

## Kenneth Benoit

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### Academic Positions

**London School of Economics and Political Science**, Department of Methodology. Professor of Political Methodology and Head of Department of Methodology, 2011-2013.

**Trinity College Dublin**, Department of Political Science. Professor of Quantitative Social Sciences, 2007–2010, Professor Part-Time 2012–present; Associate Professor, 2005–2007; Fellow, 2003–present; Lecturer, 1998–2005. Head of Department of Political Science from 2008–2010.

**Central European University**, Budapest College, Department of Political Science. Visiting Lecturer, 1997–1998; Permanent Visiting Lecturer, 2000–present.

**Századvég Policy Research Center**, Budapest, Hungary. Senior Research Fellow, 1997–present.

### Education

**Ph.D., Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA. 1998. **Department of Government**. Supervisors: Gary King, Kenneth Shepsle.

**M.A., Harvard University**, Cambridge, MA. 1993. **Department of Government**. Comparative politics with specialization in statistical methodology.

**Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris**, France. 1989–1990. Awarded the Certificat d'Etudes Politiques with Honors. Specialization: contemporary European politics.

**B.A., University of South Carolina**, Columbia, SC. 1986–1991. *Summa cum laude*. Intensive specialization in political science, with Honors from the **South Carolina Honors College**.

### Publications and Papers

#### Articles

- Forthcoming. Laver, Michael and Kenneth Benoit. “The Basic Arithmetic of Legislative Decisions.” *American Journal of Political Science*. doi: 10.1111/ajps.12111
2013. Lowe, Will and Kenneth Benoit. “Validating Estimates of Latent Traits From Textual Data Using Human Judgment as a Benchmark.” *Political Analysis* 21: 298–313.
2012. Däubler, Thomas, Kenneth Benoit, Slava Mikhaylov, and Michael Laver. “Natural Sentences as Valid Units for Coded Political Texts.” *British Journal of Political Science* 42(4): 937–951.
2012. Benoit, Kenneth, Michael Laver, William Lowe, and Slava Mikhaylov. “How to scale coded text units without bias: A response to Gemenis.” *Electoral Studies* 31: 605–608.

2012. Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Laver. "The Dimensionality Of Political Space: Epistemological And Methodological Considerations." *European Union Politics* 13(2).
2012. Mikhaylov, Slava, Michael Laver, and Kenneth Benoit. "Coder Reliability and Misclassification in the Human Coding of Party Manifestos." *Political Analysis* 20: 78–91.
2012. McElroy, Gail and Kenneth Benoit. "Policy Positioning in the European Parliament." *European Union Politics* 13(1): 150–167.
2011. William Lowe, Kenneth Benoit, Slava Mikhaylov, and Michael Laver. "Scaling Policy Preferences From Coded Political Texts." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 26(1): 123–155.
2010. Gail McElroy and Kenneth Benoit. "Party Policy and Group Affiliation in the European Parliament." *British Journal of Political Science* 40(2, April): 377–398.
2010. Kenneth Benoit and Michael Marsh. "Incumbent and Challenger Campaign Spending Effects in Proportional Electoral Systems: The Irish Elections of 2002." *Political Research Quarterly*. 63(1, March): 159–173.
2009. Kenneth Benoit. "Irish Political Parties and Policy Stances on European Integration." *Irish Political Studies* 24(4, December): 447–466.
2009. Nina Wiesehomeier and Kenneth Benoit. "Presidents, Parties And Policy Competition." *Journal of Politics* 71(4, October): 1435–1447. Winner of the Gulbenkian Prize 2011 for the best paper published by a young social scientist (in all fields except economics) from a Portuguese institution in an international journal in the past two years.
2009. Kenneth Benoit and Michael Marsh. "A Relative Impact Ranking of Political Studies In Ireland." *Economic and Social Review* 40(3): 269–298.
2009. Kenneth Benoit, Thomas Bräuninger, and Marc Debus. "Challenges for estimating policy preferences: Announcing an open access archive of political documents." *German Politics* 18(3, September): 440–453.
2009. Kenneth Benoit, Michael Laver, and Slava Mikhaylov. "Treating Words as Data with Error: Uncertainty in Text Statements of Policy Positions." *American Journal of Political Science* 53(2, April): 495–513.
2008. Kenneth Benoit and Michael Marsh. "The Campaign Value of Incumbency: A New Solution to the Puzzle of Less Effective Incumbent Spending." *American Journal of Political Science* 52(4, October): 874–890.
2008. Kenneth Benoit and Michael Laver. "Compared to What? A Comment on 'A Robust Transformation Procedure for Interpreting Political Text' by Martin and Vanberg." *Political Analysis* 16(1, Winter): 101–111.
2007. Laver, Michael and Kenneth Benoit. "Le changement des systèmes partisans et la transformation des espaces politiques." *Revue Internationale de Politique Comparée* 14(2): 303–324.
2007. Benoit, Kenneth. "Electoral Laws as Political Consequences: Explaining the Origins and Change of Electoral Institutions." *Annual Review of Political Science* 10: 363–90.
2007. Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Laver. "Benchmarks for Text Analysis: A Reply to Budge and Pennings." *Electoral Studies* 26: 130–135.
2007. Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Laver. "Estimating party policy positions: Comparing expert surveys and hand coded content analysis." *Electoral Studies* 26: 90–107.
2007. McElroy, Gail and Kenneth Benoit. "Party Groups and Policy Positions in the European Parliament." *Party Politics* 13(1): 5–28.

