Department of Political Science 361 Hamilton Hall Box 3265

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill Chapel Hill, NC 27599-3265

Phone: (860) 377-4213 Fax: (919) 962-0432 bdesmara@email.unc.edu

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2011 (Expected), Research Methods and American Politics

M.A. Political Science, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, 2008

B.A. Mathematical Economics and Public Policy, Eastern Connecticut State University, 2005, Summa Cum Laude

Research Interests

Quantitative Research Methods

Event History Modeling, Time Series Analysis (particularly with non-Gaussian data), Network Analysis, Quantile Regression, Cluster Analysis, Numerical Optimization (as applied to statistical analysis), Statistical Computing.

American Politics

Bureaucracy, Judicial Politics, dynamic political preferences (evolution and aggregation), defense and intelligence policy

Teaching Experience

Primary Instructor

Math for the GRE and GMAT (Durham Technical Community College) Summer 2006 - Fall 2009

Lab Instructor for Generalized Linear Models (Graduate Political Science), Fall 2008, 2009

Lab Instructor for Probability Theory and Statistics (Graduate Political Science), Fall 2009

Short Courses in Matlab Statistics, Simulink and Graphics (The Odum Institute for Social Research, UNC), Spring 2009

Short Course in Mathematica (The Odum Institute for Social Research, UNC), Spring 2009

Teaching Assistant

Politics of Sexuality, Fall 2006

Introduction to American Politics, Spring 2007-Spring 2009

Research Appointments

Research Assistant

for Professor Skyler Cranmer (UNC Political Science), Summer 2009

Statistical Consultant

to Professor Stuart Benjamin (Duke Law School), Summer 2009 - Present

Research

"A General Class of Models for Relational Data". (2009) With Skyler Cranmer. Under Review

"The Dimensionality of the Supreme Court Citations Network" (2009). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology 2009.

"Race, Gender and the U.S. House Cosponsorship Network" (2009). with Skyler Cranmer and James Fowler. Presented at the Harvard Political Networks Conference 2009.

"Discrete Measurement of Time and Event History Modeling" (2008). MA Thesis and Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology 2008.

"The Inter-Institutional Foundations of Official Government Secrecy in the U.S." (2008). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association 2008.

"Quantile Regression, an Alternative to OLS with a Sample-Based Hypothesis Test" (2008). with Jeff Harden. *Under Review*

"Dynamically Non-Separable Preferences in the U.S. Supreme Court" (2008). Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2009.

"Legistative influence and Public Personnel Policy" (2007). with Michele Hoyman and Willow Jacobson. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association 2007.

Awards

Summer Research Award, American Politics Research Group, UNC Chapel-Hill, 2007, 2008 and 2009.

Travel Grant, Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology, 2008.

Travel Grant, Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology, 2009.

Travel Grant, Harvard Political Networks Conference, 2009.

Uhlman Summer Research Grant, Summer 2009.

Quantitative Research Competencies

Least Squares Estimation, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Time Series Analysis, Event-History (Duration and Survival) Analysis, Discrete-Choice Models, Multilevel Models, Composite Maximum Likelihood, Quantile Regression, Game Theory, Bayesian Statistics.

Computational Competencies

R, C++, LATEX , SAS, STATA, Microsoft Office, Maple, Matlab, Mathematica, Maxima, HLM, SPSS, WinBUGS.

Departmental Service

Co-Organizer, Triangle Political Methodology Group.

References

Prof. Thomas Carsey Thesis Committee Chair Phone: (919) 962-1207 carsey@email.unc.edu

Prof. James Stimson Thesis Committee Member Phone: (919) 962-0428 jstimson@email.unc.edu Prof. Skyler Cranmer Professor Phone: (919) 962-0406 skyler@unc.edu