

# Thomas J. Leeper

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## EDUCATION

- » PhD, Political Science, Northwestern University (2012)
  - Dissertation: *Essays on Political Information and the Dynamics of Public Opinion*
  - Chair: Jamie Druckman
  - Committee: Benjamin Page, Dennis Chong, & Fay Lomax Cook
- » Summer Institute in Political Psychology, Stanford University (2009)
- » M.A., Northwestern University (2010)
- » B.A. *magna cum laude* with Distinction, Political Science & Global Studies, University of Minnesota—Twin Cities (2007)

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- » Assistant Professor in Political Behaviour, Department of Government, London School of Economics and Political Science (from Sep. 2015)
- » Postdoc, Department of Political Science and Government, Aarhus University (2013–2015)
  - Member, POLIS Political Parties and Issue Strategies Project (2013–2015)
  - Associated Researcher, Cognition and Behavior Lab (2013–2015)
- » Graduate Fellow, Institute for Policy Research, Northwestern University (2009–2012)

## PUBLICATIONS

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

- » Thomas J. Leeper. 2014. “Cognitive Style and the Survey Response.” *Public Opinion Quarterly* 78(4): 974–983. doi:10.1093/poq/nfu042
- » Thomas J. Leeper. 2014. “Archiving Reproducible Research with R and Dataverse.” *The R Journal* 6(1): 151–158. <http://journal.r-project.org/archive/2014-1/leeper.pdf>.
- » Thomas J. Leeper. 2014. “The Informational Basis for Mass Polarization.” *Public Opinion Quarterly* 78(1): 27–46. doi:10.1093/poq/nft045
- » Thomas J. Leeper, and Rune Slothuus. 2014. “Political Parties, Motivated Reasoning, and Public Opinion Formation.” *Advances in Political Psychology* 35 (Supplement 1): 129–156. doi:10.1111/pops.12164
- » Toby Bolsen, Thomas J. Leeper, and Matthew Shapiro. 2014. “Doing What Others Do: Norms, Science, and Collective Action on Global Warming.” *American Politics Research* 42(1): 65–89. doi:10.1177/1532673X13484173

- » Toby Bolsen, and Thomas J. Leeper. 2013. "Self-Interest and Attention to News among Issue Publics." *Political Communication* 30(3): 329–348.  
doi:10.1080/10584609.2012.737428
- » James N. Druckman, and Thomas J. Leeper. 2012. "Learning More from Political Communication Experiments: Pretreatment and Its Effects." *American Journal of Political Science* 56(4): 875–896. doi:10.1111/j.1540-5907.2012.00582.x
- » James N. Druckman, and Thomas J. Leeper. 2012. "Is Public Opinion Stable? Resolving the Micro-Macro Disconnect in Studies of Public Opinion." *Daedalus* 141(4): 50–68. doi:10.1162/DAED\_a\_00173
- » James N. Druckman, Jordan Fein, and Thomas J. Leeper. 2012. "A Source of Bias in Public Opinion Stability." *American Political Science Review* 106(2): 430–454.  
doi:10.1017/S0003055412000123

