

BORIS SHOR

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Web Site and Blog: <http://bshor.github.io>

Google Scholar Page: <http://goo.gl/kxQvm>

SSRN Page: <http://bit.ly/ssrn-bshor>

Dataverse Page: <http://dvn.iq.harvard.edu/dvn/dv/bshor>

PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

- Pauline Yelderman Chair, Department of Political Science, University of Houston (2024-2027)
- Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Houston (2019-Current)
- Associate Professor (joint appointment), Hobby School of Public Affairs, University of Houston (2024-Current)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Houston (2016-2019)
- Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Government, Georgetown University (2014-2016)
- Assistant Professor, Irving B. Harris Graduate School of Public Policy Studies, University of Chicago (2005-2014)
- Visiting Scholar, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholar in Health Policy, University of California Berkeley, 2011-2013
- Visiting Research Scholar, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, Woodrow Wilson School of International and Public Affairs, Princeton University, 2004-2005

EDUCATION

Columbia University, Ph.D. and M.A. Degrees, Political Science Department, 2006

- Dissertation: *The Consequences of Institutions: The Political Geography of Federal Expenditures*
- Committee: Andrew Gelman (Political Science and Statistics), Nolan McCarty (Politics Department and Woodrow Wilson School, Princeton University), David Epstein (Political Science)

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

19. "[Are State Legislative Leaders Moderates?](#)", *Legislative Studies Quarterly* (Accepted July 2025, Published November 2025), Boris Shor.
18. "[Comparing Leviathans: Agenda Influence in State Legislatures, 2011 to 2023](#)", *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* (Accepted November 2023, Published February 2024), Boris Shor and Michael R. Kistner.
17. "[Can Pigou at the Polls Stop Us Melting the Poles? A Postmortem Analysis of Washington State's Carbon Tax Initiatives](#)", *Journal of the Association of Environmental and Resource Economists* (Accepted September 2022, Published July 2023), Soren Anderson, Ioana Marinescu, Boris Shor.
16. "[Two Decades of Polarization in American State Legislatures](#)", *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* (Accepted June 2021, Published 2022), Boris Shor and Nolan McCarty.

15. "[Has the Top Two Primary Elected More Moderates?](#)", *Perspectives on Politics* (Accepted May 2017, Published December 2017), Eric McGhee, Boris Shor.
14. "[Geography, Uncertainty, and Polarization](#)", *Political Science Research and Methods* (Accepted May 2017, Published March 2018), Nolan McCarty, Jonathan Rodden, Boris Shor, Chris Warshaw, Chris Tausanovitch.
13. "[Ideology, Party and Opinion: Explaining Individual ACA Implementation Votes in the States](#)" *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* (Accepted April 2017, Published September 2018), Boris Shor.
12. "[Reform and Representation: Assessing California's Top-Two Primary and Redistricting Commission](#)", *Political Science Research and Methods* (Online November 2016, Published October 2018), Thad Kousser, Justin Phillips, Boris Shor.
11. "[Do Moderate Voters Weigh Candidates' Ideologies? Voters' Decision Rules in the 2010 Congressional Elections](#)," *Political Behavior* (Online August 2016, Published March 2017), James Adams, Erik Engstrom, Danielle Joeston, Walt Stone, Jon Rogowski, Boris Shor.
10. "[Ideology and the Congressional Vote](#)," *Political Science Research and Methods* (Accepted June 2016, Published April 2018), Boris Shor and Jon Rogowski.
9. "[Ideology, Learning, and Policy Diffusion: Experimental Evidence](#)," *American Journal of Political Science* (Online July 2015, Published January 2017), Daniel Butler, Craig Volden, Adam Dynes, Boris Shor.
8. "[Polarization without Parties: Term Limits and Legislative Partisanship in Nebraska's Unicameral Legislature](#)," *State Politics and Policy Quarterly* (Online December 2014, Published March 2015), Seth Masket and Boris Shor ([PDF](#))
7. "[Party Competition, Party Polarization, and the Changing Demand for Lobbying in the American States](#)," *American Politics Research* (Online November 2014, Published March 2015), Virginia Gray, John Cluverius, Jeffrey J. Harden, Boris Shor, David Lowery.
6. "[A Primary Cause of Partisanship? Nomination Systems and Legislator Ideology](#)," *American Journal of Political Science* (April 2014), Eric McGhee, Seth Masket, Boris Shor, Steven Rogers, Nolan McCarty.
5. "[Red State/Blue State Divisions in the 2012 Presidential Election](#)," *The Forum*, (February 2013), Avi Feller, Andrew Gelman, Boris Shor.
4. "[The Ideological Mapping of American Legislatures](#)," *American Political Science Review* (August 2011), Boris Shor and Nolan McCarty.
3. "[A Bridge to Somewhere: Mapping State and Congressional Ideology on a Cross-Institutional Common Space](#)," *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, August 2010, Boris Shor, Christopher Berry, Nolan McCarty.
2. "[Rich State, Poor State, Red State, Blue State: What's the Matter with Connecticut?](#)," *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, November 2007, Andrew Gelman, Boris Shor, Joseph Bafumi, David Park.
1. "[A Bayesian Multilevel Modeling Approach to Time-Series Cross-Sectional Data](#)," *Political Analysis* Spring 2007, Boris Shor, Joseph Bafumi, Luke Keele, David Park.

