Theories of International Relations (Summer 2007)
- 2003-2004 **Research Assistant**, University of Kansas (Professor Paul D’Anieri)

TEACHING DEVELOPMENT

- 2010 Teaching Resources Certificate: “Collaborative Connections: Develop a Community of Learners in Your Classroom and Beyond.”
- 2010 Teaching Resources Certificate: “Seminar on College Teaching”

GRANTS & AWARDS

- 2011 Award to attend the University of Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, Department of Political Science and the Institute for Governmental Affairs, UC Davis
- 2009, 2010, 2011 UC Davis, Department of Political Science Travel Grant
- 2008 Faculty-Student Research Fellowship (with Bradford S. Jones), Department of Political Science, UC Davis
- 2006, 2007 Jane Ketchin Bryl Memorial Scholarship

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2010-2011 Graduate Student Representative to the Graduate Affairs Committee, Department of Political Science, UC Davis
- 2009-2011 Peer Mentor, Department of Political Science, UC Davis
- 2008-2009 Graduate Student Representative, Cal Aggie Alumni Association Membership Committee
- 2006-2009 Graduate Student Representative to the Graduate Affairs Committee, Department of Political Science, UC Davis

REFERENCES

Bradford S. Jones, Professor of Political Science, UC Davis: bsjjones@ucdavis.edu

Erik Engstrom, Associate Professor of Political Science, UC Davis: ejengstrom@ucdavis.edu

Benjamin Highton, Associate Professor of Political Science, UC Davis: bhighton@ucdavis.edu