

Brendan Nyhan

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Employment

Assistant Professor of Government 2011–
Dartmouth College

Robert Wood Johnson Foundation Scholar in Health Policy Research 2009–2011
University of Michigan

Education

Ph.D., Political Science 2009
Duke University

Dissertation: Strategic Outrage: The Politics of Presidential Scandal

Committee: John Aldrich (chair), David Rohde, Michael Munger, Georg Vanberg, James Hamilton

Methods training:

-Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models summer institute (2008)

-Certificate in Advanced Quantitative Methods in the Social Sciences, Duke University (2006)

M.A., Political Science 2005
Duke University

Fields: American Politics; Political Methodology

B.A. with High Honors, Political Science 2000
Swarthmore College

Publications

“Party and Constituency in the U.S. Senate, 1933–2004” in *Why Not Parties?*, Nathan W. Monroe, Jason M. Roberts, and David Rohde, eds., University of Chicago Press, 2008. (with John Aldrich, Michael Brady, Scott de Marchi, Ian McDonald, David Rohde, & Michael Tofias)

All the President’s Spin: George W. Bush, the Media and the Truth (Touchstone, 2004). *New York Times* bestseller (Sept. 5, 2004); named one of the top ten political books of 2004 by the editors of Amazon.com. (with Ben Fritz and Bryan Keefer)

Honors and awards

-Bass Advanced Instructorship in the Arts & Sciences (Duke) 2008–2009

-Summer Research Fellowship (Duke) 2007

-Fellow, Program for Advanced Research in Social Science (Duke) 2006–2007

-Fellow, Public Institutions and Political Choice Program (Duke) 2005–2009

- Honorable Mention, NSF Graduate Research Fellowship 2004
- James B. Duke Fellowship (Duke) 2003–2007

Grants

- Duke Undergraduate Research Support (\$1,000) 2008
PS 199AS: Experimental analysis of the 2008 election
- Duke Interdisciplinary Initiative in Social Psychology (\$500) 2008
PS 199AS: Experimental analysis of the 2008 election
- Dirksen Congressional Center (with Michael Tofias, \$3,465) 2007
“Parties and Leaders in the Congressional Network”
- Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (survey time) 2005
“An Experimental Test of Verification Threats in Political Debate”

Under review

- “When Corrections Fail: The persistence of political misperceptions” (with Jason Reifler) [revise and resubmit at *Political Behavior*]
- “Bayesian Model Averaging: Theoretical developments and practical applications” (with Jacob Montgomery) [revise and resubmit at *Political Analysis*]
- “The Limited Effects of Testimony on Political Persuasion” [revise and resubmit at *Public Choice*]
- “The Effects of Semantics and Social Desirability in Correcting the Obama Muslim Myth” (with Reifler and the undergraduates from my PS 199AS class at Duke)

Work in progress

- “Opening the Partisan Mind? Self-affirmation and information processing about the surge in Iraq” (with Reifler)
- “Breeding Ground: When presidents are more vulnerable to political scandal”
- “Interbranch Warfare: Congressional scandal allegations against the president”
- “Does Divided Government Increase Presidential Scandal?”
- “Two Degrees of Bob Dornan: The presidential scandal allegation network in Congress”
- “Passing the Bucks: The Congressional contribution network 1985–2006” (with Tofias)

Review and reference articles

“Bush, George W.” and “Miller, Warren.” *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. Ed. William A. Darity, Jr. Vol. 5. 2nd edition. Detroit: Macmillan Reference, 2008. 180–181, 399–400.

Review of Thráinn Eggertsson, *Imperfect Institutions: Possibilities & Limits of Reform* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2005). *Public Choice* (2006) 129: 239–241.

Other political writing

Co-editor of Spinsanity, a non-partisan watchdog of political spin (2001–2004), and co-featured columnist, Salon.com (2002) and the *Philadelphia Inquirer* (2004). (with Fritz and Keefer)

Received Award of Distinction from the Center on Media and Public Affairs in the 2003 Paul Mongerson Prize for Investigative Reporting on News Coverage competition.

Media interviews and citations

Research on political misperceptions featured in news outlets including National Public Radio's "On the Media," the *Washington Post*, *Gannett News Service*, *National Journal*, *The New Republic*, *Politico*, and *Slate*. Conducted interviews with media outlets including "On the Media," NPR's "Tell Me More," and North Carolina Public Radio's "The State of Things."

Conducted more than fifty radio and television interviews on political spin, 2003–2009. Articles cited in numerous media outlets including *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and CNN.

Invited speaker

Presentation:

- "Two Degrees of Bob Dornan: The scandal allegation network in Congress," Triangle Political Methodology Group, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 5, 2009.
- "Breeding Ground: When presidents are more vulnerable to political scandal." Presented at Dartmouth College (October 30, 2008), University of Texas at Austin (November 17, 2008), Indiana University Bloomington (November 24, 2008), and the University of Oregon (December 2, 2008).
- "Why Are Misperceptions About Iraq So Persistent?," American Politics Research Group, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, January 20, 2006.
- Keynote address, National Young Leaders Conference, Washington, DC, March 2002.

Discussant:

- "Congressional Elections and Accountability," American Political Science Association meeting, September 5, 2009.
- "Bayesian Statistics," Duke Comparative Methodology Workshop, April 11, 2008.
- "The Media and Casualties," Triangle Institute for Security Studies conference on "Casualties and Warfare," February 18, 2006.

Panel member:

- "The 2008 Election and the Muslim Vote," Duke University, October 17, 2008.
- "Mass Communication for the Masses," Dartmouth College, April 19, 2007.
- "Political Scientists Who Blog," Midwest Political Science Association meeting, April 22, 2006.
- "Re-establishing Trust in the Media," Coach K/Fuqua School of Business Conference on Leadership, Duke University, October 20, 2004. Broadcast on WUNC Public Radio.

Professional activities

Conference presentations:

- American Political Science Association (2005, 2007–2009)
- Midwest Political Science Association (2006–2008)
- Society for Political Methodology (2007–2008)
- Southern Political Science Association (2006)

Disciplinary service:

- Referee for *Political Behavior*, *Public Choice*, and *Southern Economic Journal* (2007–2009)

- Graduate assistant, Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models summer institute (2008)
- Co-organizer, “The Dynamics of Political Scandal in the U.S. and Latin America” (APSA 2007)

Teaching experience

Instructor, Duke University:

- Experimental Analysis of the 2008 Election (fall 2008)
- The American Presidency (fall 2007)

Previous experience

Marketing and fundraising consultant (2001–2003)

The Benetech Initiative

Deputy Communications Director (2000)

Bernstein for US Senate, Nevada

References

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David Rohde
Ernestine Friedl Professor of Political Science
Duke University
(919) 660-7053
rohde@duke.edu

Michael Munger
Professor of Political Science
Duke University
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Georg Vanberg
Associate Professor of Political Science
University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill
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