

JAMES M. CURRY

ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR

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EMPLOYMENT

University of Utah, Department of Political Science
Director of Graduate Studies, 2019–
Associate Professor, 2019–
Assistant Professor, 2012–19

APSA Congressional Fellow
Office of Representative Daniel Lipinski, 2011–12

University of Maryland, Department of Government & Politics
Instructor, 2009–11

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Government & Politics, University of Maryland, 2011
Dissertation: Information Control: Leadership Power in the U.S. House of Representatives
2012 E.E. Schattschneider Dissertation Award winner
2012 Carl Albert Dissertation Award winner

M.A. in Government & Politics, University of Maryland, 2009

B.S. in Political Science, College at Brockport, State University of New York, 2006

AWARDS, HONORS, & GRANTS

College of Social and Behavioral Science Superior Teaching Award (Finalist), University of Utah, 2019

Career & Professional Development Center Faculty Recognition Award, University of Utah, 2018

Madison Initiative Grant, Hewlett Foundation (\$63,669), 2017 (with Frances E. Lee): “Party Power and Lawmaking in the Contemporary Congress”

College of Social and Behavioral Science Superior Research Award (Finalist), University of Utah, 2017

Alan Rosenthal Prize for Best Book or Article Written by a Junior Scholar that has Potential Value to Legislative Practitioners, American Political Science Association, Legislative Studies Section, 2016

University Research Committee (URC) Faculty Research & Creative Grant (\$6,000), University of Utah, 2016: “Evaluating Congressional Representation Using a New Survey of Voters in Utah’s Four Congressional Districts”

Interdisciplinary Research Pilot Program (\$2,374), College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Utah, 2015 (with Tabitha Benney): “Establishing a Scholars Strategy Network Chapter in Utah”

Congressional Research Grant (\$2,652), Dirksen Center, 2015: “Knowledge, Expertise, and Committee Power in Congress”

Betty Glad Memorial Fund (\$14,500), University of Utah, 2014: “Looking Inside the Black Box: How Party Leaders Legislate through the Rules Committee”

E. E. Schattschneider Dissertation Award for best doctoral dissertation on American Politics, 2012 – Presented by the American Political Science Association

Carl Albert Dissertation Award for best doctoral dissertation in the area of legislative studies, 2012 – Presented by the APSA Legislative Studies Section

Ann G. Wylie Dissertation Fellowship (\$10,000), University of Maryland, 2011

Roger H. Davidson Award in American Politics, University of Maryland, 2011

PUBLICATIONS

BOOKS

Legislating in the Dark: Information and Power in the House of Representatives, University of Chicago Press, 2015
2016 Alan Rosenthal Prize winner

JOURNAL ARTICLES

“What is Regular Order Worth? Partisan Lawmaking and Congressional Processes” (with Frances E. Lee), *Journal of Politics*, forthcoming 2020

“Congressional Processes and Public Approval of New Laws” *Political Research Quarterly*, forthcoming 2019

“Knowledge, Expertise, and Committee Power in the Contemporary Congress” *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 44(2), 2019

“Non-Party Government: Bipartisan Lawmaking and Party Power in Congress” (with Frances E. Lee), *Perspectives on Politics* 17(1), 2019

“Lawmaker Age, Issue Salience, and Senior Representation in Congress” (with Matthew R. Haydon), *American Politics Research* 46(4), 2018

“The Impact of District Magnitude on the Legislative Behavior of State Representatives” (with Paul S. Herrnson and Jeffrey A. Taylor), *Political Research Quarterly* 71(2), 2018

“In-Depth Qualitative Research and the Study of American Political Institutions” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 50(1), 2017

“The Impact of District Magnitude on Ballot Drop-off and Roll-off” (with Paul S. Herrnson and Jeffrey A. Taylor) *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 40(4), 2015

“The Impact of District Magnitude on Campaign Fundraising” (with Paul S. Herrnson and Jeffrey A. Taylor) *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 38(4), 2013

