

John Joseph Hudak

Governance Studies
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EMPLOYMENT

2012- Fellow, Governance Studies, The Brookings Institution

EDUCATION

2012 Ph.D., Political Science, Vanderbilt University
2009 M.A, Political Science, Vanderbilt University
2005 B.A., Political Science, *magna cum laude*, University of Connecticut
B.A., Economics, *magna cum laude*, 2005
Honors Scholar , Phi Beta Kappa

DISSERTATION

The Politics of Federal Grants: Presidential Influence over the Distribution of Federal Funds

Do presidents use federal grants to help win elections? I argue that the president and his subordinates strategically direct federal funding toward electorally competitive states at electorally advantageous times. I collect new data on all federal project grants from 1996-2008 and examine the distribution of grant money to the 50 states and across presidential election cycles. I investigate grant allocations at both aggregate- and agency-levels and I evaluate whether agency structures and personnel limit or enhance presidential power over policy. Using a mixed methods approach, I supplement the statistical analysis of grant allocations with original interviews of federal bureaucrats, interest group lobbyists and grant managers, and local bureaucrats. I conclude that presidential electoral politics drives the distribution of funds, and scholars of the executive branch should view the president as an electorally-driven actor concerned with both national and particularistic public policy.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Politics of Federal Grants: Presidential Influence over the Distribution of Federal Funds”

- Winner of the 2011 *Founders Award*, awarded by the American Political Science Association’s Presidency Research Group for the best paper presented by a graduate student on the presidency in the previous year.
- Winner of the 2011 *Westview Press Award*, awarded by the Midwest Political Science Association for the best paper presented by a graduate student at the 2010 annual meeting.

“Aiding and Abetting the President: Agency Responsiveness to Presidential Electoral Interests”

“Enforcement Discretion and Presidential Electoral Politics” (with Kevin Stack, Vanderbilt University Law School)

“Ideological Diversity in the Executive Branch and the Logic of Timing in the Rulemaking Process” (with Austin Clemens, University of Georgia).

GRANTS AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

National Science Foundation, “Collaborative Research: Institutions vs. Preferences – Constructing a Database of Ideal Point Estimates of State Supreme Court Justices, Independent of Institutional Assumptions,” (with Jenna Lukasik and Itai Sened) [Under Review]

Founder’s Award, American Political Science Association Presidency Research Group, 2011

Westview Press Award, Midwest Political Science Association, 2011

National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, “The Politics of Grants: Presidential Influence on the Distribution of Federal Funds.” \$9,848

Center for New Institutional Social Science, Washington University in St. Louis, “Ideological Change on State Supreme Courts,” (with Jenna Lukasik and Daniel Guenther)

Vanderbilt University, Social Science Dissertation Fellowship, \$22,000

Vanderbilt University, Arts and Sciences Dean’s Select Fellowship, \$15,000

Vanderbilt University, Travel Grant, 2007-2011, \$2,500

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

“Ideological Diversity in the Executive Branch and the Logic of Timing in the Rulemaking Process” (with Austin Clemens, University of Georgia), presented at the 2012 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Ill.

“Aiding and Abetting the President: Agency Responsiveness to Presidential Electoral Interests,” presented at the 2011 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Ill.

“The Politics of Federal Grants: Presidential Influence over the Distribution of Federal Funds,” presented at The Politics of Federal Spending Conference, Merced, CA, May 2010 and the 2010 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Ill.

Discussant, Politics of Presidential Signing Statements, 2010 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Ill.

“Signing Statements and the Separation of Powers,” (with Gbemende Johnson), presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Ill.

“Preference Change on State Supreme Courts,” (with Jenna Lukasik), presented at the 2009 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Ill.

PAST PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2011 Acting Program Director, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Vanderbilt University
2011-2012 Research Assistant, Professor David Lewis
2010-2012 Graduate Fellow, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, Vanderbilt University
2009 Research Assistant, Professor John Geer
2008 Research Assistant, Professor Marc Hetherington
2007-2009 Editorial Associate, *The Journal of Politics*
2006-2007 Research Assistant, Professor Stefanie Lindquist

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Manuscript Reviewer
Journal of Politics, State and Local Government Review, American Politics Review

Vanderbilt University
Co-Chair, Political Science Graduate Student Association, 2007-2008
Representative, Graduate Student Council, 2006-2007
Member, Political Science Graduate Student Association, 2006-Present

Professional Associations
American Political Science Association, Member
Midwest Political Science Association, Member
Southern Political Science Association, Member
American Academy of Political and Social Science, Junior Fellow, 2006
Phi Beta Kappa, Member Epsilon of Connecticut, inducted April 2005
Pi Sigma Alpha, Member, inducted April 2005

TEACHING

2010-2012 Faculty Advisor/Instructor, Tennessee Intercollegiate State Legislature
2009 Teaching Assistant, Mathematics for Social Scientists, Graduate Level
2009 Teaching Assistant, Introduction to American Politics
2007-2011 Teaching Assistant, American Studies

REFERENCES

Available upon request.