

Brian Libgober

Department of Political Science
Northwestern University

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Government, Harvard University, 2018
Dissertation Committee: Daniel Carpenter (Chair), Kenneth Shepsle, Jon Rogowski
- M.A. Statistics, Harvard University, 2017
- J.D. University of Michigan Law School, *cum laude*, 2015
- B.A. Mathematics and Philosophy, University of Chicago, *with honors*, 2010

APPOINTMENTS

- 2025–26 Princeton University
Visiting Research Scholar, School of Public and International Affairs
Fellow, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics
- 2022– Northwestern University
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science
Assistant Professor (by courtesy), Pritzker School of Law
Faculty Fellow, Institute for Policy Research
- 2022– Yale Law School
Senior Research Scholar
- 2020–22 University of California, San Diego
Assistant Professor, School of Global Policy and Strategy
- 2018–20 Yale University
Postdoctoral Associate, Department of Political Science

PROFESSIONAL INTERESTS

American Politics, Political Institutions, Executive Branch Politics, Lobbying, Special Interests, Political Economy, Public Policy, Law and Politics

PUBLICATIONS

Book Project

White Shoes, Hidden Hands: Lawyers, Lobbying, and the Administrative State. University of Chicago Press. (under contract, manuscript in preparation).

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles[†]

- 2024 “Lawyers as Lobbyists: Regulatory Advocacy in American Finance.” *Perspectives on Politics*. No. 16
DOI: 10.1017/S1537592723002943. Brian Libgober and Daniel P. Carpenter.
- 2024 “Do Administrative Procedures Fix Cognitive Biases?” *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. No. 15
DOI: 10.1093/jopart/muac054. Benjamin Minhao Chen and Brian Libgober.
- 2024 “Linking Datasets on Organizations Using Half A Billion Open Collaborated Records.” No. 14
Political Science Research & Methods. Connor Jerzak and Brian Libgober.
- 2024 “A comprehensive dataset of U.S. federal laws (1789–2022).” *Scientific Data*. No. 13
DOI: 10.1038/s41597-023-02758-z. Brian Libgober.
- 2023 “Optimal allocation of sample size for randomization-based inference from 2K factorial No. 12
designs.” *Journal of Causal Inference*. DOI: doi:10.1515/jci-2023-0046.
Arun Ravichandran*, Nicole E. Pashley, Brian Libgober, and Tirthankar Dasgupta.
- 2023 “What Public Comments During Rulemaking Do (and Why).” *American Politics Research*. No. 11
DOI: 10.1177/1532673X231175686. Brian Libgober and Steven Rashin.
- 2023 “The Ideologies of Organized Interests and Amicus Curiae Briefs: Large-Scale, Social No. 10
Network Imputation of Ideal Points.” *Political Analysis*. DOI: 10.1017/pan.2022.34.
Sahar Abi-Hassan, Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Dino P. Christenson, Aaron R. Kaufman, and Brian Libgober.
- 2023 “Identifying bureaus with substantial personnel change during the Trump administration: A No. 9
Bayesian approach.” *PloS one*. DOI: 10.1371/journal.pone.0278458. Brian Libgober
and Mark D. Richardson.
- 2020 “Strategic Proposals, Endogenous Comments, and Bias in Rulemaking.” *The Journal of* No. 8
Politics. DOI: 10.1086/706891. Brian Libgober.
- 2020 “Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Rulemaking.” *Quarterly Journal of* No. 7
Political Science. DOI: 10.1561/100.00018135. Brian Libgober.
- 2020 “Data and Methods for Analyzing Special Interest Influence in Rulemaking.” *Interest Groups* No. 6
& Advocacy. DOI: 10.1057/s41309-020-00094-w. Daniel P. Carpenter,
Devin Judge-Lord, Brian Libgober, and Steven Rashin.

Other Publications

- 2024 “Race and the Political Economy of Civil Justice.” Brian Libgober. In *Rethinking the Lawyer’s* No. 5
Monopoly: Access to Justice and the Future of Legal Services. David Freeman Engstrom and
Nora Freeman, eds. New York: Cambridge University Press
- 2023 “Administrative Politics with Clear Stakes and Venues: Strategic Commenting upon Federal No. 4
Reserve Debit Card Regulations.” Daniel P. Carpenter and Brian Libgober. In *Accountability*
Reconsidered: Voters, Interests and Information in US Policymaking. Charles M. Cameron,
Brandice Canes-Wrone, Sanford C. Gordon, and Gregory A. Huber, eds. New York:
Cambridge University Press
- 2020 “Getting a Lawyer While Black: A Field Experiment.” *Lewis & Clark Law Review*. DOI: No. 3
10.2139/ssrn.3389279. Brian Libgober.