“Issue Voting and Partisan Defection in Congressional Elections” (with Paul S. Herrnson) *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 36(2), 2011

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

“Capacity in a Centralized Congress” (with Frances E. Lee) in *Congressional Capacity* (Chicago University Press), forthcoming

“Congress at Work: Legislative Capacity and Entrepreneurship in the Contemporary Congress” (with Frances E. Lee). In *Can America Govern Itself?* (Cambridge University Press), 2019

“Issue Voting in the 2006 Elections for the U.S. House of Representatives” (with Paul S. Herrnson) *Congress Reconsidered*, 9th Edition, 2009

OTHER WRITING

- “How centralized or decentralized should power be in the House of Representatives?” *LegBranch.com*, April 18, 2019
- “What is ‘regular order’ worth?” (with Frances E. Lee) *LegBranch.com*, April 4, 2018
- “Congress is old. Does it matter?” (with Matthew R. Haydon) *LegBranch.com*, March 7, 2018
- “Why would Pelosi step down? Parties don’t usually throw out congressional leaders after electoral losses,” (with David Karol) *Washington Post*, June 30, 2017
- “Here’s why Senate Republicans are being so secretive with their Obamacare repeal plan,” *Vox – Mischiefs of Faction*, June 20, 2017
- “Our Top-Down Congress,” *Medium (subscription only)*, April 6, 2017
- “Why House Republicans are keeping their health care bill secret,” *Vox – Mischiefs of Faction*, March 2, 2017
- “Congress is far more bipartisan than headlines suggest,” (with Frances E. Lee) *Washington Post*, December 20, 2016
- “Congress as a Governing Institution,” in *American Governance*, Editor Stephen L. Schechter, Detroit: Macmillan, 2016

BOOK REVIEWS

- Review of William Bernhard and Tracy Sulkin, *Legislative Style* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press) in *Political Science Quarterly* 134(1), 2019
- Review of Ruth Bloch Rubin, *Building the Bloc: Intraparty Organization in the U.S. Congress* (New York: Cambridge University Press) in *Perspectives on Politics* 16(4), 2018
- Review of Justin Grimmer, Sean J. Westwood, and Solomon Messing, *Impression of Influence: Legislator Communication, Representation, and Democratic Accountability* (Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press) in *Perspectives on Politics* 14(4), 2016
- Review of Marc J. Hetherington and Thomas J. Rudolph, *Why Washington Won’t Work* (Chicago: Chicago University Press) in *The Forum* 14(3), 2016
- Review of Tom Allen, *Dangerous Convictions: What’s Really Wrong with the U.S. Congress* (New York: Oxford University Press) in *Public Integrity* 15(4), Winter 2013-14

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- “Working Both Sides of the Aisle? State’s Congressional Delegations and the Distribution of Federal Funds” (article, with Christopher P. Donnelly)
- “Restrained Majority Party Agenda Control in the U.S. House of Representatives” (article, with Andrew O. Ballard)
- “Re-conceptualizing Committee Desirability in Congress: The House Committee on Rules” (article, with Jill L. Curry)
- “Self-Executing Rules and Party Leadership Power in the House of Representatives” (article)
- The Limits of Party: Congress and Lawmaking in a Polarized Era* (book project with Frances E. Lee)

PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS & TALKS (LAST 5 YEARS)

- “Reconsidering Responsible Parties: Majority Party (In)Capacity in a Polarized Congress,” (w/ Frances E. Lee) Presented at Partisanship Reconsidered: A Conference to Honor David Magleby, BYU, Provo, UT, June 6, 2019

