

John A. Henderson

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Yale University
Assistant Professor of Political Science (2013 – Present)
Resident Fellow, Institution for Social and Policy Studies; Center for the Study of American Politics
Visiting Scholar, Department of Political Science, MIT (Spring 2016)

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley
Ph.D., Political Science, December 2013

- Advisors: Eric Schickler (Co-Chair), Jasjeet Sekhon (Co-Chair), Robert Van Houweling, Gabe Lenz, and Robert MacCoun
- Fields: American Politics, Methodology, and Political Behavior

M.A., Political Science, 2007

University of Oxford
M.Phil., Comparative Politics, 2005

Emory University
B.A., Political Science, 2003

RESEARCH

Book Manuscript

Downs' Revenge: How Polarized Candidates Inform Voters and Win Elections, In Preparation.

Publications

“Seeing Spots: An Experimental Examination of Voter Appetite for Partisan and Negative Campaign Ads” (with Alexander G. Theodoridis), *Revise and Resubmit, Political Behavior.*

“Hookworm Eradication as a Natural Experiment for Schooling and Voting in the American South,” *Forthcoming, Political Behavior.*

“Cause or Effect? Turnout in Hispanic Majority-Minority Districts” (with Jasjeet Sekhon and Rocío Titiunik), *Political Analysis* 24:3, Summer 2016.

“Mediating the Electoral Connection: The Information Effects of Voter Signals on Legislative Behavior” (with John Brooks), *Journal of Politics* 78:3, July 2016.

“Who Matches? Propensity Scores and Bias in the Causal Effects of Education on Participation” (with Sara Chatfield), *Journal of Politics* 73:3, July 2011.

Contributed Chapters

“Untangling the Education Effect: Moving Educational Interventions into the Experimental Frontier” (with Sara Chatfield), in *Resources, Engagement, and Recruitment: New Advances in the Study of Civic Voluntarism*, Casey A. Klofstad (Ed.), Philadelphia: Temple University Press, 2016.

Under Review

“Gerrymandering Incumbency: Does Non-Partisan Redistricting Increase Electoral Competition?” (with Brian Hamel and Aaron Goldzimer).

“What Goes with Red and Blue? Assessing Party and Ideological Associations in the Minds of Voters” (with Stephen Goggin and Alexander G. Theodoridis).

“A Crowdsourcing Approach to Measuring Ideological Positions in Campaign Advertising”.

“Issue Distancing in Congressional Elections”.

Working Papers & Ongoing Projects

Voting, Elections, Campaigns and Participation

“Civic Returns to Public Health Interventions: Malaria and Hookworm Eradication in the Early 20th Century.”

“Information and Extremity in Negative Advertising.”

“Mobilizing a Generation? The Many Behavioral Effects of the Vietnam Draft Lottery”.

Candidates, Parties and Partisanship

“Counteracting Impressions: Partisanship, Candidate Recruitment and the Position-Taking Behavior of Female and Minority Politicians.”

“Extending the Majority: How Parties and Organized Interests Tailor Contributions to Candidates?” (with Aaron Goldzimer and Brian Hamel).

“How Candidate Characteristics, Positions, and Partisanship Drive Voter Preferences” (with Logan Dancey, Stephen Goggin, Geoffrey Sheagley and Alex Theodoridis).

“Ideological Jamming: How Moderating Messages Disrupt Extreme Opponent Attacks.”

“The Influence of Co-Ethnic Candidacy on Information Seeking Behavior” (with Alex Theodoridis).

“The Partisan Intensity Gap and the Demographic Composition of Party Identifiers” (with Kayla Canelo, Chelsea Coe, Stephen Goggin, and Alex Theodoridis).

“The Personal Vote in a Partisan Era” (with Logan Dancey and Geoffrey Sheagley).

“What It Means to Be a Moderate: Voter Inferences from Partisan and Ideological Labels” (with Logan Dancey and Geoffrey Sheagley).

Research Design and Political Methodology

“A Genetic Matching Approach to Estimating Treatment Effects Using Non-Binary Interventions”.

“Estimating Causal Effects Using Matching with Coarsened Treatments”.

“Maximum Entropy Imputation”.

Datasets

CONGRESSIONAL ADS PROJECT:

The dataset accompanying the book *Downs' Revenge*. The data consist of 23,577 House and Senate television ads collected over the period from 1968 to 2014. The coding includes over 70 items originally collected from each of 12,692 ads (1968 - 2008) resulting in over 913,824 data points for forty years of congressional races. An additional 10,885 ads from 2004 to 2014 elections were collected and recoded from the Wisconsin and Wesleyan Ads Projects. Research funding to collect the data was provided by the National Science Foundation, the Mike Synar Research Fellowship, the Dirksen Center Congressional Research Fund, the A. Whitney Griswold Faculty Research Fund, the generous support of the Institute of Governmental Studies at the University of California, the Julian P. Kanter Political Commercial Archive at the University of Oklahoma, and both the Institution for Social and Policy Studies and the Center for the Study of American Politics at Yale University. Additional support was provided by the Wisconsin Ads Project at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and the Wesleyan Ads Project at Wesleyan University.

