

HERSCHEL F. THOMAS

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Associate Professor, Dept. of Political Science, West Virginia University, 2023-
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, West Virginia University, 2020-2023
Assistant Professor, Dept. of Political Science, University of Texas at Arlington, 2015-2020

AFFILIATIONS

US Policy Agendas Project, Faculty Associate, 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 INTERESTS

Policy process, agenda-setting, organized interests and lobbying, revolving door politics, public health, disaster response and recovery

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.

- Covered in *Roll Call*; reviewed in *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, *Perspectives on Politics*, and *Choice*

ARTICLES

Bayam, Burcu, Daniel Sledge, and Herschel F. Thomas. Ideology, Local-Level Policymaking, and International Governmental Organizations. *International Studies Quarterly*, forthcoming.
Overton, Michael, Stephen Kleinschmit, Mary Feeney, Federica Fusi, Nick Hart, Spiro Maroulis, Kayla Schwoerer, Eric Stokan, Herschel F. Thomas, and Samuel Workman. 2023. Administrative

- Informatics: A Roundtable on the Conceptual Foundations of a Public Administration-centered Data Science Subfield. *Journal of Behavioral Public Administration*, 6 (1-31).
- Epp, Derek A. and Herschel F. Thomas. 2022. When Bad News Becomes Routine: Continuous Information Moderates How Governments Respond to Policy Problems. *Political Research Quarterly*, 76(1), 3-13.
- Sledge, Daniel, Herschel F. Thomas, Bai Linh Hoang, and George Mohler. 2022. Impact of Medicaid, Race/Ethnicity, and Criminal Justice Referral on Opioid Use Disorder Treatment. *Journal of the American Association of Psychiatry and the Law*, 50(4), 1-11.
- Sledge, Daniel and Herschel F. Thomas. 2021. Public Perceptions of the Role of Government and Non-State Actors in Responding to COVID-19. *Risk, Hazards, & Crisis in Public Policy*, 12(3): 266-282.
- Fagan, E.J.*, Zachary A. McGee*, and Herschel F. Thomas. 2021. Power of the Party: Conflict Expansion and the Agenda Diversity of Interest Groups. *Political Research Quarterly*, 74(1): 90-102.
- LaPira, Timothy M. and Herschel F. Thomas. 2020. The Lobbying Disclosure Act at 25: Challenges and Opportunities for Analysis. *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, 9(1): 257-271.
- Marchetti, Katie, Timothy M. LaPira, and Herschel F. Thomas. 2019. Gender Politics in the Lobbying Profession. *Politics & Gender*, 16(3): 816-844.
- Sledge, Daniel and Herschel F. Thomas. 2019. From Disaster Response to Community Recovery: Nongovernmental Entities, Government, and Public Health. *American Journal of Public Health*, 109(3): 437-444.
- Thomas, Herschel F. 2017. Modeling Contagion in Policy Systems. *Cognitive Systems Research*, 44:74-88.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.
- Jones, Bryan D., Herschel F. Thomas, and Michelle Wolfe. 2014. Policy Bubbles. *Policy Studies Journal*, 42(1): 146-171.
- LaPira, Timothy M. and Herschel F. Thomas. 2014. The Revolving Door and Interest Representation. *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, 3(1): 1-26.
- 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.
- Halpin, Darren R. and Herschel F. Thomas. 2012. Evaluating the Breadth of Policy Engagement by Organized Interests. *Public Administration*, 90(3): 582-599.
- Halpin, Darren R. and Herschel F. Thomas. 2012. Interest Group Survival: Exploring Mortality Anxiety. *Interest Groups & Advocacy*, 1(2): 215-238.

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.

* indicates graduate student co-author at the time

BOOK CHAPTERS/OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Bradley, Griffin*, Timothy M. LaPira, and Herschel F. Thomas. Revolving Doors and Public Policy Advocacy. In David Coen and Alexander Katsaitis (eds.), *Handbook on Lobbying and Public Policy*. Edward Elgar, forthcoming.