2006. Laver, Michael, Kenneth Benoit, and Nicolas Sauger. "Policy Competition in the 2002 French Legislative and Presidential Elections." *European Journal of Political Research* 45(4, June): 667–697.
2006. Benoit, Kenneth, Daniela Giannetti, and Michael Laver. "Voter Strategies with Restricted Choice Menus." *British Journal of Political Science* 36 (3, July): 459–485.
2006. Benoit, Kenneth. "Duverger's Law and the Study of Electoral Systems." *French Politics* 4(1): 69–83.
2005. Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Laver. "Mapping the Irish Policy Space: Voter and Party Spaces in Preferential Elections." *Economic and Social Review* 36(2, Summer/Autumn): 83–108.
2005. Laver, Michael and Kenneth Benoit. "Estimating Party Policy Positions: Japan in Comparative Context." *Japanese Journal of Political Science* 6(2, August): 187–209.
2005. Benoit, Kenneth, Michael Laver, Christine Arnold, Madeleine O. Hosli, and Paul Penning. "Measuring National Delegate Positions at the Convention on the Future of Europe Using Computerized Wordscoring." *European Union Politics* 6(3, September): 291–313.
2004. Benoit, Kenneth. "Models of Electoral System Change." *Electoral Studies* 23: 363–389.
2004. Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Marsh. "Campaign Spending in the Local Government Elections of 1999." *Irish Political Studies* 18(2, Winter): 1–22.
2004. Benoit, Kenneth and Jacqueline Hayden. "Institutional Change and Persistence: The Evolution of Poland's Electoral System 1989–2001." *Journal of Politics* 66(May, 2): 396–427.
2003. Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Laver. "Estimating Irish Party Positions Using Computer Wordscoring: The 2002 Elections." *Irish Political Studies* 18(1): 97–107.
2003. Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Marsh. "For A Few Euros More: Campaign Spending Effects in the Irish Local Elections of 1999." *Party Politics* 9(5): 561–582.
2003. Laver, Michael, Kenneth Benoit, and John Garry. "Extracting Policy Positions from Political Texts Using Words as Data." *American Political Science Review* 97(2, May): 311–331.
2003. Laver, Michael and Kenneth Benoit. "The Evolution of Party Systems Between Elections." *American Journal of Political Science* 47(2, April): 215–233.
2002. Benoit, Kenneth. "Like Déjà Vu All Over Again: The Hungarian Elections of 2002." *Journal of Communist Studies and Transition Politics* 18(4, Dec): 119–133.
2002. Laver, Michael and Kenneth Benoit. "Locating TDs in Policy Spaces: Wordscoring Dáil Speeches." *Irish Political Studies* 17(1, Summer): 59–73.
2002. Benoit, Kenneth. "The Endogeneity Problem in Electoral Studies: A Critical Reexamination of Duverger's Mechanical Effect." *Electoral Studies* 21(1, March): 35–46.
2001. Benoit, Kenneth. "District Magnitude, Electoral Formula, and the Number of Parties." *European Journal of Political Research* 39(2, March): 203–229.
2001. Benoit, Kenneth and John W. Schiemann. "Institutional Choice in New Democracies: Bargaining Over Hungary's 1989 Electoral Law." *Journal of Theoretical Politics* 13(2, April): 159–188.
2000. Benoit, Kenneth. "Which Electoral Formula is the Most Proportional? A New Look with New Evidence." *Political Analysis* 8(4): 381–388.