#### Other Publications

- » James N. Druckman, Thomas J. Leeper, and Kevin J. Mullinix. 2014. "The Experimental Study of Legislative Behaviors." In Thomas Saalfeld, and Kaare Strøm, eds., *The Oxford Handbook of Legislative Studies*, 194–210. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- » Thomas J. Leeper. 2014. "Making High-Resolution Graphics for Academic Publishing." *The Political Methodologist* 21(1): 2–5.
- » Thomas J. Leeper. 2013. "Crowdsourcing with R and the MTurk API." *The Political Methodologist* 2(2): 2–7.
- » Thomas J. Leeper. 2011. "The Role of Protocol in the Design and Reporting of Experiments." *The Experimental Political Scientist* 2(1): 6–10.
- » Marybeth Neal, Thomas J. Leeper, and Susan Root. 2009. "Attributes of Quality Service-Learning: Findings from the Transitioning to Adulthood Survey." In James C. Kielsmeier, Susan Root, Bjorn Lyngstad, and Caryn Pernu, eds., *Growing to Greatness 2009*. St. Paul: NYLC.
- » Thomas J. Leeper. 2008. "Service-Learning in the States: Recent Policy Developments." In James C. Kielsmeier, Marybeth Neal, Nathan Schultz, and Thomas J. Leeper, eds., *Growing to Greatness 2008*. St. Paul: NYLC.
- » Thomas J. Leeper. 2008. "A Vision of Service-Learning Policy: Why It Matters." In James C. Kielsmeier, Marybeth Neal, Nathan Schultz, and Thomas J. Leeper, eds., *Growing to Greatness 2008*. St. Paul: NYLC.
- » James C. Kielsmeier, Marybeth Neal, Nathan Schultz, and Thomas J. Leeper, eds. 2008. *Growing to Greatness 2008*. St. Paul: National Youth Leadership Council.
- » Thomas J. Leeper. 2008. "Beyond 'Valuing Diversity' in Service-Learning." *The Generator* 26:3.
- » Thomas J. Leeper. 2008. "Measuring Service-Learning Success." *The Generator* 26:2.
- » Thomas J. Leeper. 2008. "Youth Voice Research: Findings, Gaps and Trends." *The Generator* 26:1.

Working Papers and Papers Under Review

- » Kevin J. Mullinix, Thomas J. Leeper, James N. Druckman, and Jeremy Freese. “The Generalizability of Survey Experiments.” Revise and Resubmit.
- » Thomas J. Leeper, and Rune Slothuus. “Can Citizens Be Framed? How Information, Not Emphasis, Changes Opinions.” Under review.
- » Joshua Robison, Thomas J. Leeper, and James N. Druckman. “Do Heterogeneous Social Networks Undermine Attitude Strength?” Under review.
- » Thomas J. Leeper, and Emily Thorson. “Minimal Sponsorship-Induced Bias in Web Survey Data.” Under review.
- » Thomas J. Leeper. “The Roles of Media Choice and Media Effects in Political Knowledge Gaps.” Under review.
- » Thomas J. Leeper. “How Does Treatment Self-Selection Affect Inferences About Political Communication?” Under review.
- » Thomas J. Leeper. “Information Sources and the Evaluation of Political Arguments.”
- » Thomas J. Leeper. “Are Important Attitudes More Stable? Revisiting the Evidence.”
- » Thomas J. Leeper, and Rune Slothuus. “The Information Environment and Consistency in Citizens’ Policy Opinions.”
- » Thomas J. Leeper. “Causal Effects Under Self-Selection.”
- » Thomas J. Leeper. “What Have We Done?! Reporting Political Communication Experiments.”

GRANTS  
AND  
FUNDING

- » Named project member on Danish Council for Independent Research Sapere Aude grant to Rune Slothuus, total award 7,050,249 DKK (approx. \$1,274,748) (2014)
- » Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences, approx. \$12,000 (2013)
- » National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, \$12,000 (2012)
- » Northwestern Career Development Grant for Humanists and Social Scientists, \$400 (2012)
- » Northwestern University TGS Conference Travel Grant, \$500 (2012)
- » APSA Annual Meeting Travel Grant, \$200 (2011)
- » Northwestern University TGS Conference Travel Grant, \$700 (2011)
- » Weinberg College of Arts and Sciences Humanities and Social Sciences Technology-Enhanced Doctoral Research Award, \$600 (2011)
- » Northwestern University Graduate Research Grant, \$3,000 (2011)
- » Northwestern University MacArthur Fund grant, \$2,000 (2009)
- » Northwestern University Fellowship, \$20,000 (2008-2009, 2012-2013)
- » Bush Foundation Study Abroad Scholarship, University of Minnesota, \$750 (2006)
- » Hearst Foundation United States Senate Youth Program Scholarship, \$5,000 (2005)

HONORS  
AND  
AWARDS

- » APSA Political Psychology Section Distinguished Junior Scholars Award (2014)

- » Best Paper Award from APSA Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section (2012)
- » Timothy Cook Best Graduate Student Paper Award from APSA Political Communication Section (2012)
- » Honorable Mention, National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2009)
- » Early election, Phi Beta Kappa, University of Minnesota (2007)
- » College of Liberal Arts Undergraduate Honors Program, University of Minnesota (2006-2007)
- » College of Liberal Arts Dean's List, University of Minnesota (2005-2007)
- » Minnesota Delegate, United States Senate Youth Program (2005)

