

# JENNIFER L. EPLEY

## Department Address

5700 Haven Hall, 505 South State Street  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, MI 48109

## Contact Information

jepley@umich.edu  
1110 Parkwood Avenue, Ypsilanti, MI 48198  
<http://www-personal.umich.edu/~jepley>

---

## EDUCATION

### University of Michigan – Ann Arbor, Michigan

Currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Political Science (expected May 2010)

Major: Comparative / 1<sup>st</sup> Minor: Theory / 2<sup>nd</sup> Minor: Methods / Cognate: History

Master of Arts in Political Science (April 2005)

Certificate in Survey Methodology (August 2005, Institute for Social Research)

Certificate in Southeast Asian Studies (in progress)

### Vassar College – Poughkeepsie, New York

Awarded Bachelor of Arts Degree (May 2000)

Major: Political Science / Minor: Religion (primarily Asian Religious Traditions)

---

## RESEARCH

### Dissertation: “Voices of the Faithful: Religion and Politics in Contemporary Indonesia”

Dissertation Committee Members: Professors Allen Hicken (Co-Chair), Ashutosh Varshney (Co-Chair), Zvi Gitelman, Mark Tessler, and Webb Keane (Anthropology)

My dissertation asks how influential is religion for political participation? Utilizing Indonesia as a case study, I examine the varied ways in which Islam presents itself in contemporary Indonesian politics, particularly at the level of the masses; the conditions under which Muslim Indonesians engage in political participation; and the ideological, institutional, and policy consequences of such engagement. I use a mixed-methods research design involving focus group interviews, personal in-depth interviews, historical-archival work, participant observation, and national public opinion surveys to trace the presence and absence of “religious stimuli” for political behavior. My work reveals a difference between “religious political participation” (which may aim for religious ends and/or be motivated by religious beliefs) and political participation by religious actors.

### Publications:

Book review of Political Islam in Southeast Asia by Gordon P. Means for *Comparative Political Studies*. (Forthcoming)

Epley, Jennifer. 2004. “Development Issues and the Role of Religious Organizations in Indonesia.” *Studies On Asia* Series III, 1:1 (Fall): 39-52. ([http://www.isp.msu.edu/studiesonasia/s3\\_v1\\_n1/](http://www.isp.msu.edu/studiesonasia/s3_v1_n1/))

- 2003 Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs – Percy Buchanan Graduate Student Award for Best Paper (Southeast Asia category).

**Working Papers:**

“Region, Religion, and Representation: Electoral Behavior in Indonesia.” With Allen Hicken, Political Science, University of Michigan. (Data analysis in progress)

“The Politics of Qualitative Research in Indonesia.” With Ann Shoemaker, Communications, Keene State College. (Data analysis in progress)

**Conference Presentations:**

2009 Indonesia Council Open Conference, Sydney, Australia.

2008 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Louisville, Kentucky.

2008 Asian Studies Association of Australia, Melbourne, Australia.

2007 American Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois.

2004, 2005, and 2007 Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois.

2005 Ohio University’s *Crossroads of Faith: Religious Resurgence & New Religious Movements in Southeast Asia* Conference, Athens, Ohio.

2003 Midwest Conference on Asian Affairs, Illinois State University, Normal, Illinois.

**Research Assistance:**

Research Coordinator & Assistant for Professor Ashutosh Varshney, University of Michigan, *Ethnic Conflict & Peace Research Project* (May 2003 – January 2006)

The coordinator position consisted of supervising and organizing individual assistants and the research project teams as well as reporting to and problem-solving for Professor Varshney. The assistant part of the job involved helping with historical archival research, bibliographies, general reports, data entry and analysis, codebook creation, survey design and question revisions, template designs, and editing. The project focused on Indonesia, Malaysia, Nigeria, and Sri Lanka.

---

**AWARDS**

**Research, Writing, & Training Fellowships:**

2010 University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School One-term Dissertation Fellowship (Winter)

2007-2008 University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School Predoctoral Fellowship

2007 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion – Jack Shand Research Award: Funding for dissertation-related expenses.

2006 Fulbright Fellowship in Jakarta, Indonesia for 11 months (sponsored by the Institute of International Education and the American-Indonesian Exchange Foundation).

2006 University of Michigan Department of Political Science block grant: Funding for dissertation fieldwork (survey questions).

2006 University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School Discretionary Fund award (candidate): Funding for dissertation fieldwork (survey questions).

2005 Roy Pierce Scholar Award: Summer research funding for joint project with Professor Allen Hicken, University of Michigan Department of Political Science (sponsored by the Center for Political Studies, Institute for Social Research, and the University of Michigan).

2005 University of Michigan International Institute Individual Fellowship: Support for summer research in Jakarta, Indonesia.

2005 United States-Indonesia Society travel grant: Support for summer research in Jakarta, Indonesia.

2005 Association for Asian Studies Dissertation Workshop on “Religion and Politics”: Financial support in Chicago, Illinois.

2004 University of Michigan Center for Southeast Asian Studies block grant: Financial support for a pre-dissertation trip to Yogyakarta, Indonesia.

2004 University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School Discretionary Fund award (pre-candidate): Financial support for a field study trip led by Bowling Green State University to Vietnam.

