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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Stony Brook University, Department of Political Science, (ABD, degree expected 2012)
Examination Fields: Political Economy, Methodology, and Political Psychology
Dissertation Committee: Dr. Matthew Lebo (chair), Dr. Oleg Smirnov, Dr. Charles Taber
- M.A. Stony Brook University, Department of Political Science, 2009
- BA/MA University of Konstanz, Germany, Department of Politics and Management, 2008
(Diplom-Verwaltungswissenschaften, Universität Konstanz)

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

- ICPSR Summer Program Courses in Matrix Algebra, Time Series Analysis, Advanced Maximum Likelihood, Agent-Based Modelling, Ann Arbor, Michigan, Summer 2008
- Erasmus Program University of Pavia, Italy, Departments of Political Science and Economics, Student Exchange, funded by the EU's Erasmus program, 9/2004-6/2005
- ZUMA Mannheim Social Science Computer Simulation Workshops by ZUMA (National Center for Survey Research and Methodology), University of Koblenz, 2006 and 2007

PUBLICATION

- [Political Parties and Higher Education Spending in the German Federal System: Who Favours Redistribution?](#)
(with Antje Kirchner and Christian Rauh)
West European Politics 34(6): 1185–1206, November 2011

DISSERTATION

A Theory of Asymmetric Retrospective Voting

Prospect theory tells us that humans pay more attention to losses than to comparable gains. My dissertation seeks to apply this insight to the field of retrospective voting and in particular economic voting.

First, I develop a formal model of asymmetric retrospective voting which allows for incorporating loss aversion. Then, the empirical implications of this theoretical model are tested using a variety of methodological approaches. To this end, the model's predictions about human behavior are tested directly in a laboratory experiment using a simplified version of the asymmetric retrospective voting model. In a second step, the analytical focus is widened, turning from the individual to the aggregate level: Using monthly time-series data, the asymmetric retrospective voting model is tested using the reaction of aggregate vote intentions to changes in economic conditions and evaluations. In a final step, using the broadest lens, the implications of the model with respect to the "cost of ruling", i.e. the empirical phenomenon of declining vote shares for incumbent governments, are tested using a large cross-national sample of elections.

WORKING PAPERS

“Wheat from Chaff: A Sensitivity Analysis of Determinants of Social Expenditure Levels in OECD Countries”
The literature on the size of the welfare state suffers from contradictory findings and non-cumulative research. This study assesses the robustness of 60 variables that have been suggested as determinants of social expenditures in OECD countries via Bayesian model averaging. (in preparation for submission)

“Consumer Sentiment: Heterogeneous Responses to Economic Reality”
Using a panel of time-series of consumer sentiment data, the paper shows that the effect of objective economic factors - such as unemployment and inflation, and especially the stock market - on economic sentiment is conditional on individual level characteristics, such as an individual's position in the income distribution. (in preparation for submission)

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

2011, “Voters’ Asymmetric Responses to the Economy: Evidence from Time-Series Analyses”, Southern Political Science Association (APSA) Seattle, WA

2011, “Consumer Sentiment: Heterogeneous Responses to Economic Reality”, European Political Science Association (EPSA), Inaugural Conference, Dublin, Ireland

2011, “Consumer Sentiment: Heterogeneous Responses to Economic Reality”, Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago, IL

2010, “The Political Economy of Higher Education: Who Favors Higher Education Spending”, International Studies Association (ISA), New Orleans, LA

2009, “Wheat from Chaff: A Sensitivity Analysis of Determinants of Social Expenditure Levels in OECD Countries”, Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Chicago, IL

(nominated for Pi Sigma Alpha Award for the best paper presented at the MPSA Conference)

2009, “Reverse Redistribution: Political Parties and Tertiary Education Spending in Germany”, Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Chicago, IL

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record, Stony Brook University:

Graduate Classes (MA program):

POL 501 - Introduction to Statistics for Public Policy (Fall 2011)

Undergraduate Classes:

POL 201 - Introduction to Statistical Methods in Political Science (Summer 2011, Fall 2011, Spring 2012)

POL 103 - Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2010, Spring 2011)

POL 101 - World Politics (Fall 2009)

Teaching Assistant, University of Konstanz

Introduction to International Relations, Teaching Assistant, (Winter 2005)

HONORS AND AWARDS

2007-2012 Department Fellowship, Stony Brook University, Department of Political Science

2009 Nomination for Pi Sigma Alpha Award for the best paper presented at the MPSA Conference

2007/2008 Baden-Württemberg-Stipendium (Scholarship for highly qualified students for a research placement abroad, financed by the foundation of the State of Baden-Württemberg)

2008 Best 5% of the Graduating Class - Retroactive Waiver of all Tuition, University of Konstanz

2004-2005 European Union - Erasmus Stipend for studies at the University of Pavia, Italy

WORK EXPERIENCE

- 2007 - 2009 Stony Brook University, Department of Political Science, Graduate Research Assistant to Dr. Matthew Lebo, Dr. Peter Salins and Dr. Joel Simmons
- 2005 - 2007 University of Konstanz, Department of Politics and Administration, Undergraduate Teaching Assistant - Introduction to International Relations, Prof. Gerald Schneider, and Research Assistant in different projects with Prof. Markus Freitag and Prof. Adrian Vatter.
- 2004 - 2005 Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) in Paris, France. Internship followed by a contract as an External Consultant in several projects of the OECD's IT-Department (ITO-CSN) and the Directorate for Science, Technology and Industry (DSTI) regarding Internet Security Standards and IT Security Awareness in Small and Medium Enterprises. (7 months)
- 2001 - 2002 St. Johannisstift Hospital in Paderborn, Germany. 10 months of "Federal Civil Service" at the hospital's intensive care unit

OTHER SKILLS

- Languages Spoken: German (mother tongue), English (fluent), French (advanced), Italian (advanced)
- IT-Skills : Statistical Packages (Stata, R, Rats, WinBugs, SPSS), MS-Office, Agent-Based Modelling Tools (NetLogo, R).

REFERENCES

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