

Laurel M. Harbridge

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University (Sept. 2010 – present)
College Fellow, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University (Sept. 2009 – Aug. 2010)
Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University (Sept. 2009 – present)

EDUCATION

2004-2009 **Stanford University** Stanford, CA
M.A. in Political Science, 2008
Ph.D. in Political Science, 2009
Dissertation: “Bipartisanship in a Polarized Congress”
Dissertation Committee: David W. Brady (Chair), Morris P. Fiorina, Paul Sniderman

2000-2004 **University of Colorado** Boulder, CO
B.A. in Political Science, *Summa cum Laude*
B.A. in Economics
Advisor: E. Scott Adler

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Congress	Parties	Statistical Methods
Elections	Public Policy	Survey Research
Legislatures	Research Design	Voting

PUBLICATIONS

“Polarization and Public Policy: A General Assessment” (with David Brady and John Ferejohn). 2008. In *Red and Blue Nation? Consequences and Correction of America’s Polarized Politics, Vol. II*. Ed. Pietro S. Nivola and David W. Brady. Washington D.C: Brookings Institution Press.

“The 2008 Democratic Shift” (with David Brady and Douglas Rivers). 2008. *Policy Review*. Hoover Institution, No. 152: December 2008 & January 2009.

“Incrementalism in Appropriations: Small Aggregation, Big Changes” (with Sarah Anderson). 2010. *Public Administration Review*. 70(3): 464-474.

“Electoral Incentives and Partisan Conflict in Congress: Evidence from Survey Experiments” (with Neil Malhotra). 2011. *American Journal of Political Science*. 55(3): 494-510.

INVITED TALKS

“Congressional Agenda Control and the Decline of Bipartisan Cooperation.” Joint Government/Public Economics Workshop. Cornell University. August 2011.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Congressional Agenda Control and the Decline of Bipartisan Cooperation.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. 2011.

“The Elasticity of Partisanship in Congress: An Analysis of Legislative Bipartisanship.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. 2010.

“To Cut or Not to Cut: Spending Dynamics and Bargaining in Congress.” (with Sarah Anderson). Paper presented at the Politics of Federal Spending Conference at UC Merced. 2010.

“To Cut or Not to Cut: Spending Dynamics and Bargaining in Congress.” (with Sarah Anderson). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. 2010.

“The Elasticity of Partisanship in Congress: An Analysis of Legislative Bipartisanship.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association. 2010.

“Mass Preferences for Bipartisanship in Congress”. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. 2009.

“Bipartisanship, Polarization, and Electoral Responsiveness: Re-examining the Electoral Connection”. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association 2009.

“Bipartisanship in Polarized Congress?” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2008.

“What Changes in Incrementalism Tell Us About Congressional Decision-Making” (with Sarah Anderson). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2008.

“Budget Incrementalism: Small Aggregation, Big Changes” (with Sarah Anderson). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. 2008.

“Presidential Approval and Gas Prices: The Bush Presidency in Historical Context” (with Jon Krosnick). Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Association of Public Opinion Research, May 2007.

“Polarization and the Congressional Agenda” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2007.

“Polarization and its Consequences: An Empirical Assessment” (with David Brady and John Ferejohn). Paper presented at the Brookings-Hoover Red and Blue Nation? Consequences and Correctives of America’s Polarized Politics, January 2007.

“Polarization and Congressional Policy Making: Gridlock or Extremism?” Paper
presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2006.

WORKING PAPERS AND PROJECTS

“Bipartisanship in a Polarized Congress”

Book manuscript on bipartisanship in the United States Congress. This project explores how party strategy combines with the preferences of members to produce an increasingly partisan Congress. By combining the analysis of bill cosponsorship coalitions with roll call votes, I argue that House parties have altered their strategy since the 1970s in a way that has limited opportunities for bipartisan cooperation. The strategic incentives of the party leadership to schedule roll call votes on issues that divide the parties from one another leads to an artificial inflation of the decline in bipartisan cooperation. In contrast, by analyzing bipartisanship in bill cosponsorship coalitions, I find a strong persistence of bipartisanship despite increased divisions in roll call voting. This project also examines what these changes in party strategy mean for issue attention and questions of representation.

