

HERSCHEL F. THOMAS

Dept. of Political Science, University of Texas at Arlington
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, University of Texas at Arlington, 2015-

AFFILIATIONS

Health Politics Data Initiative (Co-director), University of Texas at Arlington, 2017-
US Policy Agendas Project (Faculty Affiliate), University of Texas at Austin, 2015-

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Government, University of Texas at Austin, 2015

Fields: Public Policy and American Politics

Dissertation: Contagious Agendas: The Spread of Issue Attention in the Policy Process

Committee: Bryan D. Jones (chair), Frank R. Baumgartner, Christopher Wlezien, Sean M. Theriault,
Brian E. Roberts

M.A. Government, University of Texas at Austin, 2011

M.A. Political Science, Pennsylvania State University, 2009

B.A. Political Science and B.Phil. Information Studies with honors and high distinction, Pennsylvania
State University, 2009

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

The policy process, organized interests and policy advocacy, the politics of public health, revolving door
politics, complex systems, research design and methods, computational analysis

BOOK

LaPira, Timothy M. and Herschel F. Thomas. 2017. *Revolving Door Lobbying: Public Service, Private
Influence, and the Unequal Representation of Interests*. University Press of Kansas.

- Featured in [Roll Call](#); reviewed in *Interest Groups & Advocacy* and *Choice*; invited for inclusion in
National Press Club Book Fair

EDITED SPECIAL ISSUE

Jones, Bryan D. and Herschel F. Thomas (eds.). 2017. Special Issue on Public Policy Processes. *Cognitive
Systems Research*.

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- [10] Thomas, Herschel F. 2017. Modeling Contagion in Policy Systems. *Cognitive Systems Research*, 44: 74-88.
- [9] Thomas, Herschel F. and Timothy M. LaPira. 2017. How Many Lobbyists Are in Washington?: Shadow Lobbying and the Gray Market for Policy Advocacy. *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, 6(3): 199-214.
- [8] Boydston, Amber E., Shaun Bevan, and Herschel F. Thomas. 2014. The Importance of Attention Diversity and How to Measure It. *Policy Studies Journal*, 42(2): 173-196.
- [7] LaPira, Timothy M., Herschel F. Thomas, and Frank R. Baumgartner. 2014. Washington Lobbyists in the Core and on the Periphery. *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, 3(3): 219-245.
- [6] Jones, Bryan D., Herschel F. Thomas, and Michelle Wolfe. 2014. Policy Bubbles. *Policy Studies Journal*, 42(1): 146-171.
- [5] LaPira, Timothy M. and Herschel F. Thomas. 2014. The Revolving Door and Interest Representation. *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, 3(1): 1-26.
- [4] Theriault, Sean M. and Herschel F. Thomas. 2014. The Diffusion of Support for Same-Sex Marriage in the US Senate. *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 47(4): 824-828.
- [3] Halpin, Darren R. and Herschel F. Thomas. 2012. Evaluating the Breadth of Policy Engagement by Organized Interests. *Public Administration*, 90(3): 582-599.
- [2] Halpin, Darren R. and Herschel F. Thomas. 2012. Interest Group Survival: Exploring Mortality Anxiety. *Interest Groups and Advocacy*, 1(2): 215-238.
- [1] Maitland, Carleen, Herschel F. Thomas, and Louis-Marie Ngamassi. 2012. Internet Censorship and the Protection of Human Rights: An Organizational Informatics Perspective. *Journal of Information Technology*, 27(4): 285-300.

WORKS UNDER REVIEW

Recovering from Disasters: Rebuilding Communities and the Social Determinants of Health (with Daniel Sledge)

Gender Politics in the Lobbying Profession (with Kathleen Marchetti and Timothy M. LaPira)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Mobilization of Disease: Disparity and Inequality in the Size of Patient Advocacy Communities (with Herschel S. Nachlis and Daniel Sledge)

The Power of the Party: Conflict Expansion and the Agenda Diversity of Interest Groups (with E.J. Fagan* and Zachary McGee*); *graduate student collaborators

The Interest Group as Lobbying Enterprise (with Timothy M. LaPira, invited for inclusion in *Interest Groups Politics*, 10th ed.)