PEER-REVIEWED MONOGRAPHS

Red State, Blue State, Rich State, Poor State: Why Americans Vote the Way They Do (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 2009), Andrew Gelman, David Park, Boris Shor, Jeronimo Cortina [1st ed 2007, 2nd ed 2009]

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

- "How US States are Polarized and Getting More Polarized", in [Political Polarization in American Politics](#) [2015] (Bloomsbury, Editors: Daniel J. Hopkins and John Sides), Boris Shor.
- "[State Legislative Polarization in America's State Legislatures](#)," in [American Gridlock: The Sources, Character, and Impact of Political Polarization](#) [2015] (Cambridge University Press, Editors: James Thurber and Antoine Yoshinaka), Boris Shor.
- "Party Polarization in America's State Legislatures: An Update," in [The State of the Parties: The Changing Role of Contemporary American Parties](#) [2014] (Rowman & Littlefield: Editors: John Green, Daniel Coffey, David Cohen), Boris Shor.

HONORS

- State Politics Section of the American Political Science Association 2025 Jewell Enduring Contribution Award (for "[The Ideological Mapping of American Legislatures](#)")
- American Political Science Association 2016 Franklin L. Burdett/Pi Sigma Alpha Award for best paper presented at the 2015 annual meeting (for "[Unequal Incomes, Ideology and Gridlock: How Rising Inequality Increases Political Polarization](#)")
- Legislative Studies Section of the American Political Science Association 2016 CQ Press Award for best paper presented at the 2015 annual meeting (for "[Unequal Incomes, Ideology and Gridlock: How Rising Inequality Increases Political Polarization](#)")
- State Politics Section of the American Political Science Association 2015 Best Journal Article Award (for "[A Primary Cause of Partisanship](#)")
- State Politics and Policy Quarterly 2012 Best Article (for "[Polarization without Parties](#)")
- Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Fellowship (UC-Berkeley), 2011-2013

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Book Manuscript

- *Large Language Models for Public Opinion Research*, with Ryan Kennedy and Amanda Austin (graduate student), Cambridge University Press Elements. Estimated completion: June 2026.

Under Review

- “Out of Step, Out of Party: Party Switching in American State Legislatures”, Boris Shor

Working Papers

- “Inference, Memory, or Stereotypes? Understanding LLM Roleplaying of Policy Opinions”, Amanda Austin (graduate student), Ryan Kennedy, and Boris Shor
- “Unequal Incomes, Ideology and Gridlock: How Rising Inequality Increases Political Polarization”, John Voorheis, Nolan McCarty, Boris Shor.
- “Health Policy Reform in the 50 States, 2011-2023”, Boris Shor

Dormant Papers

- “Presidential Endorsements by State Legislators in the 2016 Presidential Contest”, Boris Shor and Gregory Koger
- “Primary Electorates vs. Party Elites: Who are the Polarizers?”, Seth Masket and Boris Shor

DATA

- State legislative ideology data, 1993-2022
 - Total Downloads from Dataverse since 2012: 19,000
 - Last update: [January 2025](#)
- Individual level state legislator ideology data, 1993-2022
 - Total Downloads from Dataverse since 2012: 12,000
 - Last update: [January 2025](#)

GRANTS RECEIVED

- PI, Energy Transition Institute, 2023-2024 (\$95,160)
- PI, Russell Sage Foundation, 2019-2024 (\$174,998)
- Co-PI, Kleinman Center for Energy Policy (University of Pennsylvania), 2018-2019 (\$15,000)
- PI, UH Division of Research Small Grant Award, 2018-2019 (\$4,500)
- Co-PI, Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (Stanford), 2017 (\$10,000)
- Co-PI, Laura and John Arnold Foundation, 2013-2015 (\$157,856)
- PI, Center for the American Governor (Rutgers University) 2013-2014 (\$5,000)
- Co-PI, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Pilot Grant, 2012 (\$12,000)
- Co-PI, Murray Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy at Washington University in St. Louis, 2012 (\$49,333)
- Co-PI, National Science Foundation, Political Science Program, “Collaborative Research: The Ideological Mapping of American Legislatures”; 2011-2014 (\$434,451)
- PI, Dean’s Grant for Survey Research, 2008 (\$22,000)
- PI, Program on Political Institutions Research Grant, 2007 (\$2,500)

