

Stephen R. Haptonstahl

Curriculum Vitae

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Educational Background

Ph.D., Political Science, “But What’s in It For Me? Characterizing Uncertainty in Bargaining with Strategic Random Utility Models.”

Washington University in St. Louis, in progress. Completion expected: 2009.

Advisors: Gary Miller, Randall Calvert, Robert Walker.

Fields: American and methods

A.M., Political Science (American politics), Washington University in St. Louis, 2006.

M.S., Mathematics, Northern Illinois University, 2000. (GPA: 3.94/4.0)

B.S., Mathematics, Louisiana State University, 1998. (GPA: 4.0/4.0) Honors advisor: Jimmie Lawson.

Professional Interests

My research focuses on how incentives affect the flow of information in bureaucratic institutions and on the tools used to form and test formal models of institutions. Seeking a position which will allow me to combine research with teaching graduate and undergraduate courses in Bayesian and classical methodology, American Politics, formal and computational modeling, and experimental research.

Academic Appointments

- Aug 2008-May 2009* **Doctoral Fellow**
Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri
- May 2007-May 2009* **Graduate Fellow**
Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri
- Aug 2005-May 2007* **Graduate Teaching Assistant**
Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri
- Aug 2004-Aug 2005* **Graduate Fellow**
Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri
- Aug 2001-May 2004* **Mathematics Instructor**
Waubonsee Community College, Sugar Grove, Illinois
Full-time, tenure-track position. Taught full-range of math courses offered.

Research

Published Edited Work

Stephen R. Haptonstahl. Web-based data collection with PHP and MySQL. *The Political Methodologist*, 15(2):11–16, Winter 2008

Software

Elicit: Eliciting structured information on networks for updating Bayesian models of connectivity. With Jeff Gill, John Freeman, and Aaron Rapport.

testMCMCpack: validation software for MCMCpack, with Jong-Hee Park, Summer 2006.

diplot: R package with tools to plot descriptive statistics, posterior distributions, and more.

Current Projects

“Bargaining Under Uncertainty: a Strategic Random Utility Model of the Ultimatum Game.” Develops a strategic statistical model of the ultimatum game and presents experimental evidence as to the nature of uncertainty in these games. Presented: PolMeth 2008; APSA 2008. [Under review]

“Why So Serious? Explaining the Ultimatum Game” Applies Monte Carlo tests to determine the number of subjects needed for a lab experiment, then applies a strategic statistical model to the gathered lab data to explain overly generous offers and mysterious rejections. [In progress]

“Looking Back: an Ordered Network Model of Legal Precedent” Network analysis is flourishing, but theories explaining why networks take the form they do are still in the early stages of development. I am developing a network game to explain how justices choose cases to cite, where utility for opinion authors takes the form of a new empirical measure of node importance. [Working paper]

“The Dimensionality of Congressional Voting Reconsidered” In collaboration with Jason Roberts and Steven Smith. We use Poole’s Optimal Classification software to examine the apparent dimensionality of the roll-call record at different levels of vote aggregation. [Working paper]

“Principal Problems: the Perils of Strategic Uncertainty in Principal-Agent Games.” Uncertain information as usually introduced in QRE models does not solve the “zero-likelihood” problem for principal-agent games. Accepted for presentation at SPSA, 2009. [In progress]

“Elicited Priors for National Security Research.” In collaboration with Jeff Gill, John Freeman, and Aaron Rapport, I am developing a browser-based software system for eliciting structured information about social networks for updating Bayesian models of connectivity. [In progress]

“The Dynamics Of Deliberation And Coordination: An Agent-Based Approach” In collaboration with Randall Calvert. We develop a model of political communication prior to the play of a coordination game and use it to examine the process by which political messages acquire meaning. Presented: Midwest 2007. [Working paper]

“Veto Bargaining in the Russian Duma” In collaboration with Steven Smith, Thomas Remington, and Moshe Haspel. We are taking a multidimensional approach to examining the movement of bills toward the president during veto bargaining with the Duma. [In progress]

“Why Does the Majority Party Bother to Have Minority Party Members on Committees?” In collaboration with Hong Min Park. Congressional floor majorities gain information by forming bipartisan committees; understanding this yields testable hypotheses about how the ideological extremity of opposing committee delegations affects the choice of composition of a party’s own delegation. Presented: Midwest 2008, APSA 2008. [Working paper]

Teaching

Over 100 semester hours of university teaching experience plus 30 semester hours co-teaching and assisting. Courses taught include calculus I and II, finite mathematics, math for elementary teachers, geometry, trigonometry, college algebra, intermediate algebra I and II, basic math. Courses co-taught or assisted include panel data, mathematical modeling in political science, multilevel modeling, linear models, American politics, business calculus, and math “101”.

2008, Washington University, Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM), on using R

2005-present, Washington University in St. Louis, various L^AT_EX workshops

Professional Service

- 2006: Panel chair and discussant, annual meeting of the American Political Science Association
- 2005-present: Webmaster for the Society for Political Methodology
- Reviewer: American Journal of Political Science; Complexity; Journal of Information Technology & Politics

Professional Memberships

- American Mathematical Association
- American Political Science Association
- American Statistical Association
- Mathematical Association of America
- Midwest Political Science Association
- Society for Industrial and Applied Mathematics
- Southern Political Science Association

Computer Skills and Experience

- Programming: many years programming experience, 20+ languages.
- Statistical software: R (developer), WinBUGS (intermediate), Stata (intermediate)
- Computational and agent-based modeling
- Expert with the L^AT_EX typesetting system, and teach regular classes on its use.
- Linux (administrator and daily user), Subversion (administrator and daily user).
- Experienced Web site developer and server administrator.

References

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| • Randall Calvert, Eagleton Professor | calvert@wustl.edu |
| • John R. Freeman, McKnight Professor | freeman@umn.edu |
| • Jeff Gill, Professor and Director of the Center for Applied Statistics | jgill@wustl.edu |
| • Andrew D. Martin, Professor of Political Science and Law | admartin@wustl.edu |
| • Gary Miller, Professor | gmiller@wustl.edu |
| • Guillermo Rosas, Assistant Professor | grosas@wustl.edu |
| • Steven S. Smith, Weidenbaum Center Director and Gregg Professor | smith@wustl.edu |
| • Robert W. Walker, Assistant Professor | rww@wustl.edu |