Opioid Politics: Geography, Ideology, and Public Policy (with Daniel Sledge)

Retrenchment and Resilience: Advocacy Coalitions, Political Debate, and the Fate of Public Policy (with Daniel Sledge, planning of book project in progress)

EXTERNAL FUNDING

- 2018 National Science Foundation: “(Award #1800302) Supplementing State Capacity: Non-State Action and Public-Private Coordination During Times of Crisis” (with Daniel Sledge; \$71,473)
- 2014 The Dirksen Congressional Center (with Timothy M. LaPira; \$3,500)

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

- 2016 UT-Arlington, College of Liberal Arts (From Cure to Care: Advancing Human Well-being through Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (iC2C) Seed Grant): “Mapping the Politics of Public Health: Threat Perception, Advocacy, and Policymaking” (\$8,175, with Daniel Sledge)
- 2015 UT-Austin, Dept. of Government (J.J. Pickle Chair): Intl. Travel Grants (also 2014, 2013; \$5,900 in total)
- 2015 UT-Austin, Graduate School: Professional Development Awards (also 2013, 2012, 2011; \$2,000 in total)
- 2015 UT-Austin, Dept. of Government: Macdonald Dissertation Fellowship, Spring (provides one semester of tuition assistance and stipend of \$8,500, declined)
- 2014 UT-Austin, Dept. of Government: Macdonald Dissertation Fellowship, Fall (provides one semester of tuition assistance and stipend of \$8,500)
- 2014 UT-Austin, Edward A. Clark Center for Australian Studies: Travel/Research Grant (\$4,300)
- 2014 Mannheim Centre for European Social Research: Travel Grant (\$340)
- 2013 The Australian National University, School of Sociology: Travel Grant (\$2,400)
- 2013 Southern Political Science Association: Prestige-Cook Travel Award (\$125)
- 2012 UT-Austin, Dept. of Government: Mel Hinich Fellowship (provided tuition for the Santa Fe Institute’s Graduate Workshop in Computational Social Science Modeling and Complexity; \$1,900)
- 2011 NSF, c/o University of Michigan, Political Networks Conference: Travel/Reg. Award (\$750)
- 2010 NSF, c/o University of Washington, Comparative Agendas Project Annual Meeting: Travel Award (\$500)
- 2009 UT-Austin, Graduate School: Recruitment Fellowship (provided one year of tuition assistance and stipend of \$18,000)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2017 Iowa State University, Carrie Chapman Catt Center for Women and Politics, Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics (honorable mention award): “Gender and Lobbying” (\$1000, with Timothy M. LaPira and Kathleen Marchetti)

- 2013 UT-Austin, Dept. of Government: Departmental Nominee for UT Outstanding Graduate Research Assistant Award
- 2010 National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship Program: Honorable Mention
- 2009 Penn State, Dept. of Political Science: Graduation Marshal for Political Science and International Relations
- 2009 Penn State, Schreyer Honors College: Reddy Mission Award (“given to the graduating Schreyer Scholar who best exemplifies the comprehensive mission of the college”)
- 2008 Phi Beta Kappa

INVITED TALKS/LECTURES

- What Medical Residents Need to Know about the Policy Process, Apr. 10, 2018, UT-Southwestern Medical Center
- Revolving Door Lobbying. University of Texas at Austin, Dec. 8, 2016 (with Timothy M. LaPira)
- Congressional Analytic Capacity and the Political Economy of Revolving Door Lobbying. University of Oklahoma, Nov. 4, 2016
- Thinking Big: How to Establish a Long-Term Research Program (Ph.D. student audience). University of Oklahoma, Nov. 3, 2016
- Contagious Agendas: The Spread of Issue Attention in the Policy Process. University of Texas at Arlington, Department of Political Science, Jan. 28, 2015
- Contagious Agendas: The Spread of Issue Attention in the Policy Process. London School of Economics, Department of Government, Jan. 14, 2015
- The Transparency Policy Failure of Revolving Door Disclosure: Uncovering Patterns of Lobbyists’ Public Service and Private Influence (with Timothy M. LaPira), Sunlight Foundation, Sept. 13, 2012

