

Jonathan R. Cervas

POLITICAL SCIENCE · AMERICAN POLITICS · METHODOLOGY

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Education

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.

University of California Irvine

Irvine, California

PH.D. GRADUATE STUDENT IN POLITICAL SCIENCE

Sept. 2014 - Present

Research - American Politics, Representation, Geography, Participation, Elections, Public Opinion, Demographics, Spatial Models.

ICPSR - Summer 2016

Skills

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

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

“Why noncompetitive states are so important for understanding the outcomes of competitive elections: the Electoral College 1868–2016”, *Public Choice*, 2017, with Bernard Grofman

JOURNAL ARTICLE

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).

UNDER REVIEW

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

JOURNAL ARTICLE

In *League of Women Voters v. Commonwealth of Pennsylvania* (2018) the Pennsylvania Supreme Court struck down a congressional plan that embodied one of the most egregious partisan gerrymanders of the 2010 redistricting round. Here we examine the ruling and the expert evidence it relied on. We review the key lessons to be learned from this case, and the implications of the case for other jurisdictions, especially those in the twelve states whose state constitutions have provisions similar or identical to the one relied upon by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court.

WORKING PAPERS

“How Malapportioned is the Electoral College? A Multiple Indicators Historical Perspective: 1790-2016”, with Bernard Grofman

JOURNAL ARTICLE

To understand Electoral College effects, and the likelihood that a popular vote majority will not translate into an EC vote majority, we need to distinguish the mechanical (malapportionment related) effects of the Electoral College that apply throughout any given redistricting decade, and effects that are tied to the distribution of the votes across states in a given election.

“The Impact of Alternative Electoral College Rules on Presidential Outcomes: 1868-2016”, with Bernard Grofman

JOURNAL ARTICLE

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“The Dogs that Didn’t Bark: Likelihood of Divergence between the Popular Vote Winner and the Electoral College Vote Winner, 1868-2016”, with Bernard Grofman

JOURNAL ARTICLE

We consider three different ways to think about when to expect a divergence between popular vote outcome and Electoral College (EC) outcome. The key idea is that, in two party competition, when partisan bias is present, a party that receives 50% of the popular vote may not receive a 50% share of EC seats. Additionally, we consider the implications for the likelihood of divergence of some proposed alternative versions of the Electoral College and of a proposal to increase the size of the U.S. House.

“Distinguishing Between the Legacy of Slavery, Racial Threat, and Density in the American South”, with Bernard Grofman

JOURNAL ARTICLE

Recent literature has showed that counties with a historical legacy of slavery contain white voters who are more likely to vote Republican, express racially resentful attitudes, and reject affirmative action. We show that the effect exist only at the county level, but not at the more appropriate state level. Racial Resentment and density provide alternative explanations for the significant relationship.

“Nationalized Campaigns and Midterm Dropoff”

JOURNAL ARTICLE

This paper argues that drop-off differences between congressional districts can be explained by the lack of competitive top-ticket contests and by the withdrawal of significant portions of the Obama coalition. These results suggest that surge and decline in election cycles does not affect each demographic group equally.

“Representation of Non-Eligible Resident Populations in Legislative Bodies”, with Angela X. Ocampo (UCLA)

JOURNAL ARTICLE

The Supreme Court’s recent grant of certiorari in the *Evenwel vs. Abbott* case has renewed interest representation of non-citizen populations in democracy. Non-citizen residents can not vote, which changes the electoral incentive structure for political candidates. Given these incentives, do politicians represent non-citizens?

“Habitual Voting Under Conditions of Gerrymandering”

JOURNAL ARTICLE

This paper looks at the effect of gerrymandering on those populations who are losing representation and simulates turnout in downticket races assuming bayesian updating of propensity to vote. This paper merges theories of habitual voting with empirical data on gerrymandering.

Conference Presentations

Center for the Study of Democracy Graduate Student Conference

Irvine, California

REPRESENTATION OF NON-ELIGIBLE RESIDENT POPULATIONS IN LEGISLATIVE BODIES, WITH ANGELA X. OCMAMPO (UCLA)

May 2016

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

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

Summer 2016

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

Summer 2016

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

References

BERNARD GROFMAN

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

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☎ 949.824.2904

MICHAEL TESLER

Associate Professor of Political Science

5251 SOCIAL SCIENCE PLAZA B, IRVINE CA 92697

✉ mtesler@uci.edu
☎ 949.824.1869

GARY C. JACOBSON

Distinguished Emeritus Professor of Political Science

9500 GILMAN DRIVE, LA JOLLA CA 92093

✉ gjacobso@ucsd.edu
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Teaching

Intro to Political Science - Comparative Analysis, Charles Smith, Political Science 6A -
Evaluations - 6.16/7 Average

Fall 2014

Introduction to American Government, Marty Wattenberg, Political Science 21A - *Evaluations -*
6.51/7 Average

Winter 2014

Macro Politics, Mark Petracca, Political Science 6B - *Evaluations - 6.29/7 Average*

Spring 2015

Behavioral Economics, Igor Kopylov, Economics 115 - *Evaluations - 5.64/7 Average*

Fall 2015

Introduction to American Government, Graeme Boushey, Political Science 21A - *Evaluations -*
6.46/7 Average

Winter 2016

American Legislator, Congressman John Campbell, Political Science 129

Spring 2016

California Politics, Honorable William Lockyer, Political Science 122B - *Evaluations - NA/7 Average*

Fall 2016

Classes Taken

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