LaPira, Timothy M. and Herschel F. Thomas. 2019. How Big a Political Footprint? Interest Groups as Influence Enterprise. In Allan J. Cigler, Burdett A. Loomis, and Anthony J. Nownes (eds.), *Interest Group Politics* (10th). Roman & Littlefield: Lanham, MD.

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.

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.

* indicates graduate student co-author at the time

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Disaster Communication and Large Language Models (with Daniel Sledge), invited to revise and re-submit at *Risk, Hazards, & Crisis in Public Policy*

The Policy Agenda of the *Policy Studies Journal*, invited to revise and re-submit at *Policy Studies Journal*

County Budgetary Dynamics: Findings from Appalachia (with Corinne Connor* and Samuel Workman, presented at APSA 2022 and COPPR 2023)

- Winner of the APSA (Public Policy Section) 2023 Best Paper on Public Policy Award

Compounding Crises: Non-state Service Provision in the Context of Multiple Extreme Events (with Daniel Sledge, presented at APPAM 2022, SPSA 2022)

Tired of Hearing it: Habituation to Problems and Regulatory Enforcement (with Ross Buchanan and Derek Epp, presented at CAP 2023)

Regulatory Lobbying and the Revolving Door (with Maraam Dwidar)

* indicates graduate student co-author

EXTERNAL FUNDING

- 2021 National Science Foundation: “(Award # 2130062) RAPID: Collaborative Research: Non-state Service Provision in the Context of Multiple Extreme Events” (with Daniel Sledge; \$92,365; \$44,661 to WVU)
- 2018 National Science Foundation: “(Award #1800302) RAPID: Supplementing State Capacity: Non-State Action and Public-Private Coordination During Times of Crisis” (with Daniel Sledge; \$71,473 to UT-Arlington)
- 2014 The Dirksen Congressional Center (with Timothy M. LaPira; \$3,500)

INTERNAL FUNDING, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

- 2023 WVU, Dept. of Political Science, Woolwine Fund Grant: “Examining State Capacity and Non-profit Response to Crises in Comparative Perspective: Earthquakes, Drought, and Flooding in the Emilia-Romagna Region of Italy” (\$5,232)
- 2021 WVU, Dept. of Political Science, Woolwine Fund Grant: “Understanding Policy Responses to Slow-moving Problems: Interviews with Legislators, Staffers, and Lobbyists” (\$8,807)
- 2021 WVU, Research and Scholarship Enhancement Grant: “(#2524) Referring Adolescents with Opioid Use Disorder for Treatment” (\$7,500)
- 2021 WVU, Faculty Travel/Development Grant (\$700)
- 2021 WVU, Summer Undergraduate Research Experiences (SURE) Program: Summer Support for Undergraduate Research Assistant (via Giana Loretta, \$4,000)
- 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

- 2022 Outstanding Honors EXCEL Mentor Award, West Virginia University Honors College
- 2019 President's Award for Excellence in Teaching (Untenured), University of Texas at Arlington
- 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

- Non-state Service Provision and American Disaster Governance, 2023, Rutgers University, Department of Political Science
- Non-state Service Provision and American Disaster Governance, 2023, University of Texas at Austin, LBJ School of Public Affairs
- Non-state Service Provision and American Disaster Governance, 2023, Oklahoma State University, Department of Political Science
- Analysis of Lobbying Using LDA Data: Best Practices and Pitfalls (with Timothy M. LaPira), APSA 2021 Short Course on Interest Group/Lobbying Data Sources
- From Disaster Response to Community Recovery: Nongovernmental Entities, Government, and Public Health, Jan. 2020, West Virginia University, Department of Political Science
- From Disaster Response to Community Recovery: Nongovernmental Entities, Government, and Public Health, Dec. 2020, University of Kentucky, Martin School of Public Policy and Administration.

