Biographical Sketch
Thad E. Hall, Ph.D.
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Thad Hall is an associate professor of political science at the University of Utah. Professor Hall has a BA from Oglethorpe University, a MPA from Georgia State University, and a Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of Georgia. He is also a research associate with the Caltech/MIT Voting Technology Project. In addition to teaching, Professor Hall is also the Director of the MPA Program, the Director of the MPP Program, and Director of Graduate Studies in Political Science.

Prior to coming to the University of Utah, Professor Hall worked in a variety of positions in government with non-governmental organizations. He served as a policy analyst for Georgia governor Zell Miller (1991-1992) and an education policy analyst for the Governor's Office of Planning and Budget (1992-1994). From 1994 to 1996, he was a program manager for the Governor's Council on School Performance, which measured school performance in all school systems in Georgia. In 1996-1997, he worked in Washington, DC for the Southern Governors' Association, focusing on transportation policy. After completing his graduate work at the University of Georgia, Professor Hall was a researcher for The Century Foundation (2000-2004). There, he focused on research and policy related to election reform and the role of the Internet in society. In 2001, he worked on the professional staff of the National Commission on Federal Election Reform (also known as the Carter-Ford Commission, because of the two presidents who chaired the commission).

Teaching

Professor Hall teaches courses in public administration, public policy, and American politics. For the last four years, he has consistently taught the course *Public Policy: Theory and Application* – a core class for the Masters of Public Policy program – and *Governance and the Economy* -- a core class for the Master of Public Administration program.

Research on Elections

His primary research is in the area of public administration and public policy, with a focus on election administration and policy development in legislatures. Professor Hall has conducted many studies on election administration and reform, including studies on Internet voting, electronic voting, election auditing, public attitudes toward various aspects of the voting process, poll worker attitudes toward the election process, and observational studies of election administration in the United States and abroad.

Professor Hall has authored, coauthored, or edited five books on election administration and policy:

- *Point, Click, and Vote: The Future of Internet Voting* (2004, Brookings Institution Press)*;*

- *Election Fraud: Detecting and Deterring Electoral Manipulation* (2008, Brookings Institution Press);
- *Electronic Elections: The Perils and Promise of Digital Democracy* (2008, Princeton University Press);
- *Evaluating Elections: A Handbook of Methods and Standards* (2012, Cambridge University Press); and
- *Confirming Elections: Creating Confidence and Integrity Through Election Auditing* (2012, Palgrave).

In addition, he has authored or coauthored 24 research articles and book chapters related to election administration and reform, including:

- "A New Barrier to Participation: Heterogeneous Application of Voter Identification Policies." 2010. *Electoral Studies*.
- "The Human Dimension of Elections: How Poll Workers Shape Public Confidence in Elections." 2009. *Political Research Quarterly*. 62, 3: 507-522.
- "Whose Absentee Votes Are Counted?" 2008. *Electoral Studies*. 27, 4: 673-683.
- "Are Americans Confident Their Ballots Are Counted?" 2008. *Journal of Politics.* 70, 3: 754–766.
- "Controlling Democracy: The Principal-agent Problems in Election Administration." *Policy Studies Journal*. 2006. 34, 4: 491-510.

He has also written several influential reports, including:

- The Information Technology and Innovation Foundation Accessible Voting Technology Initiative Working Paper Series, "Defining the Barriers to Political Participation for Individuals with Disabilities." 2012.
- "Assessing Electoral Performance in New Mexico Using an Ecosystem Approach." A report for the Pew Center on the States." April 28, 2010.
- 2008 Survey of the Performance of American Elections: Final Report. 2009.

Research on Policy Making in Legislatures

In 2011, Professor Hall coauthored the book *Abortion Politics in Congress: Strategic Incrementalism and Policy Change*. This book examines how legislators have juggled their passions over a controversial issue like abortion, looking at how factors such as public opinion, the ideological composition of congressional committees, and changes in party control of Congress, shape the development of abortion policy. The book presents a simple model of strategic incrementalism, illustrating that legislators often have incentives to alter policy incrementally. As one reviewer noted, "The work will have a major impact on how we think of how politicians stake out their public positions on issues of controversy." In 2004, he authored the book *Authorizing Policy*, which examined the reauthorization process in Congress.

Grants

Professor Hall's research has been supported by grants and contracts from several numerous organizations, including: The Information Technology & Innovation Foundation, the Election Assistance Commission, Pew Charitable Trust/Jeht Foundation, the European University/ Council of Europe, Carnegie Corporation of New York, the State of Utah, the IBM Center for the Business of Government, and the Federal Voting Assistance Program/Department of Defense.