- 1996–97. Benoit, Kenneth and Gary King. “A Preview of *EI* and *EzI*: Programs for Ecological Inference.” *Social Science Computer Review* 14(4):433-438. 1996. Benoit, Kenneth. “Hungary’s Two-Ballot Electoral System.” *Representation* 33(4): 162-170.
1996. Benoit, Kenneth. “Democracies Really Are More Pacific (In General): Reexamining Regime Type and War Involvement.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 40(4): 636–657.

## Books

2008. Giannetti, Daniela and Kenneth Benoit, eds. *Intra-Party Politics and Coalition Governments in Parliamentary Democracies*. London: Routledge.
2006. Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Laver. *Party Policy in Modern Democracies*. London: Routledge.

## Software and Datasets

- 2004–2005. Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Laver. *Party Policy in Modern Democracies*. Expert survey scores of policy positions of political parties in 47 countries. Accompanies book of same title. Available from <http://www.politics.tcd.ie/ppmd/>
- 2002–2004. Benoit, Kenneth. *emphWordscores*: Software for Coding Political Texts. Requires *Stata*. Available from <http://www.politics.tcd.ie/wordscores/>.
- 1996–2002. Benoit, Kenneth and Gary King. “*EzI*: A(n Easy) Program for Ecological Inference.” Computer software for MS-DOS, OS/2, and Windows 95. Program and manual available at <http://GKing.Harvard.Edu/stats.shtml>. Development language: *Gauss*. Winner of the 1998 APSA Best Research Software Award.
1999. Gary King, Bradley Palmquist, Greg Adams, Micah Altman, Kenneth Benoit, Claudine Gay, Jeffrey B. Lewis, R. Mayer, and Eric Reinhardt). *Record of American Democracy, 1984–1990*. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research Number 2162. Winner of the 1999 APSA Best Research Web Site Award.

## Book Chapters

2011. Enyedi, Zsolt and Kenneth Benoit. “Critical Election 2010. The Realignment of the Hungarian Party System in the Left-Right Dimension.” [Hungarian] In *The New Formula: Elections in Hungary in 2010*, eds. Zsolt Enyedi, Robert Tardos and Andrea Szabo. Budapest: DKMKA. pp17–42.
2009. McElroy, Gail and Kenneth Benoit. “Party Group Switching in the European Parliament.” In *Legislative Party Switching and the Foundations of Political Parties*, eds. William Heller and Carol Mershon. New York: Palgrave Macmillan. pp147–172.
2008. Giannetti, Daniela and Kenneth Benoit. “Intra-party politics and coalition governments in parliamentary democracies.” In *Intra-Party Politics and Coalition Governments in Parliamentary Democracies*, eds. Daniela Giannetti and Kenneth Benoit. London: Routledge. pp3–24.
2008. Benoit, Kenneth and Daniela Giannetti. “Intra-party politics and coalition governance: concluding remarks.” In *Intra-Party Politics and Coalition Governments in Parliamentary Democracies*, eds. Daniela Giannetti and Kenneth Benoit. London: Routledge. pp229–235.
2008. Benoit, Kenneth and Nina Wiesehomeier. “Expert Judgments.” In *Neuere Entwicklungen und Anwendungen auf dem Gebiet der Methoden der vergleichenden Politik- und Sozialwissenschaft*, eds. Susanne Pickel, Gert Pickel, Hans-Joachim Lauth, and Detlef Jahn. Wiesbaden: VS Verlag. pp497–515.