What Medical Residents Need to Know about the Policy Process, Apr. 2018, UT-Southwestern Medical Center

Revolving Door Lobbying. University of Texas at Austin, Dec. 2016 (with Timothy M. LaPira)

Congressional Analytic Capacity and the Political Economy of Revolving Door Lobbying. University of Oklahoma, Nov. 2016

Thinking Big: How to Establish a Long-Term Research Program (Ph.D. student audience). University of Oklahoma, Nov. 2016

Contagious Agendas: The Spread of Issue Attention in the Policy Process. University of Texas at Arlington, Department of Political Science, Jan. 2015

Contagious Agendas: The Spread of Issue Attention in the Policy Process. London School of Economics, Department of Government, Jan. 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. 2012

OTHER WRITING

Trump's Lobbying Ban Might Actually Make Corruption Worse, *Washington Post*, Monkey Cage. Nov. 2016 (with Timothy M. LaPira)

So What if Congressional Staff Levels are Declining? New America/R Street Institute: Legislative Branch Capacity Working Group, Jun. 2016 (with Timothy M. LaPira)

Bounded Rationality (with Jonathon Lewallen). 2016. In Stephen Schecter (Ed.), *American Governance*. Macmillan Reference.

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, Nov. 2014 (with Sean Theriault)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AND PRESENTATIONS

Conference on Policy Process Research: 2023

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management: 2022

Southern Political Science Association: 2022, 2020, 2019, 2013 (x2), 2012, 2009,

American Political Science Association: 2022-2021, 2018, 2017 (x3), 2016, 2014, 2013, 2011

Midwest Political Science Association: 2023, 2021, 2019-2017, 2016 (x2), 2015-2008

Comparative Agendas Project Annual Meeting: 2023⁺, 2019-2017 (x2), 2015, 2014 (x2), 2013, 2010

International Political Science Association: 2018

Southwestern Political Science Association: 2017 (x2)

US Policy Agendas Project Annual Meeting: 2016

European Consortium for Political Research: 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 attendance*

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

West Virginia University

Interest Groups & Democracy: 2023 (SP)
Policy Analysis/Policy Process (graduate seminar): 2022 (FA)
Introduction to Public Administration: 2023 (FA online), 2022 (FA)
Politics of Agenda-setting (graduate seminar): 2023 (FA), 2022 (SP), 2020 (FA)
Introduction to Policy Analysis: 2023 (FA), 2022 (SP), 2021 (SP)
Policy Implementation (graduate seminar): 2021 (SP)

University of Texas at Arlington:

Research Methods and Political Analysis (graduate cross-listed): 2020 (SP), 2019 (SP), 2018 (FA; SP),
2017 (FA; SP), 2016 (FA)
Health Politics & Advocacy (online, co-taught): 2020 (SU-I), 2019 (SU-I)
Introduction to Public Policy Analysis: 2018 (SP), 2015 (FA)
Interest Groups and Political Advocacy: 2020 (SP), 2017 (FA)
Political Science Research Lab (graduate cross-listed): 2017 (SP)
Organized Interests in America: Advocacy and Influence (graduate): 2019 (FA), 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:

Teaching Assistant, Bethany Albertson, Intro. to American Government: 2011 (SP)
Teaching Assistant, Bryan D. Jones, Intro. to Public Policy: 2010 (FA)

STUDENTS MENTORED AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Ph.D.

Christiana Bugri (WVU, Dissertation Committee Chair, Teaching Assistant), 2021-
Michael Jones (WVU, Dissertation Committee Member), 2021-
Abdul Uqaily (WVU, Dissertation Committee Member), 2021-
Hamid Baadeche (WVU, Dissertation Committee Member), 2021-
Abe Barranca (UT-Austin, Dissertation Committee Member), 2021-

Tyler Mentzer (WVU, Graduate Teaching Assistant/Research Assistant), 2020-2021; APSA
Congressional Fellow

Rebecca Eissler (UT-Austin, Dissertation Committee), 2016-2018; Asst. Prof. at San Francisco State
University

Masters

Corinne Connor (WVU, Graduate Research Assistant), 2022-2023, Heinz Family Foundation

Trevor Owens (UT-Arlington, Thesis Committee Chair), 2017-2018

Josue Rodriguez (UT-Arlington, Graduate Research Assistant), 2017-2018

DeAnne Roark (UT-Arlington, Thesis Committee Member), 2017-2018; Ph.D. Candidate, UNT