## SOFTWARE

### R packages

- » “colourlovers: R client for the COLOURlovers API.” On CRAN.
- » “dtupdate: Functions that try to make it easier to keep up with the non-CRAN universe.” On GitHub (Contributor).
- » “imguR: Imgur API Client Package for R.” On CRAN.
- » “margins: Marginal Effects for Model Objects.” On GitHub.
- » “mcode: Functions to merge and recode across multiple variables.” On GitHub.
- » “meme: Meme Generation in R.” On GitHub.
- » “rio: A Swiss-army knife for data file I/O.” On GitHub.
- » “rite: The Right Editor to Write R.” On CRAN.
- » “Rmonkey: Access Survey Monkey from R.” On GitHub.
- » “rscribd: Scribd API Client Package for R.” On GitHub.
- » “slopegraph: Edward Tufte-inspired Slopegraphs in R.” On GitHub.
- » “sparktex: Generate LaTeX sparklines in R.” On CRAN.
- » “UNF: Tools for creating universal numeric fingerprints for data.” On GitHub.
- » Other assorted code samples are available on my website and/or GitHub.

### R packages contributed to the cloudyr project

- » “aws.signature: Amazon Web Services Request Signatures.” On GitHub.
- » “aws.ses: Amazon Web Services Simple Email Service.” On GitHub.
- » “aws.sns: Amazon Web Services Simple Notification Service.” On GitHub.
- » “aws.sqs: Amazon Web Services Simple Queue Service.” On GitHub.
- » “microworkers: Microworkers.com R Client.” On GitHub.
- » “MTurkR: R Client for the MTurk Requester API.” On CRAN.

### R packages contributed to the rOpenGov project

- » “dkstat: API connection to the StatBank from Statistics Denmark..” On GitHub (Contributor).

- » “federalregister: R client for the U.S. Federal Register API.” On GitHub.
- » “mpg: Fuel economy data from FuelEconomy.gov.” On GitHub.
- » “pollstR: R client for the Pollster API.” On CRAN (Contributor).
- » “recalls: Access U.S. Federal Government Recall Data.” On GitHub.
- » “RPublica: ProPublica API Client.” On GitHub.
- » “rsunlight. Interface to APIs for data on what our elected representatives are up to.” On CRAN (Contributor).
- » “usbroadband: Data for the U.S. National Broadband Map.” On GitHub.

R packages contributed to the rOpenHealth project

- » “openfda: Convenient access to the OpenFDA API.” On GitHub (Contributor).

R packages contributed to the rOpenSci project

- » “dvn: Access to The Dataverse Network APIs.” On CRAN.

#### Conference Papers

- » “The Nonrandom Polling of Public Opinion.” Annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, 2015.
- » “Political Interest, Audience Size, and Ideology: The Conditional Scope of Selective Exposure to Television.” APSA Pre-Conference on Political Communication, San Francisco, CA, 2015.
- » “The Information Environment and Consistency in Citizens’ Policy Opinions.” Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2015.
- » “The Role of Media Choice and Media Effects in Political Knowledge Gaps.” Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2015.
- » “Sponsorship-Induced Bias in Online Survey and Experimental Data.” Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2015.
- » “Unifying Theory and Methods on the Effects of Political Information Exposure.” Danish Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Vejle, Denmark, 2014.
- » “To Whom, and With What Effect? Parallel Experiments on Framing.” Annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, 2014.
- » “How Real-World Political Debate Influences Public Opinion Formation and Experimental Effects on Opinion.” Annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, 2014.
- » “How Real-World Political Debate Influences Public Opinion Formation and Experimental Effects on Opinion.” Nordic Political Science Association Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden, 2014. (Declined)
- » “Are Strong Opinions More Stable?” Annual scientific meeting of the International Society for Political Psychology, Rome, Italy, 2014.
- » “To Whom, and With What Effect? Parallel Experiments on Framing.” Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2014.