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Jones, Bryan D. and Herschel F. Thomas. 2017. The Cognitive Underpinnings of Policy Process Studies: Introduction to a Special Issue of Cognitive Systems Research. *Cognitive Systems Research*, 27(4): 285-300.
- Lewallen, Jonathan and Herschel F. Thomas. 2016. Bounded Rationality. In Stephen Schecter (Ed.), *American Governance*. Macmillan Reference.
- Jones, Bryan D. and Herschel F. Thomas. 2012. Bounded Rationality and Public Policy Decision-Making. In E. Araral, S. Fritzen, M. Howlett, M. Ramesh, and X. Wu (Eds.), *Routledge Handbook of Public Policy*. New York, NY: Routledge.

OTHER WRITING

- Trump’s Lobbying Ban Might Actually Make Corruption Worse, *Washington Post*, Monkey Cage. November 23, 2016 (with Timothy M. LaPira)

So What if Congressional Staff Levels are Declining? New America/R Street Institute: Legislative Branch Capacity Working Group, June 27, 2016 (with Timothy M. LaPira)
A Test of Nancy Pelosi's Revolving Door Hypothesis. *Washington Post*, Monkey Cage. February 7, 2014 (with Timothy M. LaPira)
Support for Same-sex Marriage in the US Senate. London School of Economics, United States Politics and Policy Blog, November 11, 2014 (with Sean Theriault)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AND PRESENTATIONS

International Political Science Association, 2018
American Political Science Association, 2018, 2017 (x3), 2016, 2014, 2013, 2011
Midwest Political Science Association, 2018, 2017, 2016 (x2), 2015-2008
Comparative Agendas Project Annual Meeting, 2018, 2017 (x2), 2015, 2014 (x2), 2013, 2010
Southwestern Political Science Association, 2017 (x2)
Southern Political Science Association, 2013 (x2), 2012, 2009,
European Consortium for Political Research, 2016*
US Policy Agendas Project Annual Meeting, 2016
Australian Political Science Association, 2015*
Seminar Series of the Antwerp Centre for Institutions and Multilevel Politics (ACIM), 2015*
Workshop on Interest Group Populations in Comparative Perspective at the Univ. of Hamburg, 2015*
ANZSANA, 2014
Danish Society of Political Science, 2011*
Conference on Communication, Information and Internet Policy (TPRC), 2008

*indicates co-author participation

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Texas at Arlington:

Research Methods and Political Analysis (graduate cross-listed), 2018 (FA; SP), 2017 (FA; SP), 2016 (FA)
Introduction to Public Policy Analysis, 2018 (SP), 2015 (FA)
Interest Groups and Political Advocacy, 2017 (FA)
Political Science Research Lab (graduate cross-listed), 2017 (SP)
Organized Interests in America: Advocacy and Influence (graduate), 2016 (FA)
Government of the United States, 2017 (SU-II; SP), 2016 (SU-I; SU-II; SP, honors cross-listed), 2015 (FA)
Public Policy Analysis (graduate), 2016 (SP)

University of Texas at Austin:

Guest Instructor, Agenda-setting - Graduate, 2014 (Sept. 10)
Guest Instructor, Public Policy Core Seminar - Graduate, 2013 (Feb. 28)
Teaching Assistant, Bethany Albertson, Intro. to American Government, 2011 (SP)

Updated August 2018

Teaching Assistant, Bryan D. Jones, Intro. to Public Policy, 2010 (FA)

STUDENTS MENTORED AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Ph.D.