2006. Gwiazda, Anna and Kenneth Benoit. "Hungary: Protection of Ethnic Minorities and Institutional Balance." In *Policy-making Processes and the European Constitution: A comparative study of member states and accession countries*, eds. Thomas König and Simon Hug. London: Routledge. pp119–127.
2005. Benoit, Kenneth. "[Hungary: Holding Back the Tiers.](#)" In *The Politics of Electoral Systems*, eds. Michael Gallagher and Paul Mitchell. Oxford: Oxford University Press. pp. 231–252.
2004. Benoit, Kenneth, Michael Laver and Daniela Giannetti. "Multi-Party Split-Ticket Voting Estimation as an Ecological Inference Problem." In *Ecological Inference: New Methodological Strategies*, eds. Gary King, Ori Rosen, and Martin Tanner. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.
2001. Benoit, Kenneth. "Evaluating Hungary's Mixed-Member Electoral System." In Matthew Shugart and Martin Wattenberg, eds. *Mixed-Member Electoral Systems: The Best of Both Worlds?* Oxford: Oxford University Press.
1999. Benoit, Kenneth. "Votes and Seats: The Hungarian Electoral Law and the 1994 Parliamentary Elections." In *Founding Elections in Eastern Europe: Elections to the 1994 Hungarian National Assembly*, eds. Gábor Tóka and Zsolt Enyedi. Berlin: Sigma.
1998. Benoit, Kenneth. "Forecasting the Outcome of the 1998 Parliamentary Elections." In Sándor Kurtán, Péter Sándor, and László Vass, eds., *Hungarian Political Yearbook 1997* [in Hungarian]. Budapest: Demokrácia Kutatások Magyar Központja Alapítvány.
1995. Benoit, Kenneth and Kenneth Shepsle. "Electoral Systems and Minority Representation." In Paul Peterson ed., *Classifying by Race*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

## Other

2006. Benoit, Kenneth and Michael Laver. "Automated Content Analysis of Political Texts using Wordscores." *APSA-CP Newsletter* 17(1, Winter):6–9.
  2005. "How Qualitative Research Really Counts." *Qualitative Methods Newsletter* (Spring).
  2002. "Hungary." In Sara Pendergast and Thomas Pendergast, eds. *Worldmark Encyclopedia of National Economies*. 4 vols. Farmington Hills, MI: Gale Group.
  2001. "[Simulation Methodologies for Political Scientists.](#)" *The Political Methodologist* 10(1, Fall): 12–16.
  2001. Review of *Doing Research in Political Science: An Introduction to Comparative Methods and Statistics*, by Paul Pennings, Hans Keman and Jan Kleinnijenhuis. *Acta Politica: International Journal of Political Science* 36 (Spring):107–109.
  2001. "Authoritarianism"; "Military Dictatorship"; and "One-party State." Entries for *A Reader's Guide to the Social Sciences*. London: Fitzroy Dearborn Press.
  1997. Benoit, Kenneth. "Forecasting the 1998 [Hungarian] Parliamentary Elections." [In Hungarian] *Századvég* 5 (Summer): 149–166.
  1997. "[Why I Use Linux.](#)" *The Political Methodologist* 8(1, Fall):29–33.
- Press publications: see Appendix B.

