

Jonathan R. Cervas

POLITICAL SCIENCE · AMERICAN POLITICS · METHODOLOGY

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EDUCATION

- University of California Irvine** *Irvine, California*
M.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE *May 2018*
- University of Nevada Las Vegas** *Las Vegas, Nevada*
B.A. IN POLITICAL SCIENCE *Sept. 2003 - June 2007*
GPA 3.79
2005 Intern at the Nevada Legislature's Assembly Majority Leader's office.

ADDITIONAL METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING

- Northwestern University** *Chicago, Illinois*
CAUSAL INFERENCE WORKSHOP *June 2017*
- ICPSR - Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research** *Ann Arbor, Michigan*
UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN *Summer 2016*

SKILLS

Software R, Stata, ArcGIS, Maptitude, LaTeX, R, Microsoft Office, SPSS

Research *American Politics, Representation, Geography, Participation, Elections, Public Opinion, Demographics, Spatial Models*
My research has focused on electoral participation, representation, and political behavior with a special emphasis on geographic constraints and spatial aspects of politics.

PUBLICATIONS

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“Are Presidential Inversions Inevitable? – Comparing Eight Counterfactual Rules for Electing the US President”, with Bernard Grofman

Social Science Quarterly – forthcoming

We offer a typology of possible reforms to the Electoral College in terms of changes to its two most important structural features: seat allocations that are not directly proportional to population and winner-take-all outcomes at the state level. This typology allows us to classify four major variants of “reform” to the present Electoral College in a parsimonious fashion. We evaluate these proposals solely in terms of one simple criterion: “Would they be expected to reduce the likelihood of inversions between EC and popular vote outcomes?”. Our results show that inversions from the popular vote happen under all proposed alternatives at nearly the same rate as under the current Electoral College rules, with some proposals actually making inversions more frequent. The major difference between the present EC rule and alternative rules is NOT in frequency of inversions, but it is in which particular years the inversions occur.

“Can State Courts Cure Partisan Gerrymandering: Lessons from League of Women Voters v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania (2018)”, with Bernard Grofman

Election Law Journal – forthcoming

We look toward the applicability of the Pennsylvania court’s approach to other potential partisan gerrymandering challenges brought under state law, especially those in the twelve states whose state constitutions have provisions essentially identical to the one relied upon by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court, and in states with similar provisions.

“Why noncompetitive states are so important for understanding the outcomes of competitive elections: the Electoral College 1868–2016”, with Bernard Grofman

Public Choice – 2017

We offer a new and simple metric for partisan asymmetries in noncompetitive states and show how it can predict the expected closeness of EC outcomes as well or better than the more complex combinatorics measures proposed by Brams and Kilgour (2017).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“Pennsylvania has to draw new congressional districts, but getting rid of gerrymandering will be harder than you think.”, with Bernard Grofman

Washington Post, The Monkey Cage, February 9, 2018 - BLOG

Eliminating gerrymandering is not as straightforward as you might think. We write about how, even using good government criteria, states can still end up with what we term “stealth gerrymanderers”. We differentiate between “neutral” and “fair” maps.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Center for the Study of Democracy Graduate Student Conference

Irvine, California

WITH ANGELA X. OCAMPO (UCLA)

May 2016

“Representation of Non-Eligible Resident Populations in Legislative Bodies”

Western Political Science Association

San Diego, California

ELECTORAL, PARTISAN, AND LEGISLATIVE POLITICS IN POLICYMAKING

March 2015

“Asymmetry in State Grant Distribution: Why Proximity to the State Capital Matters”

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Outstanding Teaching

POLITICAL SCIENCE 21A - INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

Winter 2016

In recognition of excellent teaching as judged by teaching effectiveness scores

ICPSR Summer Program Scholarship

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IRVINE

2016, 2017, 2018

Merit-based grant awarded to attend the prestigious summer quantitative program at the University of Michigan

Summer Session Fellowship Stipend

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA IRVINE, DEPT. OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

REFERENCES

Bernard Grofman

Professor of Political Science, Fellow - American Academy of Arts and Sciences

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TEACHING

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| Intro to Political Science - Comparative Analysis, Charles Smith, Political Science 6A - <i>Evaluations - 6.16/7 Average</i> | Fall 2014 |
| Introduction to American Government, Marty Wattenberg, Political Science 21A - <i>Evaluations - 6.51/7 Average</i> | Winter 2014 |
| Macro Politics, Mark Petracca, Political Science 6B - <i>Evaluations - 6.29/7 Average</i> | Spring 2015 |
| Behavioral Economics, Igor Kopylov, Economics 115 - <i>Evaluations - 5.64/7 Average</i> | Fall 2015 |
| Introduction to American Government, Graeme Boushey, Political Science 21A - <i>Evaluations - 6.46/7 Average</i> | Winter 2016 |
| American Legislator, Congressman John Campbell, Political Science 129 | Spring 2016 |
| California Politics, Honorable William Lockyer, Political Science 122B - <i>Evaluations - NA/7 Average</i> | Fall 2016 |

CLASSES TAKEN

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| American Political Field Seminar, Political Science 219 - <i>Davin Phoenix & Faculty</i> | Fall 2014 |
| Population, Sociology 262A - <i>Susan Brown</i> | Fall 2014 |
| American Politics from a Comparative Perspective, Political Science 219 - <i>Bernie Grofman</i> | Winter 2015 |
| Quantitative Methods, Political Science 229 - <i>Michael Tesler</i> | Winter 2015 |
| Political Participation, Political Science 260B - <i>Carole Uhlaner</i> | Winter 2015 |
| Introduction to Game Theory, Political Science 254A - <i>Marek Kaminski</i> | Spring 2015 |
| Public Choice III, Economics 270C - <i>Ami Glazer</i> | Spring 2015 |
| Public Opinion, Political Science 212A - <i>Michael Tesler</i> | Fall 2015 |
| Statistics I, Political Science 219 - <i>Bernie Grofman</i> | Fall 2015 |
| Race, Ethnicity, and Gender, Political Science 219 - <i>Davin Phoenix</i> | Fall 2015 |
| Collective Action, Political Science 219 - <i>Carole Uhlaner</i> | Fall 2015 |
| Statistics II, Political Science 219 - <i>Bernie Grofman</i> | Winter 2016 |
| Introduction to Voting, Political Science 232A - <i>Marek Kaminski</i> | Winter 2016 |
| Research Logic and Design, Political Science 234A - <i>Carole Uhlaner</i> | Spring 2016 |
| Analysis of Aggregate Survey and Electoral Data (UCSD), Political Science 259 - <i>Gary Jacobson</i> | Spring 2016 |
| Predictive Models, Political Science 276 - <i>Rein Taagepera</i> | Fall 2016 |
| International Relations Theory, Political Science 241B - <i>Etel Solingen</i> | Fall 2017 |