Undergraduate

Jordyn Endrick (WVU, Research Apprenticeship Program Supervisor), 2023-

Collin Street (WVU, Research Apprenticeship Program Supervisor), 2023-

Ronald Rakes (WVU, POLS Senior Capstone Advisor), 2023-

Joanna Gleeson (WVU, POLS Senior Capstone Advisor), 2023

Jacqueline Heil (WVU, Research Apprenticeship Program Supervisor), 2022-2023

Indigo Brock (WVU, Research Apprenticeship Program Supervisor), 2022-2023

Wyatt Gaines (WVU, Research Apprenticeship Program Supervisor), 2022-2023

Taidgh Dowd (WVU, Research Apprenticeship Program Supervisor, POLS Senior Capstone Advisor),
2021-2023

Giana Loretta (WVU, SURE Program Supervisor, Honors EXCEL Program Advisor, 2021-2023

Stacey Ingram (WVU, POLS Senior Capstone Advisor), 2022

Aurelyn Van Kirk (WVU, POLS Senior Capstone Advisor), 2023

Joshua Spurrier (WVU, POLS Senior Capstone Advisor), 2023

Carissa O'Pry (UT-Arlington, Allan Saxe Research Fellow Supervisor), 2019-2020

Bethany Clinton (UT-Arlington, Allan Saxe Research Fellow Supervisor), 2019

Courtney Pool (UT-Arlington, Allan Saxe Research Fellow Supervisor & University of Michigan,
Emerging Scholars Program Faculty Mentor), 2017

Alyssa Hernandez (UT-Arlington, Honors College Thesis Supervisor), 2017

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

Julian Rangel; Bethany Clinton; Mimi LaMendola; Maranda Spencer; Courtney Pool; Cristian Villegas;

Nikita Webb (UT-Arlington, Undergraduate Research Assistant Supervisor), 2016-2020

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

West Virginia University

Graduate Professionalization Committee (2020-), Faculty Evaluation Committee (2023-)

University of Texas, Arlington

Graduate Studies Committee, Retention Committee, Student Competency Committee, Student Grievance Committee (Chair, 2017-2019), 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

West Virginia University

Undergraduate Research Advisory Council (2021-), Institute for Policy Research and Public Affairs Faculty Affiliate Committee (2023-)

University of Texas, Arlington

COLA Spotlight on Student Research, Poster Judge, 2018; Organizing Committee, 2019 Annual Celebration of Excellence by Students Symposium, Oral Presentation Judge, 2016 Annual Celebration of Excellence by Students Symposium, Abstract Reviewer, 2016

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Executive Nominating Committee: APSA Public Policy Section, 2022-2023

Selection Committee, Leon Epstein Outstanding Book Award: APSA Political Organizations and Parties Section, 2023

Section Chair: Public Policy, SPSA, 2019

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

Reviewer: *Public Administration; Journal of Public Policy; Policy Studies Journal; Policy Sciences; Journal of European Public Policy; American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; Journal of Politics; Political Communication; Social Science Quarterly; Social Networks; Policy & Politics; Nonprofit and Volunteer Sector Quarterly; Journal of International Organization Studies; Political Research Quarterly; Political Studies Review; Congress & the Presidency; Regulation and Governance; Governance; Legislative Studies Quarterly; Comparative Political Studies; Interest Groups & Advocacy; MPSA Research Exchange; Administration & Society; Palgrave Macmillan*

Panel/Paper Discussant: SPSA, 2022; UIC Faculty Book Workshop, 2021; APSA, 2020, 2022; CAP, 2018-2020; MPSA, 2016; SWPSA, 2017

Panel Chair: SPSA, 2022; CAP, 2018

Poster Session Discussant: MPSA, 2016

Participant, Comparative Agendas Project Data Working Group, 2023

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 Workshop, 2010

REFERENCES

Bryan D. Jones

Professor of Government and J.J. “Jake” Pickle
Regents Chair in Congressional Studies

University of Texas at Austin

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