# William John O'Brochta

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# EDUCATION AND

# Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri

Training Ph.D., Political Science (expected 2021)

Comparative Politics and Formal Theory

Committee: Sunita Parikh (Chair), Deniz Aksoy, Margit Tavits,

Guillermo Rosas, Joshua Gubler

A.M., Political Science (2018)

## Hendrix College, Conway, Arkansas

B.A., Politics and Mathematics, Summa Cum Laude (2016)

Distinction in both majors, Economics minor

## Budapest Semesters in Mathematics (2014)

# RESEARCH INTERESTS

Representation, ethnicity, political elites, nationalism and separatism, developing nations, terrorism and riots, event data, community engagement, teaching writing.

#### Publications

- "Western Political Rhetoric and Radicalization" (with Margit Tavits and Deniz Aksoy), accepted at *British Journal of Political Science*.
- "Ethnic Diversity in Central Government Cabinets," accepted at *Politics, Groups, and Identities.*
- "Pick Your Language: How Riot Reporting Differs Between English and Hindi Newspapers in India," 2019. Asian Journal of Communication 29(5): 405-423.
- "A Meta-Analysis of Natural Resources and Conflict," 2019. Research and Politics 6(1):1-6.
- "Political Space in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes: Activating Pro Forma Platforms" (with Norman Schofield), accepted with Springer Verlag.
- "Regional Autonomy in Rich Regions: Evidence from Adjara, Georgia," 2018. Caucasus Survey 6(1): 18-41.
- "International Tourism's Impact on Regional Autonomy: Evidence from 2004 EU Accession Countries," 2017. Tourism Economics 23(8): 1632-1661.
- "Did Natural Resource Wealth Motivate Fighting in the Bosnian War?" 2016. Journal of International Studies 9(1): 27-43.

# OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- "Track Summary: Teaching Research, Writing, and Information Literacy" (with Julia Marin Hellwege), 2020. PS: Political Science & Politics 53(3): 588–590.
- "Research Articles, Not Research Papers: Empowering Students Through Research Writing," accepted at *Pedagogy Through the Research Process* published by Palgrave Macmillan.
- "Graduate Student Peer Teaching Mentoring" (with Bryant Moy), accepted at *The Political Science Educator*.

#### WORKING PAPERS

- "Writing a Research Article in an Introductory Course." R&R.
- "Citizen Responses to Ethnic Representation." Under Review.
- "Do Peers Respond? Attendance and Critical Events." Under Review.
- "Signaling Democratic Progress with Electoral System Reform" (with Patrick Cunha Silva). Under Review.
- "Differences in Rhetoric About Autonomous and Separatist Regions." Under Review
- "Unexpected Responses on Amazon Mechanical Turk: An Indian Perspective" (with Sunita Parikh). Under Review.
- "Quantifying Indian Riots: Is Newspaper Data Enough?" (with Sunita Parikh).
- "A Hybrid Approach to Measuring Elite Caste Membership" (with Sunita Parikh).

# Conference Presentations

- "Elite Interethnic Contact, Tolerance, and Policy Making," APSA 2020.
- "Small-Scale Community Engagement in Comparative Perspective," APSA 2020.
- "A Hybrid Approach to Measuring Elite Caste Membership" (with Sunita Parikh), APSA 2020.
- "Writing a Research Article in an Introductory Political Science Course," APSA Teaching and Learning Conference, 2020.
- "Ethnic Diversity in Central Government Cabinets," Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium Conference, 2019.
- "The Relative Importance of Descriptive Representation in Indian Cabinets" (with Sunita Parikh), APSA, 2019.
- "Attending in Crisis: How British Parliamentarians Respond to Threats," APSA, 2019.
- "Ethnic Diversity in Central Government Cabinets," MPSA, 2019.
- "Durable Institutions: The 1935 Act and the Constitution of India" (with Sunita Parikh and Alfred Darnell), APSA, 2018.
- "Signaling Democratic Progress Through Electoral System Reform," APSA, 2018.
- "Quantifying Indian Riots: Is Newspaper Data Enough?" (with Sunita Parikh), MPSA, 2018.
- "Signaling Democratic Progress Through Electoral System Reform," MPSA, 2018.
- "Political Space in Competitive Authoritarian Regimes: Activating Pro Forma Platforms," Fifth International Conference on Political Economy and Institutions, 2017.
- "Regional Autonomy in Rich Regions: Evidence from Adjara, Georgia," APSA, 2017.
- "Rational Decision-Making Models of Outcomes in the 1992-1995 Bosnian War," Arkansas Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2016.
- "Rational Decision-Making Models of Outcomes in the 1992-1995 Bosnian War," Mathematical Association of America National Conference, 2015.

