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Academic Positions

Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Vanderbilt University, 2012-2013

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2012
– Fields: American Politics and Political Methodology
M.A. in Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison, 2008
M.A. in Political Science, Lehigh University (Bethlehem, PA), 2005
B.A. in Political Science and Philosophy, Muhlenberg College (Allentown, PA), 2004
– *summa cum laude* with honors in Political Science

Dissertation

Title: The 2008 Presidential Nominating Campaign: Structure, Substance, and Effect

Committee: Byron Shafer (chair), Ken Goldstein, Charles Franklin, Kathy Cramer Walsh, Dhavan Shah

Abstract: My dissertation research analyzes the presidential nominating process from the invisible-primary stage through the general election. Utilizing data on fundraising, media coverage, public opinion polls, and campaign activities such as television advertising and candidate visits, I consider the structure, substance, and effect of the 2008 presidential nominating campaign. In the first empirical chapter, I demonstrate that the total amount of money raised by potential nominees is not the only fundraising variable scholars should consider when taking into account which candidates are viable contenders for their parties' nominations. We should also consider the percentage of contributions that are small (less than \$500) or large (\$2,000 or more). In the second empirical chapter, which focuses on the issue content of television advertisements, I find that candidates who were most successful aired advertisements about a variety of issues. With the third empirical chapter, I find that campaign activities during the nominating contest can affect individual-level behavior during the general election campaign. Ultimately, presidential nominating contests provide unique leverage with which to study how candidates act strategically, how individuals learn during campaigns, and how long campaign effects persist.

Publications

"Narrow Victories and Hard Games: Revisiting the Primary Divisiveness Hypotheses." *American Politics Research* 38:6 (2010), 1052-1071. (with Amber Wichowsky)

"Gauging the Pulse of 'Swingtown'." *CBS News Online* (2004). Available at:
<http://www.cbsnews.com/stories/2004/05/27/politics/main620037.shtml>.

"Disparities in Smoking: Data from the Nashville REACH 2010 Project." *Journal of Ambulatory Care Management* 30:2 (2007), 150-158. (with David Schlundt, Anne Brown, James Pichert, Linda McClellan, Deborah Carpenter, Deborah Blockmon, and Margaret Hargreaves)

Working Papers

“Dollars on the Sidewalk: Should U.S. Presidential Candidates Advertise in Uncontested States?” (with Carly Urban) (under review)

“The Use of Party Brand Labels in Congressional Election Campaigns, 1998-2008.” (with Jacob Neiheisel) (invited to revise and resubmit at *Legislative Studies Quarterly*)

“By Ground or By Air? Voter Mobilization During the 2008 Presidential Campaign” (with Jacob Neiheisel and Matthew Holleque)

Teaching Experience (University of Wisconsin-Madison)

Introduction to Survey Research, Teaching Assistant, Lecturer Leticia Bode (Spring 2012)

Introduction to Political Theory, Head Teaching Assistant, Prof. John Zumbrennen (Fall 2011)

Elections and Voting Behavior, Lecturer with Full Instructional Responsibility (Spring 2011)

Introduction to Political Science, Teaching Assistant for Comm-B sections, Prof. David Canon (Spring 2010)

Washington, DC Internship Class, Teaching Assistant with Full Instructional Responsibility (Spring 2008)

Awards and Honors

Hovland Award for Best Graduate Student Paper, for “Dollars on the Sidewalk: Should U.S. Presidential Candidates Advertise in Uncontested States?” (with Carly Urban) (2011)

Departmental Nominee, L&S Innovation in Teaching Award, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2011)

Teaching Assistant Mentor, Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2011 - 2012)

Communication-B Teaching Assistant Fellow, Writing Across the Curriculum, University of Wisconsin-Madison (Spring 2011)

John Brown and Frances J.B. Mason Scholarship Fund Summer Fellowship (2008): Financial support for students studying American government

Allentown Human Relations Commission Award (2005): Awarded to groups who bridge the gaps between people of different cultures, languages, races, ages, and backgrounds

Phi Beta Kappa (2004)

Verizon Academic All-District College Division At-Large First Team (2004)

Centennial Conference Academic Honor Roll (2002-2004)

Consulting

Marquette Law School Poll, Charles Franklin (January 2012 - Present)

Wisconsin Democracy Campaign, Beverly Speer (May 2011 - December 2011)

PICO National Network, Monica Sommerville (April 2009 - August 2010; May 2011 - October 2011)

Tennessee Equality Project: “Vote No on 1” (August 2006 - September 2006)

Research Experience

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Kathy Cramer Walsh (Summer 2010 - Fall 2010; Summer 2011)

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Andrew Coan (Fall 2009)

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Barry Burden (Spring 2009)

Wisconsin Advertising Project, Ken Goldstein (Spring 2008 - Fall 2008)

University of Wisconsin-Madison, John Coleman (Fall 2007)

National Center for Education Statistics (Washington, DC: Fall 2002)

Muhlenberg College, Christopher Borick (Allentown, PA: Summers 2002, 2003)

Selected Conference Presentations

“Effects of Televised Campaign Advertising: Considering the Accuracy of Retrospective Self-Reports of Media Consumption” Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research (Orlando, FL: May 2012) (with Carly Urban and Ken Goldstein)

“Individual Campaign Contributions and Their Effects in the 2008 Presidential Nominating Contests” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, IL: April 2012)

“Dollars on the Sidewalk: Should U.S. Presidential Candidates Advertise in Uncontested States?” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, IL: April 2011) (with Carly Urban)

“Delayed Suffrage: Female Turnout in the Twentieth Century,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association (New Orleans, LA: January 2009) (with Hannah Goble)

“Process and Outcome Evaluation of the Nashville REACH 2010 Community-Based Participatory Research Project to Reduce Disparities in North Nashville,” Paper presented at the NIH Conference on Understanding and Reducing Health Disparities (Bethesda, MD: October 2006) (with David Schlundt, Linda McClellan, Kushal Patel, and Margaret Hargreaves)

“Act 72: The Big Gamble on Education Funding in Pennsylvania,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Education Finance Association (Denver, CO: March 2006) (with Michele Moser Deegan)

“BethWorks New Development Proposal: A Sociological Perspective,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Applied Sociology and Sociological Practice Association (Philadelphia, PA: August 2005) (with class taught by Judith Lasker)

“Faith in Democracy: Organizational Structures and the Building and Maintenance of Social Capital,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania State Political Science Conference (Scranton, PA: April 2004)

“Saving for a Rainy Day: An Analysis of State Fiscal Management Policies in a Pre-Recession Period,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Pennsylvania State Political Science Conference (Villanova, PA: April 2003) (with Christopher Borick)

Professional Service

American Politics Search Committee, Graduate Student Representative, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2011)

Political Behavior Research Group, Co-Coordinator, University of Wisconsin-Madison (2011 - 2012)

Reviewer for *American Politics Research*

References

Byron Shafer (Advisor), bshafer@polisci.wisc.edu, (608) 263-1909

Kathy Cramer Walsh, kwalsh2@wisc.edu, (608) 265-3579

Ken Goldstein, kmgoldstein@wisc.edu, (608) 263-2390 (On leave Fall 2012)

Charles Franklin, franklin@polisci.wisc.edu, (608) 263-2022 (On leave Fall 2012)

John Zumbunnen, zumbunnen@wisc.edu, (608) 262-5701 (Teaching)

(All University of Wisconsin-Madison, Department of Political Science)

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