SOFTWARE

- Voteview/Voteworld for Windows
 - Written collaboratively with Howard Rosenthal and Keith T. Poole, 1993-2004
 - Available at <http://voteworld.berkeley.edu/vwpc.html>

INVITED TALKS (SOLO)

- Political Science Department, Rutgers University (2023)
- Political Science Department, Rowan University (2022)
- Political Science Department, University of Miami (2019)
- Political Science Department, Brigham Young University (2018)
- Political Science Department, Duke University (2017)
- Political Science Department, University of Washington (2016)
- Political Science Department, Instituto Tecnológico Autónomo de México (ITAM) (2015)
- Political Science Department, University of New Mexico (2015)
- Political Science Department, University at Buffalo (2014)
- Political Science Department, Temple University (2014)
- American Politics Speaker Series, Texas A&M (2014)
- American Politics Workshop, University of Maryland College Park (2014)
- American Politics Workshop, Stanford University (2013)
- American Politics Seminar, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (2013)
- OLLI Talk on Polarization, University of California Berkeley (2013)
- Methods Workshop, University of Rochester (2012)
- School of Public Health, University of California Berkeley (2012)
- American Politics Workshop, University of North Carolina (2011)
- American Politics/Methods Workshop, Stanford University (2010)
- Methodology Seminar, Princeton University (2010)
- Visiting Committee of the Harris School, University of Chicago (2008)
- Annual Harper Lecture, Los Angeles and San Diego (2008)
- Quantitative Social Science Workshop, Columbia University (2007)
- American Politics Workshop, University of Chicago (2006)
- Political Economy Workshop, University of Chicago (2006)
- Political Economy Workshop, Columbia University (2006)

INVITED (SMALL CONFERENCES)

- Energy Transition Institute Conference on Climate Change, University of Houston (2024)
- Bedrosian Center Program on Political Institutions, Symposium on the Anniversary of *Legislative Leviathan*, University of Southern California (2023)
- Conference on Electoral Competition, Interest Groups, and Polarization, Trinity University (2022)
- Bedrosian Center Program on Political Institutions, Political Polarization Symposium, University of Southern California (2021)
- Polarization Conference in honor of Keith Poole, University of Georgia (2017)
- National Institute for Civic Discourse (2017)
- Representation in State Legislatures, University of Houston (2016)
- Symposium on Political Polarization, Thomas Foley Institute, Washington State University (2016)
- Center on the American Governor, Rutgers University (2014)
- Understanding Gubernatorial Behavior Conference, Washington University and University of Houston (2014)
- Political Polarization and Partisan Change Conference, American University (2014)
- State of the Parties Conference, University of Akron (2014)
- Polarization: Causes and Consequences, Hewlett Foundation (2013)

- Center on the American Governor, Rutgers University (2013)
- Council of State Governments-Eastern Regional Conference, Featured Speaker (2013)
- Conference on Legislative Gridlock, New York University (2011)

CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

- Conference on Parties in American Legislatures, January 2023
- McGovern Lecture and Conference on Looking back at The Affordable Care Act, Spring 2022
- Health Politics and Policy at the Crossroads in the Trump Era – University of Houston, October 2017
- New Applications in Ideal Point Estimation – Harris School, University of Chicago, April 2009

TEACHING

- University of Houston
 - o Undergraduate
 - POLS 3375 – Health Care Policy and Politics – Undergraduate (2020-2023)
 - POLS 3319 – Politics of Social Policy – Undergraduate (2016-2025)
 - POLS 1337/GOVT 2305 – American and Texas Government II – Undergraduate (2018-2026)
 - o Graduate
 - POLS 63xx – Data Science for Social Scientists (2026)
 - POLS 6316 – Health Care Politics and Policy (2024)
 - POLS 6360 – State Politics (2023)
 - POLS 6312 – American Politics Field Survey – Graduate (2019, 2021, 2026)
 - POLS 6366 – Political Parties (2017)
- University of Michigan (Summer ICPSR Instructor)
 - o Data and Model Visualization in R 101 (2019-2025)
 - o Data and Model Visualization in R 201 (2024-2025)
- University of North Carolina Odum Institute
 - o Data and Model Visualization in R (2025)
- Georgetown University
 - o State Politics and Policy - Undergraduate (2014, 2016)
 - o American Politics MA Field Survey (2015)
 - o Introduction to American Politics - Undergraduate (2015)
 - o Politics of Health Policy - Undergraduate (2015, 2016)
 - o Politics of Health Policy - Graduate (2015)
 - o American Politics PhD Field Survey (2014)
- University of Chicago
 - o State Politics and Policy - Graduate (2007, 2009)
 - o Public Opinion, Elections and Policy (2009, 2010, 2011, 2013)
 - o Ideology, Party, and Policy (2009, 2010, 2011, 2013)
 - o Core Course on Organization Theory (2006, 2007, 2008)
 - o Distributive Politics (2006, 2007, 2009)