## Working Papers

2006. McElroy, Gail and Kenneth Benoit. “Party Groups and Policy Positions in the European Parliament.” *Institute for International Integration Studies Discussion Paper* No. 102.
2004. Chari, Raj, Alfonso Egea de Horo, Kenneth Benoit, and Michael Laver. “Spain and European Union Constitution-Building.” Working paper 2004/17, Real Instituto Elcano de Estudios Internacionales y Estratégicos (Madrid, July 18).
1997. Schiemann, John W. and Kenneth Benoit. “Bargaining and Institutional Choice: The Origins of Hungary’s 1989 Electoral Law.” *Center for International Affairs Working Paper* No. 97–5. Harvard University.
1994. “Re-examining Regime Type and War Involvement.” *Center for International Affairs Working Paper* No. 94–5. Harvard University.

## Works in Progress/Unpublished Papers

- 2005 (with Alex Baturo). “National Party Competition and Support for European Integration.” Presented at the ECPR General Conference, 8-10 September 2005, Budapest, Hungary.
- 2005 (with Michael Laver). “The Integer Arithmetic of Legislative Dynamics.” Paper presented at the Workshop on Party Switching, July 10-14, 2005, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA.
2001. “Two Step Forward, One Steps Back: Electoral Coordination in the Hungarian Elections of 1998.” Trinity College manuscript.

## Professional Service

*Co-founder; Interim Executive Director 2011; First Annual General Conference Organizer 2011; Treasurer/Vice-President 2011–present*, European Political Science Association.

### Editorial Roles:

- *Co-editor, Political Science Research and Methods*, 2012–present
- *Editorial board, American Political Science Review*, 2012–present
- *Editorial board, Electoral Studies*, 2003–present
- *Editorial board*, Book series: *Interests, Identities, and Institutions in Comparative Politics*, University of Michigan press, 2006–present

*External assessor*, Quality Review of the School of Law and Government, Dublin City University, 7–9 February 2007.

*Section chair*, Representation and Electoral Systems, 2007 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago.

*Member*, Standing Group on Analytical Politics and Public Choice, European Consortium for Political Research, 2005–present.

*Member*, International Studies Committee, Royal Irish Academy, 2005.

*Assistant Academic Convener*, First Annual ECPR General Conference, Canterbury, UK, September 6–8, 2001. (from 1999-2001)



*Core team member*, Irish National Social and Political Survey. 1999–2002.

*Director*, Political Studies Association of Ireland Press. 1999–2001.

*Executive Board Member*, Political Studies of Association of Ireland. 1999–2001.

University Service, Trinity College:

- Head of Department, Political Science, 2008–present
- Executive Board member, Institute for International Integration Studies, Trinity College, University of Dublin, 2004–2008
- Director of Teaching and Learning, Postgraduate Programme, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy. 2005–2007
- Executive Committee, School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, 2005–2007; 2008–present
- Graduate Strategy Working Group on Graduate Education, 2005–2010 (sub-committee of the Graduate Studies Committee), 2005–2006
- Director of Graduate Admissions, Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin. 2003–2005
- Graduate Director, Department of Political Science, Trinity College Dublin. 1999–2002
- External referee, New Lecturers' Start-Up Fund Applications, 2005
- School of Social Sciences and Philosophy, Post-Graduate Working Party, 2005
- Career Services Advisory Committee, 2004–2005
- Provost's Lecturers Forum, Bess Representative, 2003–2005
- Fellows' Standing Committee, 2004–2005
- Graduate Studies Committee, 2000–2006
- Fulbright Selection Committee (Ireland), Spring 2000
- College Tutor, 1999–2006
- Business, Economics, and Social Studies Faculty Executive Committee, 1998–1999
- Y2K Committee, 1998–2000

Professional referee for more than two dozen major political science and economics journals, university presses, and funding agencies, averaging about three reviews per month.

## Teaching

**Principles of Comparative Research**, MSc course in Political Science, Trinity College Dublin, Autumn 2010.

**Quantitative Text Analysis**, European Consortium for Political Research, Summer School in Methods and Techniques, University of Ljubljana, 2008 and 2009.

