

James Rydberg

Curriculum Vita

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Department of Political Science

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Education:

2010 Ph.D. Political Science, University of Iowa. (expected)

2006 M.A., Political Science, University of Iowa.

2004 B.A., Political Science, Western Washington University. (Magna Cum Laude)

Positions Held:

2010: Obermann Graduate Fellow - Obermann Center for Advanced Studies
Funding and training for the development of an applied survey research course

2007-2009: Research Assistant for the University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll

Co-Directed by Dave Redlawsk & Caroline Tolbert

Conducted nine national and state polls. Managed database, conducted preliminary analyses for the press, supervised training, and managed calling.

2009: Research Assistant for Fred Boehmke (Summer)

2005-2006: Research Assistant for Douglas Dion

2002-2004: Founding Fellow – Community Advocacy Support Center (CASCAID)

Organized disparate regional groups for a conference on policy advocacy.

Assisted advocacy groups with advocacy skills such as grant writing, press conferences, talking points, membership maintenance and media relations.

Director: Steve Woods. <http://www.wwucascaid.org/>

Teaching Experience:

2009: Teaching Assistant for Intro to Politics (Douglas Dion, Fall)

2009: Teaching Assistant for State Politics and Policy (Caroline Tolbert, Spring)

2006-2007: Teaching Assistant for Intro to American Politics (Peverill Squire)

2004: Teaching Assistant for Public Policy (Sara Weir, Spring)

2004: Teach-In Lecturer

Researched, prepared, and delivered university-wide lecture on capital punishment. Lecture focused on my work regarding state sovereignty and the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant to Civil and Political Rights.

2004: Panelist: “Five Unresolved Treaties: Responses and Policy Analysis” as a part of ‘Scholars Week’ at Western Washington University.

2003: Forensics Institute Leader and Instructor

Three week summer camp for intensive training in policy debate for HS students
Directed small group research and skill building, lectured advanced high school students, prepared, managed and organized over five thousand pages of evidence on federal ocean policy.

Grants, Scholarships, and Awards:

Prestage-Cook Award, travel grant for Southern Political Science Association Conference - 2010

Obermann Graduate Fellowship, Obermann Graduate Institute on Engagement and the Community - 2010

Best Graduate Student Poster – State Politics & Policy Annual Conference, 2009

Loewenberg Fund – research grant, 2009

Departmental Nomination – Ada Louisa Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship, 2009

Graduate College Summer Fellowship, 2009

Department of Political Science Travel Grant, University of Iowa, 2005-2009

National Science Foundation, EITM scholarship, 2008

Graduate Assistantship, University of Iowa, 2006-2009

Graduate Student Senate, International Travel Grant, 2006

Research Scholar Award, University of Iowa, 2005-2006

Working Papers:

“Measuring Representation: Direct Democracy and Policy Responsiveness in the American States” (under review)

“Representation in the Presence of the Initiative”

“Privatizing War: Private Military Companies and Democratic Control”

“Explaining the Bork Effect: Senate Confirmation Votes & Electoral Politics.”

“State Electoral Institutions and Senatorial Shirking: 1961-2004”

“Democratic Peace and Diversionary Theory: The Electoral Connection”

Dissertation: Representation in the American States

The dissertation examines the effect of institutional design on the quality of representation provided by elected officials to their constituents. I use the American states as a testing ground for the effect of the initiative process. There are two primary contributions of this dissertation. First, I develop a formal model of how voters will select candidates given that voters can alter public policy through a mechanism that bypasses those elected officials. I find that voters are less concerned about the policy aspects of candidates in direct democracy states, but that these voters are more sensitive to their personal characteristics such as gender, attractiveness, and honesty. This is an institutional cause of voters substituting from substantive representation toward descriptive & symbolic representation in their voting behavior.

Second, I generate the estimation procedure to evaluate representation from the formal model. This procedure simultaneously predicts the ideally representative public policy as well as factors that affect the variance around that estimate. It is through this variance around the ideal policy that the quality of representation is measured. This method is uniquely able to directly compare the effects of initiative process with other institutions, such as state legislative professionalism and term limits, as well as incorporate control variables. Final empirical evaluation confirms that the initiative leads to public policy that is more representative of public opinion.

Conference Presentations:

2010 “Institutionally Induced Candidate Selection in the American States” *Southern Political Science Association* (planned)

“Comparing the Role of Economic Voting at the National and Local Levels” (with Frederick Boehmke and Michael Lewis-Beck) *Midwest Political Science Association Conference* (planned)

"Selecting-Out Corruption: Institutionally Induced Candidate Selection in the American States" *Midwest Political Science Association Conference* (planned)

2009 “Measuring Representation” (Poster). *Society for Political Methodology Annual Summer Meeting* (July)

“Candidate Selection and Legislative Representation in the Presence of the Initiative” (Poster). *State Politics and Policy Annual Conference* (May).

Winner - Best Graduate Student Poster Award

“Legislative Responsiveness and the Initiative: A Model Incorporating Voting Behavior in the Presence of Direct Democracy.” *Midwest Political Science Association Conference* (April)

2008 “Institutions Constraining Shirking: A Heteroskedastic Approach.” *Midwest Political Science Association Conference*

2007 “Resource Allocation: Mercenaries or the Army?” (with Gail Buttorff) *Midwest Political Science Association Conference*

“Explaining the Bork Effect: Senate Confirmation Votes & Electoral Politics.” (with Robert J. McGrath) *Midwest Political Science Association Conference*

2006 “Borrowing Executive Legitimacy: Presidents and Ex-Presidents in the Modern Era.” (with Whitney Garrison) *Midwest Political Science Association Conference*

“Privatizing War: Private Military Companies and Democratic Control” (with Gail Buttorff) presented at the *Oceanic Conference on International Studies*, University of Melbourne, Australia

Professional Memberships:

American Political Science Association

Sections: Representation and Electoral Systems, Political Methodology, State Politics and Policy

Midwest Political Science Association

Methodological Skills:

Maximum likelihood programming & estimation, simulation, ideal point estimation, data visualization, literate programming

Software: Stata, R, Calc, SPSS, LaTeX, SAS, html, winbugs, WinCati(Sawtooth)

References:

Frederick J. Boehmke (dissertation chair)
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