- » “Are Strong Opinions More Stable?” Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2014.
- » “Interest Groups and Political Attitudes.” Danish Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Vejle, Denmark, 2013.
- » “Byproduct Exposure to Politics” Annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2013.
- » “In Search of Political Attitude Structure.” Annual scientific meeting of the International Society for Political Psychology, Herzliya, Israel, 2013. (Declined)
- » “Preference-based Measures of Media Exposure.” Annual conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, Boston, MA, 2013.
- » “Strong Attitudes and Biased Political Engagement.” Annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, 2012.
- » “The Informational Basis of Mass Polarization.” Annual scientific meeting of the International Society for Political Psychology, Chicago, IL, 2012.
- » “Strong Attitudes and Biased Political Engagement.” Annual scientific meeting of the International Society for Political Psychology, Chicago, IL, 2012.
- » “Strong Attitudes and Biased Political Engagement.” Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2012.
- » “Getting Informed or Just Getting By: How Attentive Do Citizens Need to Be to ‘Get’ the News?” Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2012.
- » “Strong Attitudes and Biased Political Engagement.” American Politics Workshop, Northwestern University, 2012.
- » “Learning More from Political Communication Experiments: The Importance of Pre-treatment Effects.” Annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, IL, 2011.
- » “The Problem with Captive Audiences: Framing and Information Search.” Annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, IL, 2011.
- » “Matching Moderators: Causal Interactions in Observational Studies.” Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2011.
- » “Bias in Political Communication Experiments.” Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2011.
- » “Revisiting Political Awareness: Has Public Opinion Research Forsaken Federalism?” Annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2010.
- » “Revisiting Political Awareness: Has Public Opinion Research Forsaken Federalism?” American Politics Workshop, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL, January 25, 2010.
- » “Attributes of Quality Service-Learning in Respondent’s Past Service Experience: New Findings from NYLC’s Transitioning To Adulthood Survey.” Presented at the International Research Conference on Service-Learning and Civic Engagement, New Orleans, 2008.

#### Invited Presentations

- » “What If You Had Done Things Differently? Testing the Generalizability of Framing Effects with Parallel Experiment.” Workshop on Innovations in Online Experiments, Nuffield College, Oxford, UK, 2015.
- » “The Role of Media Choice and Media Effects in Political Knowledge Gaps.” Manship School of Mass Communication, Louisiana State University, 2014.
- » “The Role of Media Choice and Media Effects in Political Knowledge Gaps.” Department of Political Science, McGill University, 2014.
- » “The Role of Media Choice and Media Effects in Political Knowledge Gaps.” Department of Government, London School of Economics and Political Science, 2014.
- » “Why Do We Execute?” Political Behavior Workshop, Aarhus University, 2014.
- » “Reproducible Research: What, Why, How.” Interacting Minds Centre, Aarhus University, 2014.
- » “How Real-World Political Debate Influences Public Opinion Formation and Experimental Effects on Opinion.” Experiments in Political Science Workshop, Copenhagen University, 2014.
- » “To Whom, With What Effect? Parallel Experiments on Framing.” Comparative Politics Workshop, Aarhus University, 2013.
- » “Beyond Approach/Avoidance in Political Psychology.” Political Behavior Workshop, Aarhus University, 2013.
- » “To Whom, With What Effect? Parallel Experiments on Framing.” Department of Political Science and Public Management, University of Southern Denmark, 2013.
- » “Interest Groups and Political Attitudes.” Comparative Politics Workshop, Aarhus University, 2013.
- » “Political Groups and Public Opinion.” Political Parties Working Group, Northwestern University, 2012.
- » “The Problem with Captive Audiences: Framing and Information Search.” Applied Quantitative Methods Workshop, Northwestern University, 2011.
- » “Bias in Political Communication Experiments.” Political Psychology Workshop, University of Chicago, 2011.