[†]Unless otherwise indicated, Libgober is PI or co-PI on all papers. Student co-authors are identified by *.

- 2018 “Lobbying the Rulemakers with Lawyers: Reflections from the Volcker Rule.” *Extensions*. No. 2
Daniel P. Carpenter and Brian Libgober.
- 2015 “Can the EU be a Constitutional System Without Universal Access to Judicial Review?” No. 1
Michigan Journal of International Law. Brian Libgober.

Working Papers[†]

- “Who Governs the Association?” Benjamin Egerod, Brian Libgober, and Sebastian Thieme.
- “Group Talk.” Chris Li and Brian Libgober.
- “What Was the Persuasive Effect of Televised Campaign Advertising in the 2016 Presidential Election?”
Arne Holverscheid, Brian Libgober, and Guillaume Pouliot.
- “Inequality in Administrative Democracy: Large-Sample Evidence from American Financial
Regulation.” Daniel Carpenter, Angelo Dagonel, Devin Judge-Lord, Christopher T. Kenny,
Brian Libgober, Jacob Waggoner, Steven Rashin, and Susan Webb Yackee.
(Winner, Herbert Kaufman Award for Best Paper Presented at APSA 2021)
- “Central Banks as Market Regulators: Plastic Payment Systems Policy in the United States and
Australia.” Brian Libgober.
- “How Does Living Under Left-Wing Authoritarianism Affect Refugees Who Settle in Democracies?
Evidence From Soviet Refugees.” Valentin Bolotnyy, Mayya Komisarichik, and Brian Libgober.
- “Agency Failure and Individual Accountability.” Brian Libgober.
- “An Email Experiment to Identify the Effect of Racial Discrimination on Access to Lawyers: A
Statistical Approach.” Brian Libgober and Tirthankar Dasgupta.

GRANTS

- 2022-25 National Science Foundation, “Unpacking Compound Treatments in Email Audit
Experiments,” \$403,882
- 2024-25 Northwestern Undergraduate RA Program Committee, \$3,250.
- 2024 Institute for Policy Research, Summer Undergraduate RA Award, \$6,300
- 2024 Northwestern University, Dependent Care Professional Travel Grant, \$1,345
- 2024 Northwestern, Department of Political Science, Farrell Fellowship Program, \$8,000.
- 2024 Buffett Institute for Global Affairs, Global Collaboration Grant, \$2,500
- 2023 Institute for Policy Research, Graduate Student RA Award, \$41,736
- 2023 Institute for Policy Research, Summer Undergraduate RA Award, \$5,950
- 2023 Northwestern, Department of Political Science, Farrell Fellowship Program, \$7,500.

AWARDS

- 2023 Emerging Scholar in American Political Economy Prize, American Political Science
Association (APSA).

[†]Drafts of all working papers are available at <https://brianlibgober.com>.

2022 Herbert Kaufman Award for best paper presented at the 2021 APSA Annual Conference.

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 Center for Study of Democratic Politics Visiting Research Fellowship. \$104,000.
- 2025 Alexander von Humboldt Foundation Research Fellowship for Experienced Researchers. €25,600.
- 2024 Stanford CASBS Fellowship to attend the Summer Institute on Organizations and their Effectiveness.
- 2016-18 Stone PhD Scholar in Inequality and Wealth Concentration, Harvard Kennedy School.
- 2015 Terence M. Considine Fellowship in Law and Economics, Harvard Law School.
- 2012-15 Dean's Scholarship, University of Michigan Law School.
- 2006-10 Viola Bower Merit Scholarship, University of Chicago.

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 Princeton University, Department of Politics. "White Shoes, Hidden Hands," Feb 13.
- 2025 Berkeley Law School. "White Shoes, Hidden Hands," Jan 15.
- 2024 Emory University, Department of Political Science. "White Shoes, Hidden Hands," Feb 8.
- 2023 Yale University. Department of Political Science. "Lawyers as Lobbyists," Feb 1.
- 2022 University of Michigan Law School. "Making Regulators Reasonable," Mar 24.
- 2021 Hebrew University. Department of Political Science. "Making Regulators Reasonable," Dec 15.
- 2021 Tel Aviv University. Department of Political Science. "Making Regulators Reasonable," Dec 13.
- 2021 Northwestern University. Department of Political Science. "Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Administrative Policymaking," Nov 2.
- 2020 Georgetown University. Department of Government. "Agency Failure and Individual Accountability," Jan 24.
- 2020 University of Texas, Austin. McCombs School of Business. "Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Administrative Policymaking," Jan 8.
- 2019 Stanford University. Hoover Institution. "Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Administrative Policymaking," Dec 6.
- 2019 Vanderbilt University. Department of Political Science. "Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Administrative Policymaking," Nov 13.
- 2019 University of California, San Diego. School of Global Policy and Strategy. "Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Administrative Policymaking," Nov 6.
- 2019 Harvard Law School. "Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Administrative Policymaking," Nov 5.
- 2019 George Mason Law School. "Agency Failure and Individual Accountability," Sep 19.