#### TEACHING EXPERIENCE

# Countries That Are Growing, Instructor (Ant. Summer 2021)

Course on development and stability designed for a medium class size. New model of teaching students to write short research articles including peer and self-evaluation. Theory focused community engaged project.

## Representation, Identity, and Dissent, Instructor (Summer 2020)

Designed online course around research article writing and community engagement. Developed community experiences to enhance course content and to provide meaningful products to a community partner.

# Introduction to Comparative Politics, Instructor (Summer 2019)

Designed course to emphasize research article reading and writing skills. Incorporated reflective journals, policy relevant activities, and methods workshops into the course. Guided students in writing their own research article.

## Immigration, Identity, and the Internet, Co-Instructor (Fall 2018)

Team taught the course with the primary instructor. Re-designed the syllabus to promote active learning. Integrated recent research on terrorism into the curriculum. Focused on improving students' writing through scaffolded final paper, peer review, and individual tutorials. Taught and evaluated literature review and theory papers.

## Research Workshop, Assistant in Instruction (Fall 2019, Spring 2020)

Mentored graduate students on writing third year papers and NSF proposals. Provided written and verbal feedback on writing style and content. Worked with individual students to encourage growth in their writing and research abilities.

## Party Politics, Assistant in Instruction (Spring 2020)

Taught research article writing workshops to graduate students. Worked individually with students to improve research ideas. Provided written and verbal feedback on writing style and content.

# Introduction to Comparative Politics, Assistant in Instruction (Spring 2019)

Developed weekly lesson plans for recitation sections. Incorporated individual and group activities that emphasized active and experiential learning. Mentored undergraduate section leaders in teaching pedagogy and provided advice and support for classroom issues.

#### Political Protest and Violence, Assistant in Instruction (Spring 2018)

Designed and led lectures, discussion, and group work as the instructor for a third of the course. Developed and implemented rubrics, exams, and simulation based group project assignment. Created activities to supplement lectures.

#### Theories of Social Justice, Assistant in Instruction (Fall 2017)

Engaged new course material in preparation for teaching students. Implemented comprehensive advising system to improve student exam performance. Tutored individual students on research papers.

# Pedagogy Training

Washington University Teaching Citation, 2019
SoTL Scholar Certification, Washington University Teaching Center, 2020
Graduate, Course Design Institute, 2018
Student, Scholarship of Teaching and Learning Course, 2019
Member, Graduate Teaching and Learning Community, 2016–present
Attendee, APSA Teaching and Learning Conference, 2018, 2019, 2020

# Professional Experience

Conservation Awards Coordinator, Blue Ridge Mountains Council (2010–present) Volunteer Educator, Missouri Botanical Garden Outdoor Youth Corps (2017–2019) Chief Sustainability Officer, Hendrix College (2015–2016)

Campus Campaign Chair, Hendrix Environmental Concerns Committee (2013–2016) Intern, United States Senator Tim Kaine (2015)

#### Service

# Discipline

Editorial Assistant, Journal of Politics, 2020

Reviewer: Conflict Management and Peace Science, Journal of Conflict Resolution,

Springer Verlag

Discussant: MPSA 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

## University

• Washington University

Department of Political Science Teaching Pedagogy Specialist, 2020–present

Teaching Political Science Workshop Series (founder), 2019–present

Teaching Center Orientation Mentor, 2018-present

Graduate Student Organizer, Comparative Politics Annual Conference, 2020

Teaching Center Graduate Student Advisory Council, 2017–2020

University Graduate Advisory Council, 2018–2019

University Teaching and Professional Development Committee, 2018–2019

Graduate Student Senate Sustainability Committee, 2016–2017

• Hendrix College

Presidential Ambassador, 2014–2016

Strategic Planning Committee, 2015–2016

Financial Committee, 2015

Committee Against Sexual Exploitation (co-founder), 2015–2016

# Honors and Awards

#### Grants

• Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy

\$11,000: survey experiments (with Margit Tavits), 2019 \$4,500: surveys in India (with Sunita Parikh), 2019

\$8,900: survey experiments in India and Macedonia (with Sunita Parikh), 2018

- Department of Political Science Seed Grant (\$1,500), 2020
- APSA Graduate Student Travel Grant, 2017
- Hendrix Provost Scholarship (four year merit-based full scholarship)

#### Awards

- Pi Sigma Alpha (Politics), Pi Mu Epsilon (Mathematics)
- W.C. Buthman Prize in Politics
- Parker Mathematics Undergraduate Research Award
- Mathematics Association of America Best Presentation Award

# SKILLS

Language: Hindi (conversational)

Fieldwork: Delhi, Chennai, Lucknow (December 2019 and January 2020)

Computer: LATEX, R, Stata, SPSS, Python, Qualtrics

Additional Training: Python, Network Analysis, GIS, Advanced Causal Inference