#### TEACHING AND ADVISING

##### Experience: Aarhus University

- » Co-Instructor, *Quantitative Political Analysis* (Master/PhD), Aarhus University, 2015
- » Instructor, *Surveys for Research and Evaluation* (Master), Aarhus University, 2014
- » Instructor, *Issues in American Politics and Government* (Master), Aarhus University, 2014
- » Instructor, *Experimentation and Causal Inference* (Master), Aarhus University, 2014
- » Co-Instructor, *Quantitative Political Analysis* (Master/PhD), Aarhus University, 2014
- » Instructor, *Does Public Opinion Matter?* (Master), Aarhus University, 2013

##### Experience: Northwestern University

- » Teaching Assistant, *Statistical Research Methods* (Bachelor), Northwestern University, 2011
- » Teaching Assistant, *Methods of Political Inference* (Bachelor), Northwestern University, 2011
- » Teaching Assistant, *Political Psychology of Mass Behavior* (Bachelor), University of Minnesota, 2007

#### Short courses

- » “Regression Computation.” PhD Course, Department of Political Science and Government, Aarhus University, 2015.
- » “Producing Reproducible Research.” Interacting Minds Center, Aarhus University, 2014.
- » “Introduction to R.” Department of Political Science and Government, Aarhus University, 2013.

#### Master Advising, Aarhus University

- » Jakob Stensgård, 2015

#### Internship Supervision, Aarhus University

- » Jakob Sevelsted, 2014

#### Pedagogical Training

- » Educational IT – Go Online, Aarhus University, 2013
- » Teaching Training Programme for Assistant Professors and Postdocs, Aarhus University, 2013
- » New Teaching Assistant Conference, Northwestern University, 2010

## SERVICE

#### Departmental (Aarhus University)

- » Committee member, Curriculum development for Master/PhD “Qualitative Political Analysis” course (2014–2015)

#### Departmental (Northwestern University)

- » Co-Chair, Northwestern Political Science Commune (Graduate student organization) (2011-2012)
- » Coordinator, Undergraduate Political Science Experimental Research Participation Pool (2010-2012)

#### Disciplinary

- » Reviewer:  
*American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, American Politics Research, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, Future Internet, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, Journal of Communication,*



*Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, Journal of Experimental Political Science, Journal of Politics, Nature Climate Change, PLoS One, Political Analysis, Political Behavior, Political Communication, Political Psychology, Journal of Public Policy, Political Research Quarterly, Political Science Research and Methods, Politics, Groups, and Identities, Public Opinion Quarterly, SAGE Open, Scandinavian Political Studies, AAPOR Annual Conference, Israeli Science Foundation, TESS: Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences*

» Panel Discussant:

AAPOR (2013), APSA (2012, 2014, 2015), DPSA (2013, 2014), ISPP (2012), MPSA (2014, 2015)

» Panel Chair:

APSA (2013), ISPP (2013, 2014), MPSA (2014, 2015)

» Roundtable participant:

MPSA (2015)

» Panel Organizer:

- APSA (2013): “Advances in Experiments on Media and Information Choices”

» Committees and Other Service:

- Committee member, APSA Political Psychology Career Achievement Award (2015)
- Committee member, APSA Political Communication Section Doris Graber Book Award (2014)
- Committee member, APSA Political Psychology Section Best Paper Award (2014)
- Section Chair, Experimental Research Section, MPSA (2014)
- Associate PI, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (2013–)

» Professional Memberships:

- American Political Science Association (2007–)
- Midwest Political Science Association (2009–)
- American Association for Public Opinion Research (2009–)
- International Society for Political Psychology (2009–)
- Society for Political Methodology (2010–)

Public Engagement

» Open Science Evangelism

- Founder, the cloudyr project (2014–)
- Contributing developer, rOpenHealth (2015–)
- Contributing developer, rOpenSci (2014–)
- Contributing developer, rOpenGov (2014–)
- Co-maintainer, CRAN Web Technologies Task View (2014–)
- Co-maintainer, CRAN Open Data Task View (2015–)
- Co-maintainer, CRAN Package Development Task View (2015–)

- » Occasional Blogging
  - Academic blog (2014-)
  - rOpenSci (2014)
  - *The Political Methodologist's* Most Viewed Post of 2014
  - PoliSci Replication (2014)
  - “Polarized,” a *Psychology Today* blog about psychology and public opinion (2012-2013)
  - The New West (2015-)
- » Assistance with statistics, R programming, and Amazon Mechanical Turk on Stack-Overflow. (2013–present; “trusted user” 2015–present)
- » Contributions to English-language *Wikipedia* on topics related to political psychology and statistics as user thosjleep (2008-)