Rebecca Eissler (UT-Austin, Dissertation Committee Outside Member), 2016-2018; San Francisco State University

Masters

Trevor Owens (Thesis Committee Chair), 2017-

Josue Rodriguez (Thesis Committee Member), 2017-

DeAnne Roark (Thesis Committee Member), 2017-2018

Taiy Battle (Comprehensive Exam Committee Member), 2018

Richard Owen (Comprehensive Exam Committee Member), 2018

Michael Williams (Comprehensive Exam Committee Member), 2018

Kaylyn Carew (Comprehensive Exam Committee Chair), 2017

Liane Phillips (Comprehensive Exam Committee Chair), 2016

Jestin Patton; Michael Williams (New Student Faculty Mentor), 2016-2017

Undergraduate

Maranda Spencer (Honors College, Thesis Supervisor), 2018-

Courtney Pool (Allan Saxe Research Fellows Supervisor & University of Michigan, Emerging Scholars Program, Faculty Mentor), 2017

Alyssa Hernandez (Honors College, Thesis Supervisor), 2017

Minwoo Kim (McNair Scholars Program, Research Mentor), 2016-2017

Julian Rangel; Bethany Clinton; Mimi LaMendola; Maranda Spencer; Courtney Pool; Cristian Villegas; Nikita Webb (Undergraduate Research Assistant), 2016-

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Graduate Studies Committee, Retention Committee, Student Competency Committee, Student Grievance Committee (Chair, 2017-), Student Honors/Scholarships Committee, Technology Committee (Chair, 2017-), Co-organizer of Research Roundtable Series (2016-), American Politics Search Committee (2015-2016), Ad Hoc Committee for Exploration of Certificates (2015-2016)

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

COLA Spotlight on Student Research, Poster Judge, 2018

Annual Celebration of Excellence by Students Symposium, Oral Presentation Judge (Sustainability Category), 2016

Annual Celebration of Excellence by Students Symposium, Abstract Reviewer, 2016

Updated August 2018

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Section Chair: Public Policy, SPSA, 2019

Program Committee Member: 10th Annual Meeting of the Comparative Agendas Project, 2017

Reviewer: *Public Administration* (x2); *Journal of Public Policy* (x2); *Interest Groups & Advocacy* (x2); *Policy Studies Journal* (x2); *Journal of European Public Policy*; *Political Communication*; *Social Science Quarterly*; *Policy Sciences*; *American Journal of Political Science* (x2); *Social Networks*; *American Politics Today* (5th Ed., Ch. on Interest Groups); *Policy & Politics, Nonprofit and Volunteer Sector Quarterly*; *Journal of International Organization Studies*; *Politics Research Quarterly*; *Political Studies Review*; *Congress & the Presidency*; *Regulation and Governance*; *Journal of Politics*

Panel/Paper Discussant: CAP, 2018; MPSA, 2016; SWPSA, 2017

Panel Chair: CAP, 2018

Poster Session Discussant: MPSA, 2016

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Consultant/Research Associate, The Organized Interest System in Australian Public Policy Project, Darren Halpin (Australian National University), Jan.-Aug. 2015

Manager, Policy Agendas Project and Graduate Research Assistant, Bryan D. Jones (UT-Austin), 2011-2014

Manager, Encyclopedia of Associations Project and Graduate Research Assistant, Frank R. Baumgartner (Penn State), 2008-2009

Consultant, Developing Policy-Specific Measures of Public Opinion, James A. Stimson and Frank R. Baumgartner (UNC), 2012

Research Assistant, Mobilization of Interests Project, Darren R. Halpin (Robert Gordon Univ., UK), 2008-2009

Research Assistant, Frank R. Baumgartner (Penn State), 2005-2008

ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

University of Washington, PoliInformatics Workshop, 2014

Santa Fe Institute, Workshop in Computational Social Science Modeling and Complexity, 2012

University of Surrey (UK), Summer School on Social Simulation, 2011

University of Texas at Austin, Summer Statistics Institute, 2010-2013

University of Michigan, Political Networks Conference Training Workshops, 2011

University of Washington, Tools For Text: Annotation Methods for Political Science Research Workshop, 2010

REFERENCES

Bryan D. Jones
Professor of Government and J.J. "Jake" Pickle
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University of Texas at Austin
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