SERVICE

Discipline

- Editor, *Research & Politics*, (2025-)
- Council Member, APSA Public Policy Section (2021-)
- Webmaster, APSA Organized Section on State Politics (2018-2019)
- APSA Organized Section on Legislative Studies, Chair of the 2017 CQ Press Award Committee
- APSA Organized Section on State Politics Council Member (2015-2017)
- Dissertation Award Committee, APSA Organized Section on State Politics (2014)
- Reviewer for *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Analysis*, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, *American Politics Research*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*
- Panel Discussant and/or Chair: Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, State Politics and Policy Conference

University

- Taught an “Introduction to the Texas Legislature” seminar to outgoing School of Social Work state legislative interns under the direction of Associate Dean Dr. Suzanne Pritzker (2017-2023)
- Planning committee on UH Energy Institute Conference on Hydrogen Transition (2024)

College of Liberal Arts and Social Science

- University of Houston CLASS Research and Scholarship Committee (2021-2023)
- University of Houston CLASS Academic Honesty Grievance Committee (2017-2018)

University of Houston Political Science

- Executive Committee (2021-2023, 2025-2026)
- American Politics Search Committee (2018, 2021, 2024)
- Graduate Committee (2024)
- Ad Hoc Award Committee (2024)
- Core American Course Government Committee (Chair, 2022-2023)
- Hobby School Public Policy BA/BS Coordinating Committee (2019-2020)
- Ad Hoc Committee on Department Relationship with the Hobby School (2019-2020)
- Technology Committee (chair) (2018-2021)
- Outreach Committee (2016-2018)
- Founder and maintainer of Departmental Twitter Account (@UHPoliticalSci) (2016-2021)
- University of Houston Dissertation Committee for Phil Waggoner (2017-2018, now at University of Chicago)

Hobby School of Public Affairs

- Hobby School Research Committee (2024)
- Presidential Faculty Fellowship Faculty Search Committee (2023-24)

Harris School of Public Policy

- Harris School MPP Admissions Committee (2011)
- Harris School PhD Committee (2006-2010)
- University of Chicago MAPPS Masters' Thesis Advisor, Mateusz Tomkowiak
- Harris School PhD Dissertation Advisor, Jorge Fabrega (now Assistant Professor at Universidad Adolfo Ibáñez, Santiago, Chile)
- Harris School Political Economy PhD comprehensive examination committee (2005-2007)
- Harris School Organizations, Institutions, and Management Concentration Advisor (2006-8)
- Harris School Political Economy and American Politics Search Committee (2005-6)

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- State Politics and Policy Conference (2025, 2024, 2023, 2022, 2020, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2007)
- Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (2024, 2022, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2004, 2003, 2002)
- Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (2018, 2017, 2016, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2011, 2010, 2009, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2004, 2003)
- Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association (2020, 2019, 2025)
- National Capital Area Political Science Association Conference (2015)
- Annual Meeting of the Political Methodology Section (2003)
- Annual Meeting of the Western Politics Association (2003)

MEMBERSHIPS

- American Political Science Association
- APSA sections: State Politics and Policy, Legislative Studies, Public Policy, Political Methodology, Political Parties
- Midwest Political Science Association
- Southern Political Science Association

MEDIA INTERVIEWS AND MENTIONS

- Newspapers and magazines: *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Congressional Quarterly*, *The American Prospect*, *The Economist*, *Columbia Journalism Review*, *Sacramento Bee*, *Chicago Tribune*, *Forbes*, *US News & World Report*
- Podcasts: Democracy Works, Ballotpedia (scheduled), Not Another Politics Podcast
- Online: Vox.com, FiveThirtyEight.com, Bloomberg View
- Television: WTTW and WNBC (Chicago)
- Radio: WDEL and RFE/RL
- See <http://research.bshor.com/press> and <http://americanlegislatures.wordpress.com/press>