Working papers and outline available upon request.

“Congressional Agenda Control and the Decline of Bipartisan Cooperation”.

Analysis of how congressional agenda control has altered the level of bipartisanship in roll call votes versus bill cosponsorship coalitions.

“Mass Preferences for Bipartisanship in Congress” (with Neil Malhotra).

Experimental survey evidence of public support for bipartisanship in Congress and the implications for party polarization.

“The Elasticity of Partisanship in Congress: An Analysis of Legislative Bipartisanship”.

Analysis of how members of Congress respond to changes in party popularity.

“To Cut or Not to cut: Spending Dynamics and Issue Ownership in Congress” (with Sarah Anderson).

Analysis of how changes in party control interact with turnover in the chamber to affect budgetary strategies - whether to end programs, create new programs, dramatically alter funding levels, or keep funding levels constant.

“Presidential Approval and Gas Prices: Sociotropic or Pocketbook Influence?” (with Jon Krosnick).

Time series analysis of monthly presidential approval since 1976 and the role of consumer gas prices.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Mentoring Faculty in Residence, Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM)

University of Chicago

Month long graduate program

Professor, Theories of American Political Institutions

Northwestern University

Graduate Seminar

Professor, Legislatures

Northwestern University

Graduate Seminar

Professor, Research Seminar on Party Polarization

Northwestern University

13 person upper division research seminar.

Professor, Congress and the Legislative Process

Northwestern University

45-50 person upper division course.

Teaching Assistant, Political Methodology I

Professor: Douglas Rivers.

Assisted teaching and grading in combined graduate/undergraduate statistics and probability course.

(Fall 2005, Fall 2006)

Teaching Assistant, Introduction to American Politics

Professors: Morris P. Fiorina, John Ferejohn.

Taught sections, held review sessions, and graded work.

TA (Winter 2006), Head TA (Winter 2007)

Teaching Assistant, Politics and Public Policy

Professor: Mary Sprague

Taught sections, graded work, helped write exams and design group project.

TA (Spring 2006)

Head Teaching Assistant and Organizer, Summer Institute in Political Psychology

Professor: Jon Krosnick

Description: Organized lecturers for a three week summer program, ran the day- to-day operations of the program, and led daily discussion sections of 15 participants (graduate students in political science, psychology, as well as a handful of non-academic government professionals)

Summer 2007 (Head Teaching Assistant)

Summer 2008 (Teaching Assistant)

Teaching Assistant, Federal Government and the West

Sophomore College

Professors: David Brady, David Kennedy, Tammy Frisby

Summer 2007

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

2010-present Undergraduate Advising (Department of Political Science)

2010-present Faculty Fellow of the Humanities Residential College (Northwestern University)

2007-2008 Coordinator, American Politics Workshop

2007 Graduate Admission Committee

2006-2007 President, Political Science Graduate Student Association

2006-2007 Member of Graduate Student Steering Committee for the interdepartmental Methods of Analysis Program in the Social Sciences (MAPSS).

2006 Faculty Search Committee

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND ASSOCIATIONS

2005-present Member of Midwest Political Science Association

- 2005-present Member of American Political Science Association
- 2006-present Reviewer for American Politics Research
- 2008-present Reviewer for The Journal of Politics
- 2009-present Reviewer for the Quarterly Journal of Political Science
- 2010-present Reviewer for the American Journal of Political Science
- 2011-present Reviewer for Political Behavior
- 2005 Attendee of Summer Institute in Political Psychology (SIPP), Stanford University. Run by Jon Krosnick.

HONORS AND AWARDS

- 2008 Certificate for Advanced Training in Social Science Research Methods by the Methods of Analysis Program in the Social Sciences at Stanford University.
- 2004 Recipient of Best Undergraduate Political Science Thesis Award.
- 2003 Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.