- 2019 Washington University in St. Louis. Department of Political Science. “Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Administrative Policymaking,” Sep 17.
- 2019 Berkeley Law School. Jurisprudence and Social Policy Program. “Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Administrative Policymaking,” Feb 7.
- 2019 Harvard Business School. Business Government and International Economy Unit. “Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Administrative Policymaking,” Nov 5.
- 2019 Administrative Conference of the United States. “The Gains from Lobbying Financial Regulators,” Aug 9.
- 2018 University of Texas, Austin. McCombs School of Business. “What’s at Stake in Rulemaking? Financial Market Evidence for Banks’ Influence on Administrative Agencies,” Mar 23.

CONFERENCE ACTIVITY

Conference Presentations

- 2024 UC Berkeley. “American Political Economy Summer School,” May 22-24.
- 2023 Stanford Law School. “Conference on Regulatory Reform,” May 11.
- 2023 Princeton University. “Interest Group Workshop,” May 5.
- 2023 Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference. “Who Governs Associations,” April 14.
- 2023 Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference. “Grouptalk,” April 13.
- 2023 University of South Carolina Law School. “Access to Justice (A2J) Roundtable,” Mar 30.
- 2022 Executive Politics at Michigan. “Bureaucratic Information Acquisition,” October 24.
- 2022 APSA Pre-Conference: Frontiers in Money in Politics Research. “Grouptalk,” September 14.
- 2022 Copenhagen Business School Money in Politics Conference. “Ex Post Lobbying and the Dynamics of Legislative Attention,” June 16.
- 2021 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference. “The Politics of Place: Evidence from Refugees to the US,” Oct 2.
- 2021 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference. “Ex Post Lobbying and the Dynamics of Legislative Attention,” Oct 1.
- 2021 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference. “Participatory Inequality and Rulemaking: Evidence from Financial Regulation,” Sep 30.
- 2021 American Political Economy Summer School. “Lawyers as Lobbyists,” Jul 1.
- 2020 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference. “One Voice: the Role of Organization in Lobbying,” Sep 10.
- 2019 Bureaucracy and Presidential Administration: Expertise and Accountability in Constitutional Government. George Mason Law School. “Agency Failure and Individual Accountability,” Dec 6.
- 2019 American Law and Economics Association (ALEA) Annual Conference. “Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Administrative Policymaking,” May 17.

- 2019 Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Conference. “Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Administrative Policymaking,” Jan 18.
- 2018 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference. “What Public Comments During Rulemaking Do (and Why),” Apr 7.
- 2018 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference. “The Price of Votes,” Apr 5.
- 2018 Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Conference. “What Public Comments During Rulemaking Do (and Why),” Jan 5.
- 2018 Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Conference. “Participation, Inequality, and Rational Responsiveness,” Jan 4.
- 2017 Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study. “Lobbying with Lawyers: Financial Market Evidence for Banks’ Influence on Rulemaking,” Dec 8.
- 2017 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference. “Equities and Inequities in Financial Rulemaking,” Apr 6.
- 2017 University of Chicago Booth Business School. “Lawyering and Lobbying: Why Banks Shape Rules,” Mar 4.
- 2015 American Law and Economics Association (ALEA) Annual Meeting. “Accident Liability in Imperfectly Competitive Markets,” May 16.

Poster Sessions

- 2018 Annual Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (CELS). “Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Administrative Policymaking,” Nov 9.

Other Conference Participation

- 2023 Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference. “Interest Groups in the American Context,” April 14 (discussant).
- 2021 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference. “Lobbyists and Lobbying, Strategies and Goals,” Oct 3 (discussant).
- 2021 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference. “Politics of Rulemaking in the Administration State,” Oct 1 (discussant).
- 2021 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference. “Legislative Productivity in the US,” Sep 29 (chair and discussant).
- 2021 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference. “Separation of Powers and Interbranch Relationships,” Sep 30 (chair and discussant).
- 2021 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference. “Advances in Law Enforcement Policy Research,” Sep 30 (chair).

DEPARTMENTAL TALKS

- 2022 Institute for Policy Research Colloquium, Northwestern University. “Lawyers as Lobbyists: Regulatory Advocacy in American Finance,” Oct 10.

