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MATTHEW ZARIT

Email: mzarit(at)gmail(dot)com

Website: www.matthewzarit.com

Office Address Department of Political Science
4433 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
University of Pittsburgh
230 South Bouquet Street
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

Education:

- Ph.D. University of Pittsburgh, Political Science – Expected Spring 2018
Concentration Fields: American Politics, Political Behavior
Dissertation: “Lost in Translation: How Bureaucratic Hierarchies & Networks Limit Presidential Control over Distributive Policymaking in U.S. Federal Agencies”
Committee: George Krause (Chair), Jon Woon, Aníbal Pérez-Liñán, Jon Rogowski (Harvard University)
- M.A. University of Pittsburgh, Political Science – (2015)
Thesis: “Vertical Insulation in the Bureaucracy”
Committee: George Krause and Kristin Kanthak
- M.S. Carnegie Mellon University, Public Policy and Management – (2006)
- B.A. Syracuse University, Political Science and Policy Studies – (2004)
Magna Cum Laude, with Thesis Honors.

Publications:

“Evaluating the Effects of Multiple Opinion Rationales on Supreme Court Legitimacy” with Chris Bonneau, Jarrod Kelly, Kira Pronin, and Shane Redman. Forthcoming. *American Politics Research*.

Works in Progress:

“The Administrative Foundations of Executive Particularism: How Institutional Arrangements Shape the Allocation of U.S. Federal Grants” with George Krause. (*Under review*)

“Understanding Political–Economic Convergence in the American States” with George Krause (*Under Review*)

“Lost in Translation: How Bureaucratic Hierarchies & Networks Limit Presidential Control over Distributive Policymaking in U.S. Federal Agencies”

“Estimating Federal Agency Legitimacy”

Datasets:

Federal Government Contracting and Political Donations Data:

Dataset accompanying the papers related to: “Lost in Translation: How Bureaucratic Hierarchies & Networks Limit Presidential Control over Distributive Policymaking in U.S. Federal Agencies”. The data is built using contracting data provided by USASpending.gov from 2001-2016, containing over 32 million records of individual contracts. Additionally, using data on individual and political action committee donation data available from the Federal Election Commission, donations from government contractors are matched to government contracts.

Office of Personnel Management Data:

Leading a group of 13 professors to submit a request to the Office of Personnel Management to provide federal employee and appointee data from 1981 – 2016.

Invited Research Presentation:

University of Southern California, Sol Price School of Public Policy, November 11, 2016.

Conference Presentations:

“The Administrative Foundations of Executive Particularism: How Institutional Arrangements Shape the Allocation of U.S. Federal Grants (with George Krause). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Public Management Research Conference, Washington, D.C., June 8-10, 2017.

“The Agency Roots of Executive Particularism” (with George Krause). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 6-9, 2017.

“Organizational Hierarchy and the Limits of Presidential Control Over Federal Agencies.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 6-9, 2017.

“Estimating Federal Agency Legitimacy.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, September 1-4, 2016.

“Vertical Insulation in the Bureaucracy: How organizational hierarchies diminish presidential influence.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 6-10, 2016.

“Why Regional Convergence?: Unbundling the Causal Dynamics of Partisan Competition and Economic Development in the American States, 1940-2010” (with George Krause). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago IL, April 16-19, 2015.

“Do Agencies Engage in Strategic Political Behavior?: How the Bureaucracy Uses Government Contracts to Appeal to Influential Members of Congress.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago IL, April 16-19, 2015.

“The Effects of Opinion Rationales on Supreme Court Legitimacy” (with Chris Bonneau, Jarrod Kelly, Kira Pronin, and Shane Redman). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, September 3-6, 2015.

“The Effects of Opinion Rationales on Supreme Court Legitimacy” (with Chris Bonneau, Jarrod Kelly, Kira Pronin, and Shane Redman). Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans, LA, January 15-18, 2015.