**Introduction to Multilevel Models**, European University Institute, Florence, June 4-9, 2009.

**Introduction to Quantitative Research Methods**, Trinity College, MSc in Comparative European Politics. Spring 2009.

**Advanced Quantitative Methods**, Trinity College, Ph.D. Program in Political Science, 1998–2006; 2009.

**Research Design in Political Science**, Trinity College, Ph.D. Program in Political Science, 1998–2001, 2006; Central European University M.A. program (1998), Short Course (March 2001).

**Mathematics for Political Scientists**, Trinity College, Ph.D. Program in Political Science, 1999–2002.

**Analyzing Electoral Data**, Teaching, Methods and Research (TMR) Programme, Winter School, Université Catholique de Louvain, Belgium, January 2002.

**Comparative Political Institutions**, Trinity College, Department of Political Science, 2003–present. Senior sophister seminar.

**Comparative Politics**, Trinity College, Department of Political Science, 1998–1999; Central European University M.A. program (1997); University of New Hampshire (1996).

**Transition Politics**, Trinity College, Department of Political Science, 1998–present.

**Senior Research Seminar**, Trinity College, Department of Political Science, 1999–2000.

## Grants

**Small Project Grant**, Irish Research Council of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2008–2009. €48,883 to establish a World Database of Parties, Elections, and Governments.

**Graduate Research Education Program in Quantitative Social Sciences**, Irish Research Council of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2008–2011, with Paul Devereux (UCD), Philip Lane, and Paul Walsh (UCD). Provides €1,000,000 for three years of funding to establish an inter-disciplinary, inter-institutional, pilot programme to train Ph.D. students in advanced quantitative methodologies.

**Government of Ireland Research Scholarship**, Irish Research Council of the Humanities and Social Sciences, 2006–2007. Provides €42,000 to provide replacement for a one-year sabbatical.

**Scholar Exchange Scheme**, Royal Irish Academy (April 2006). One month sponsorship between Irish Royal Academy and Hungarian Academy of Sciences for study in Budapest (approx €2,000).

**International Institute for Integration Studies funded project**: Globalisation and Party Competition. Trinity College, University of Dublin. Second-round funded collaborative project (with Gail McElroy, Michael Marsh, and Robert Thomson). Total: €100,000.

**Enterprise Ireland Proof-of-Concept Grant** (2004–2005). €78,431 for developing a method to extract information from texts using computerized content analysis. Duration: 12 months.

**National Science Foundation** (2004–2006), Collaborator. “Collaborative Research on Legislative Party Switching: Integrating Theoretical and Comparative Empirical Analyses.” Award No. 0339877, Co-Principal Investigators William B. Heller and Carol Mershon. Award amount \$200,000, duration 24 months.

**European Fifth Framework Grant** (2002–2006). Received €97,695 for the Trinity College-based team on the project *Domestic Structures of European Integration*, headed by Thomas König.

**Government of Ireland Research Scholarship**, Irish Research Council of the Humanities and Social Sciences (September 2002 – August 2003). Provides €36,000 to provide replacement for a one-year sabbatical.



**International Institute for Integration Studies funded project:** Spatial Models of Party Competition. Trinity College, University of Dublin. Approximately €45,000 for research, travel, and pre-doctoral assistant for work on cross-national electoral and party systems.

**Scholar Exchange Scheme,** Royal Irish Academy (April 2002). One month sponsorship between Irish Royal Academy and Hungarian Academy of Sciences for study in Budapest (approx €2,000).

**Social Science Research Council Research Grant,** Royal Irish Academy (1999). IR£20,000 grant for research on Eastern European electoral system origins.

### Awards

**Winner of 1999 APSA Best Research Web Site Award** (awarded as part of a group). Presented by the Computers and Multimedia Section at the 1999 annual meeting. For the *Record of American Democracy (ROAD) Project* website, <http://data.fas.harvard.edu/ROAD/>.

**Winner of 1998 APSA Best Research Software Award.** Presented by the Computers and Multimedia Section at the 1998 annual meeting. For *EzI: A(n Easy) Program for Ecological Inference*, with Gary King.

### Language Skills

Fluent Hungarian; advanced French.

Updated March 21, 2014  
This C.V. is online at <http://kenbenoit.net>