- 2020 University of California, San Diego. School of Global Policy and Strategy Junior Faculty Brownbag. “Does Electoral Politics Explain the Distribution of CDC Test Kits? Evidence from FOIA,” Oct 28.
- 2018 Harvard University. Political Economy Workshop. “Meetings, Comments, and the Distributive Politics of Administrative Policymaking,” Oct 29.
- 2018 Harvard University. American Politics Research Workshop. “What Public Comments During Rulemaking Do (and Why),” Feb 13.
- 2017 Harvard University. Working Group in Political Psychology. “Getting a Lawyer While Black: A Field Experiment,” Mar 10.
- 2017 Harvard University. American Politics Research Workshop. “Lawyering and Lobbying: Why Banks Shape Rules,” Feb 7.
- 2016 Harvard University. Harvard Experiments Working Group. “Getting a Lawyer While Black: A Field Experiment,” Sep 9.
- 2016 Harvard Law School. Law and Economics Seminar. “Getting a Lawyer While Black: A Field Experiment,” Mar 3.

GRADUATE ADVISING

Committee Memberships

Andrew Saab

Joshua Corona

Research Assistants and Collaborators

Arne Holverscheid (RA 2023-2024), Andrew Saab (RA 2022-2023)

UNDERGRADUATE ADVISING

Independent Studies

Mathieu Rojas Egoavil - W25

Research Assistants

Aldiyar Orazalin (2025-), Jinhe Zhao (2025-), Enzo Banal (2024-), Neil Arora (2024-), Jesse Chen (2024-), Mathieu Rojas Egoavil (2023-2024), Jamie Gall (2023-2024), Rick Brown (2022-2023), Kurtis Brian Nelson (2022-2023).

TEACHING

Northwestern University

2024 American Politics Field Seminar (Grad). Fall.

2024 Access to Justice (Undergrad). Fall.

2024 Public Policy (Undergrad). Fall.

- 2024 Access to Justice (Undergrad). Spring.
- 2024 Public Policy (Undergrad). Spring.
- 2022 R Workshop (Grad). Fall-Spring.
- 2022 American Politics Field Seminar (Grad). Fall.
- 2022 Money in Politics (Undergrad). Fall.

University of California San Diego

- 2021 Policy Analysis and Social Welfare (MPP/MIA). Fall.
- 2021 Law and Administration (MPP/MIA). Fall.
- 2021 Law and Administration (MPP/MIA). Spring.
- 2021 Bureaucratic Politics (MPP/MIA). Spring.
- 2021 Interest Groups and the Policymaking Process (MPP/MIA). Winter.

Yale University

- 2019 American Mass Media: Law, Politics, and Policy (Undergrad). Fall.
- 2019 Money in Politics (Undergrad). Spring.

Harvard University

- 2017 Formal Models of Domestic Politics (PhD). Teaching Assistant (Primary Instructor: Horacio Larreguy). Fall.
- 2016 Bureaucratic Politics (Undergraduate/Graduate). Teaching Assistant (Primary Instructor: Daniel Carpenter). Fall.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

- 2015 Constitutional Law & Judicial Politics (PhD). Course Assistant (Primary Instructor: Chris Warshaw). Spring.

University of Michigan

- 2013 Mass Media and Election Politics (Undergraduate). Graduate Student Instructor (Primary Instructor: Nicholas Valentino). Fall.

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

- 2024 Area Organizer, "Property, Environmental and Administrative Law", American Law and Economics Association (ALEA).
- 2024 Program Director, Midwest Public Administration Caucus (MPAC) of the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA).

Academic Peer Review

American Political Science Review

JPART

The Journal of Politics

American Journal of Political Science

Politics & Gender

Regulation and Governance

Israeli Science Foundation (ISF)

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICE

Northwestern University

2022- American Politics Speaker Series (co-organizer)

University of California San Diego

2021- Law and Policy Ad Hoc Exploratory Committee.

2020- Admission's Committee.

Harvard University

2015-17 Graduate Student Coordinator, Undergraduate Research Scholars Program, Institute for Quantitative Social Science.

MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association

Southern Political Science Association

American Law and Economics Association

PROFESSIONAL EMPLOYMENT

2014 Summer Law Clerk. UNC School of Government. Chapel Hill, North Carolina.

2014 Summer Associate. Paul Hastings LLP. New York, NY.

2013 Summer Law Clerk to Chief Judge Beryl Howell. US District Court. Washington, DC.

2011-12 Polling Analyst. Obama for America Reelection Campaign. Chicago, IL.

CONSULTING

2020 M4BL: The Movement for Black Lives. Advised on sections of the BREATHE ACT.

2019 Cleveland County, North Carolina. Advised on anti-subsidy doctrines in US Constitutional law.

Updated April 2025