TRANSCRIPTS OF HOUSE AND SENATE POLITICAL COMMERCIALS FROM THE WISCONSIN AND WESLEYAN ADS PROJECTS, 2000 - 2014 (with Joel Hanel):

The dataset contains 14,356 text transcripts of television political commercial videos provided by the Wisconsin and Wesleyan Ads projects. All years between 2000 and 2014 (including 2006) are available in the dataset, and allow for various machine learning and text analyses of campaign communication in the last 8 Congressional election cycles. Research funding to compile these transcripts was provided by the Dirksen Center Congressional Research Fund, the A. Whitney Griswold Faculty Research Fund, and the Center for the Study of American Politics at Yale University. Additional support was provided by the Wisconsin Ads Project at the University of Wisconsin, Madison, and the Wesleyan Ads Project at Wesleyan University.

HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

- Center for the Study of American Politics Faculty Grant, Yale University, 2017
- Congressional Research Grant, Dirksen Congressional Center, 2016
- A. Whitney Griswold Faculty Research Fund, Yale University, 2016
- Morse Junior Faculty Fellowship, Yale University, 2015 - 2016
- Nominated for the E. E. Schattschneider and Carl Albert Dissertation Awards, 2014
- National Science Foundation, Political Methodology Conference Travel Grant, 2011
- National Science Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2010 - 2012
- Elections, Public Opinion and Voting Behavior APSA Travel Grant, 2010
- Mike Synar Graduate Research Fellowship, 2010
- Institute of Governmental Studies, Research Grant, 2010
- National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship, 2006 - 2009
- Rhodes Scholarship, 2003 - 2005
- Phi Beta Kappa, 2002
- Goodrich C. White Emory College Honors Scholarship, 2000 - 2003

INVITED TALKS
AND
PRESENTATIONS

Princeton University, Real World Impacts of Political and Legal Texts, 2017
UCSD, American Politics Workshop, 2017
UCLA, American Politics Workshop, 2017
UNC, American Politics Research Group, 2016
Duke University, Behavior and Identities Workshop, 2016
UConn, Political Science Colloquium, 2016
UW Madison, American Politics Workshop, 2016
UT Austin, 2016
NYU Center for Data Science, Text-as-Data Speaker Series, 2015
CCES Sundance Conference, 2015
Wesleyan University, 2015
MIT, American Politics Conference, 2013
Stanford University, Political Methodology Workshop, 2013
Princeton University, 2012
Yale University, 2012
Emory University, 2012
University of Michigan, 2012
UC Berkeley, Quantitative Methodology Seminar, 2010, 2012, 2013
UC Berkeley, Research Workshop on American Politics, 2008 - 2009, 2010 - 2012

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting:

2010, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting:

2009, 2012, 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017

Political Methodology Annual Meeting:

2011, 2012, 2015 (paper)

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting:

2015, 2017

TEACHING
INTERESTS AND
EXPERIENCE

Elections and Campaigns, Voting, Public Opinion, Congress, Parties, Political Ideology, Text Scaling and Analysis, Sensitivity Analysis, Causal Inference, and Research Design

Yale University

PLSC 237: Persuasion and Political Communication

PLSC 254: Political Parties in the American System

PLSC 506: Measurement, Estimation, and Inference with Applications to Text Data

PLSC 210/801: Political Preferences and American Political Behavior

PROFESSIONAL
ACTIVITIES

Referee

American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; American Politics Research; British Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics; Political Analysis; Political Behavior; Political Research Quarterly; Political Science Research and Methods; Quarterly Journal of Political Science; Research & Politics

Service to the University

ISPS American Politics Workshop Co-Coordinator, 2016 - 2017

Quantitative Methods Exam Committee, 2014 - 2015, 2016 - 2017, 2017 - 2018

Department Graduate Admissions Committee, 2014 - 2015

Frank M. Patterson Senior Essay Prize Committee, 2014 - 2015

Percival Wood Clement Senior Essay Prize Committee, 2014 - 2015

Yale Committee for the Marshall, Mitchell, and Rhodes Scholarships, 2013 - 2015, 2017 - 2018

Yale Class of 1960 John Heinz Service Fellowship Committee, 2014 - 2015, 2016 - 2017