

Curriculum Vita
MEGAN M. MOELLER

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DISSERTATION

“Heresthetics, Partisanship, and the Pursuit of Majority Status in an Era of Party Government”

This project investigates how the goal of majority party status affects member decision-making and behavior, party strategy, and the legislative process in the House of Representatives. The theoretical claims are supported by quantitative analyses of several components of the legislative process, using data from the 93rd Congress to the present. The dissertation contributes to our understanding of Congress by exploring the relatively understudied consequences of parties’ and their members’ pursuit of majority status.

Expected Defense Date: May 2015

Committee: Sean Theriault (chair), Bryan Jones, Daron Shaw, Robert Luskin, Stephen Jessee

EDUCATION

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

Ph.D. Candidate, Government

August 2009 - Present

Exam Fields: American Politics, Political Methodology

M.S., Statistics

August 2013

Master’s Report: “Methods for Analyzing Proportions”

Committee: Stephen Jessee, M. Scott Wolford

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

B.A., Political Science

April 2008

ACADEMIC TRAINING

ICPSR, Summer Program

Summer 2011

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

○ Event History Analysis

○ Multi-level Modeling

Summer Statistics Institute

Summer 2012 & 2013

University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX

○ Bayesian Statistics (2012)

○ Applied Text Mining & Text Analysis in R (2013)

PUBLICATIONS

“Polarization in Congress and the Electorate” (with Sean Theriault) in *The American Elections of 2012*, Janet Box-Steffensmeier and Steven Schier (eds.). New York: Routledge. 2013.

“Partisan Polarization in the U.S. Congress” (with Sean Theriault) in *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*. Rick Valelly (ed.) New York: Oxford University Press. 2014. URL: <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199756223/obo-9780199756223-0088.xml>

SCHOLARSHIPS and AWARDS

Tuition Assistance Award, 2009-Present

Government Department, University of Texas. Award includes full tuition, stipend, and health insurance.

Graduate Student Professional Development Award, May 2012.

Department of Statistics and Data Sciences, University of Texas. Travel funds for Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Chicago, IL (\$360).

Department of Government Travel Award, September 2011.

Government Department, University of Texas. Travel funds for American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA (\$300).

Janet Box-Steffensmeier Scholarship, May 2011.

Awarded by the Society for Political Methodology and the ICPSR. Funds for the program scholar fees to attend the ICPSR Summer Program, (\$2,300).

Department of Government ICPSR Award, May 2011.

Government Department, University of Texas. Funds to attend the Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research at ICPSR, University of Michigan (\$1,800).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 2014.

“Party Brand, Valence Issues, and the Goal of Majority Party Status in the House.”
Panel on ‘The Party Brand, Ideology, and Polarization in Legislative Politics.’

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, April 2012.

“The Dynamics of Gender, Ideology, and Public Policy in a Polarized Congress.” Panel on ‘Parties, Groups, and Women Candidates.’

Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Portland, March 2012.

“The Dynamics of Gender, Ideology, and Public Policy in a Polarized Congress.” Panel on ‘Gender, Elections, and the Legislative Process.’

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, September 2011.

“All the Republican Ladies, Now Put Your Hands Up: The Effect of Gender on Ideology in Roll Call Votes.” Panel on ‘Explaining Women’s Success as Candidates and Their Position-Taking as Legislators.’

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, March 2011.

“All the Republican Ladies, Now Put Your Hands Up: The Effect of Gender on Ideology in Roll Call Votes.” Poster session on ‘American Politics.’

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington D.C, September 2010.
“Something For The Ladies: The Impact of Women on the House Judiciary
Committee.” Poster session on ‘American Politics.’

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Dynamics of Gender, Ideology, and Public Policy in a Polarized Congress.” *Working paper.*

“All the Republican Ladies, Now Put Your Hands Up: The Effect of Gender on Ideology in Roll Call Votes.” *Working paper.*

“Equally Ignorant? DK responses and the Gender Gap in Political Knowledge.” (with Luskin, Robert C. and John G. Bullock) *In progress.*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

U.S. Congress, partisan polarization, statistics and quantitative methodology, public policy, American political institutions, gender and politics, formal theory.

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Research Fellow, *Policy Agendas Project* June 2012 - Present
Bryan Jones, Director.
University of Texas at Austin

Research Assistant, *Texas Policy Evaluation Project* August 2011- January 2012
Joseph Potter & Sean Theriault, Principle Investigators
Population Research Center, University of Texas at Austin

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lead Teaching Assistant & Course Manager

Department of Government & Liberal Arts IT Services, *University of Texas at Austin*

- Online American Government (GOV 310) Daron Shaw & Eric McDaniel Fall 2013 & Spring 2014

Supplemental Instructor (SI)

Department of Government & The Jefferson Center, *University of Texas at Austin*

- Constitutional Principles: Equality
- The Catholic Church as a Political Institution (GOV 312) Sean Theriault Spring 2012

Teaching Assistant

Department of Government, *University of Texas at Austin*

Department of Statistics and Data Sciences, *University of Texas at Austin*

Methodology Courses

- Biostatistics (SSC 328), Bindu Viswanathan Summer 2013
- Statistical Analysis Tse-Min Lin Fall 2012
in Political Science (GOV 350) John McIver Fall 2011

American Politics Courses

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|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|
| • U.S. Congress (GOV 370), | Sean Theriault | Spring 2013 & Fall 2009 |
| • Congressional Elections (GOV 312) | Sean Theriault | Fall 2010 |
| • American Government (GOV 310) | Eric McDaniel | Spring 2011 |
| | Jeremy Teigen | Summer 2010 |
| | Bethany Albertson | Spring 2010 |

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Michigan, Peer Academic Advisor Summer Orientation 2008
Newnan Academic Advising Center, Ann Arbor, MI

University of Michigan, Resident Advisor Fall 2006 – Spring 2008
University Housing, Ann Arbor, MI

Triangle Foundation, Policy Intern May 2007 - August 2007
Detroit, MI

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Political Science Association	Member, since 2009
Midwest Political Science Association	Member, since 2010
Western Political Science Association	Member, since 2011
American Statistical Association	Member, since 2012
Pi Sigma Alpha, National Political Science Honor Society	Member, since 2007
Sigma Iota Rho, Honor Society for International Studies	Member, since 2007

GOVERNMENT DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Policy Agendas Project, Working Paper Series Coordinator	Spring 2012 - Present
Graduate Student Organization, Co-President	Fall 2012 - Fall 2013
Prospective Student Host	Spring 2009, 2013
Event Speaker	November 2011
New Student Mentor	Fall 2010, 2012, 2013
Orientation Panel Speaker	August 2011
Methods field Student Contact	March 2012
Math Camp, Methods Panel Speaker	August 2011, 2012, 2013
The Burdine Chronicles (department newsletter), Contributor “Women in the 2012 Elections”	November 2011