Grants and Fellowships:

Andrew Mellon Postdoctoral Fellowship 2017 – 2018

American Political Science Association Centennial Grant for Supplemental Research Support 2016 – 2017

Center for the Study of American Politics and Society Small Grant 2016

Social Sciences Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship 2016 – 2017

University of Pittsburgh Arts and Science GSO Travel Award 2015

College of Arts and Sciences Fellowship, University of Pittsburgh 2013 – 2014

Research and Teaching Experience:

Instructor, Political Parties and Elections, University of Pittsburgh Spring 2016

Research Assistant (for Sharece Thrower), University of Pittsburgh Fall 2015

Research Assistant (for Sharece Thrower), University of Pittsburgh Summer 2015

Teaching Assistant (for George Krause), University of Pittsburgh Spring 2015

Research Assistant (for Victoria Shineman and Sharece Thrower), University of Pittsburgh Fall 2014

Cost/Benefit Analysis Project Manager, Systems Synthesis Project. “Revitalizing Housing in Downtown Pittsburgh” Carnegie Mellon University, Pittsburgh, PA Fall 2005

Honors Thesis Project: “Individual Fundraising Success for Boys and Girls Club Organizations.” Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY 2003 – 2004

Professional Membership:

American Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association

Public Management Research Association

Other Work Experience:

Manager of Employee Evaluation, Pittsburgh Public Schools, Pittsburgh, PA, 2010 – 2013

- *Managed Employee Improvement Plan (EIP) process to identify and provide support to employees who are not meeting employment expectations;*
- *Analyzed data from new observation rubric and Value Added Measures (VAM) for teachers;*
- *Coordinated with the Pennsylvania Department of Education to create effective strategies for Pittsburgh to develop a unique evaluation system while still complying with new state requirements.*

Consultant, Public Sector Practice, Deloitte Consulting, Pittsburgh, PA, 2009 – 2010

- *Served as Implementation Manager for a document imaging project to rollout new hardware and software in Child Support Offices throughout West Virginia.*

Consultant, Public Services, BearingPoint, McLean, VA, 2007 – 2009

- *Worked as member of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) account team;*
- *Managed a contract with HUD to facilitate training events and provide a clearinghouse of information on the Fair Housing Act;*
- *Provided research and process analysis for project proposal to assist HUD in monitoring Home Equity Conversion Mortgages (HECM).*

Program Associate, Incenter Strategies, Washington, DC. 2006 – 2007

- *Analyzed national health survey data to evaluate racial and ethnic inequalities in health care access and use;*
- *Developed methodology and conducted qualitative survey-based research to compare state policies for adults with Cystic Fibrosis.*

Honors:

2011: Pathways to Excellence Award, Pittsburgh Public Schools.

2008: Compass Award for Exemplary Performance on Home Equity Conversion Mortgage (HECM) and Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity proposal efforts, BearingPoint.

2004: Thesis Honors, Syracuse University.

2004: Magna Cum Laude, Syracuse University.

2004: Pi Sigma Sigma Honor Society Award in Policy Studies, Syracuse University.

2001-2004: Dean's List, Syracuse University.

2003: Remembrance Scholar, Syracuse University.

2003: Roy Angell Scholar for Thesis Research, Syracuse University.

2002: Golden Key Honor Society, Syracuse University.

2001: Phi Eta Sigma Honor Society, Syracuse University.

Community Service:

2013 – 2017: Mentor, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

2010 – 2013: Mentor, 6th Grade Mentoring Program, Pittsburgh, PA.

2010-Present: Participant, Bowl-for-Kids-Sake, Big Brothers Big Sisters of Pittsburgh, Pittsburgh, PA.

2010: Special Olympics of Pennsylvania Young Professionals Committee Member, Pittsburgh Polar Plunge, Pittsburgh, PA.

2004 – 2006: Tutor, East End Cooperative Ministry Tutoring Program, Pittsburgh, PA.

2003: Manager of Bellegrave Church Site for U-Reach U tutoring program, Syracuse, NY.

2002 – 2004: Member of Alpha Phi Omega, co-ed service fraternity, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.

2002: Manager of the Tec-Center at Wilson Park Community Center, Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY.

2001: Coordinator, Make-A-Difference Day, Wilson Park Community Center, Syracuse, NY.

2001: Math Tutor, Syracuse Housing Authority, Syracuse, NY.