2004-2006 Graduate Seminar on Global Transformations: Inter-disciplinary courses during the academic year and financial support for pre-dissertation research during summer 2005 (sponsored by the Advanced Study Center, International Institute, and the University of Michigan).

2004 Minority Social Science Training Award at the Institute for Social Research: Financial support for survey methods courses during summer 2004.

2003-2005 Foreign Language and Area Studies [FLAS] Fellowships (Southeast Asian Studies - Indonesia) – University of Michigan and the United States Department of Education.

2003 Ohio University Workshop Participant: “Beyond Violence: Developing Rationales for Peace” (sponsored by the United States Institute of Peace and Ohio University’s Southeast Asian Studies Program).

2003 University of Michigan-Dearborn Seminar Participant: “Worldviews: A Seminar on American Religious Diversity” (sponsored by the National Conference for Community and Justice, the Episcopal Church, and the University of Michigan-Dearborn in association with the Pluralism Project).

**Conference Travel Grants:**

2008 University of Michigan – Alliance for Graduate Education and the Professoriate Program

2007 American Political Science Association

2005, 2007, 2008, and 2009 University of Michigan Rackham Graduate School

2004 and 2005 University of Michigan International Institute

---

## TEACHING

**University of Michigan Graduate Teacher Certificate Program** (September 2008 – Present, Center for Research on Learning and Teaching)

### Political Science Courses

Graduate Student Instructor, University of Michigan (September 2008 – Present)

*Political Science 300 – Contemporary Issues in Political Science* with Professor Gregory B. Markus (Fall 2008), *Political Science 111 – Introduction to American Politics* with Professor Kenneth Kollman (Winter 2009), and *Political Science 140 – Introduction to Comparative Politics* with Professor Ronald F. Inglehart (Fall 2009): Involves class preparation, leading discussions, lectures, grading, office hours, advising, and other tasks.

### Vassar Maguire Fellowship for Teaching in Indonesia

Full-Time Teacher, Sanata Dharma University (August 2000 – June 2002)

*Courses: Speaking I, II, IV, & V; Writing IV; English literature; and Cross-Cultural Understanding A & B.* Duties included developing syllabi, lesson plans, and formal teaching guides; lectures; discussions; grading; advising; faculty meetings; education seminars; and helping student groups. Additional service included guest-lectures at Sanata Dharma University, Islamic University of Indonesia, and local educational centers about learning and teaching English, cross-cultural understanding, and politics (e.g., post-9/11 panels).

---

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES & SERVICE

### Professional Memberships:

American Political Science Association  
Asian Studies Association of Australia  
Association for Asian Studies

Midwest Political Science Association  
Religious Research Association  
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion

### Departmental and University Organizations:

Graduate Association of Political Scientists (member 2002 – Present, Co-President 2004 – 2005)  
Political Scientists of Color (member 2002 – Present, Secretary 2003 – 2004)  
Political Science Women’s Caucus (member 2002 – Present)  
Students of Color of the Rackham Graduate School (member 2002 – Present; Mixed Posse Caucus member 2003 – Present, Co-Chair 2003 – 2005)

### Area Studies Service:

Founder and administrator of “Indopedia” (<http://editthis.info/indopedia/>), a wiki-website dedicated to Indonesian Studies (2006 – Present)  
Volunteer for the Fulbright Program – Indonesia (2006 – Present)

---

## SKILLS

*Computer:* Familiar with word processing programs, internet, email, statistical programs (Excel, STATA, and SPSS), FileMakerPro, and some web design

*Languages:* English (native) and Indonesian (advanced)

---

## AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Comparative government and politics
- Democracy and democratization
- Developing countries, especially in Southeast Asia
- Identity and politics with an emphasis on religion, gender, race, and ethnicity
- Public opinion and political behavior
- Research methodology, particularly mixed methods and qualitative methods

---

## NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

### **Social Science Capacity Building for Indonesian Organizations**

Short-Term Consultant, World Bank and Decentralization Support Facility (December 9, 2006 – March 30, 2007)

The Jakarta-based consultant position centered on research about the overall status of Indonesian social science research organizations and their capacity, ability, and resources for policy-oriented projects. Tasks included communication with organizations, in-person interviews, initial assessments regarding possible partnerships, searches for additional and alternative funding arrangements, writing staffing plans and terms of references, and creating a general research and training guide for future use.

### **The Politics of Economic Reform in Asia Seminar Series**

Graduate Student Assistant, University of Michigan Department of Political Science and the William Davidson Institute (October 2002 – May 2003)

This position required seminar preparations such as travel arrangements for guest speakers, campus publicity, and communications between offices, faculty, and students. Other duties included note-taking, collecting faculty commentaries, and organizing information for a planned publication. The countries covered in the series were Indonesia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Thailand, India, Malaysia, and China.

---

## REFERENCES

*Allen Hicken*, Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan  
Email: ahicken@umich.edu  
Office: (734) 615-9105

*Ashutosh Varshney*, Professor of Political Science at Brown University  
Email: Ashutosh\_Varshney@brown.edu  
Office: (401) 863-6059

*Zvi Gitelman*, Professor of Political Science at the University of Michigan  
Email: zvigitel@umich.edu  
Office: (734) 763-4393