- “Restrained Majority Party Agenda Control in the U.S. House of Representatives” (w/ Andrew O. Ballard)
Presented at the 2019 MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 5, 2019
- “Working Both Sides of the Aisle? State’s Congressional Delegations and the Distribution of Federal Funds” (w/ Christopher P. Donnelly) Presented at the 2019 MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 5, 2019
- “The Limits of Party: Congress and Lawmaking in a Polarized Era” Invited Talk, the Center For the Study of Democratic Institutions, Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN, March 22, 2019
- “Congressional Organization, Power, and Capacity” Invited Talk, *Today’s Challenges to a Functional Congress: Revitalizing Article I*, Sponsored by the Seventh Circuit Bar Association Foundation, Chicago, IL, March 15, 2019
- “Giving the Minority Credit: Restrained Majority Party Agenda Control in the House of Representatives” (with Andrew O. Ballard) Presented at the Winter 2019 NCAPSA American Politics Workshop, College Park, MD, January 7, 2019
- “The Limits of Party Influence: Congress and Lawmaking” Invited talk, University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, Department of Political Science, November 16, 2018
- “Portraying Partisanship? Politicians’ Reactions to Congressional Action in the News Media, 1989-2016,” (with Frances E. Lee) Presented at the 2018 APSA Annual Meeting, September 1, 2018
- “Why Do Majority Parties Fail to Enact their Agendas?” (with Frances E. Lee) Presented at the 2018 Congress and History Conference, Princeton University, June 7-8, 2018
- “What is Regular Order Worth? Partisan Lawmaking and Congressional Processes,” (with Frances E. Lee)
Presented at Legislative Rules & Procedures Conference, University of Georgia, May 17-19, 2018
- “What is Regular Order Worth? Partisan Lawmaking and Congressional Processes,” (with Frances E. Lee)
Presented at the 2018 MPSA Annual Meeting, April 8, 2018
- “Capacity in a Centralized Congress,” (with Frances E. Lee) Presented at The State of Congressional Capacity Conference, New America, Washington, DC, March 1-2, 2018
- “The Consequences of the Decline of ‘Regular Order’ in Congress,” Invited talk, Duke University Political Science, January 11, 2018
- “Non-Party Government: Bipartisan Lawmaking and Party Power in Congress,” (with Frances E. Lee) Presented at the National Budget Roundtable, Brookings Institution, October 30, 2017
- “Working both Sides of the Aisle? Split-Party Delegations and Effective Representation,” (with Chris Donnelly)
Presented at the 2017 APSA Annual Meeting, September 2, 2017
- “What is Regular Order Worth? Partisan Lawmaking and Congressional Processes,” (with Frances E. Lee)
Presented at the 2017 APSA Annual Meeting, August 31, 2017
- “Non-Party Government: Bipartisan Lawmaking and Theories of Party Power in Congress,” (with Frances E. Lee)
Presented at the 2017 Congress and History Conference, Library of Congress, Washington, DC, June 15-16, 2017
- “Self-Executing Rules and Party Leadership Power in the House of Representatives,” Presented at the 2017 MPSA Annual Meeting, April 7, 2017
- “Congressional Processes and Public Approval of New Laws,” Presented at the 2017 MPSA Annual Meeting, April 7, 2017
- “Congress at Work: Legislative Capacity and Entrepreneurship in the Contemporary Congress,” (with Frances E. Lee) Presented at Anxieties of Democracy Working Group on Institutions Conference, Princeton University, October 28-29, 2016
- “Knowledge, Expertise, and Committee Power in Congress,” Presented at the 2016 MPSA Annual Meeting, April 9, 2016

- “The Impact of District Magnitude on the Legislative Behavior of State Representatives,” (with Paul S. Herrnson and Jeffrey A. Taylor) Presented at the 2016 MPSA Annual Meeting, April 8, 2016
- “Knowledge, Expertise, and Committee Power in Congress,” Presented at the Legislative Studies Virtual Workshop, March 9, 2016
- “Knowledge, Expertise, and Committee Power in Congress,” Presented at the 2015 APSA Annual Meeting, September 3, 2015
- “Lawmaker Age, Issue Salience, and Descriptive Representation in Congress,” (with Matt Haydon) Presented at the 2015 WPSA Annual Meeting, April 4, 2015
- “Roundtable: New Voices in Political Ethnography/Participant-Observation,” Presented at the 2015 WPSA Annual Meeting, April 3, 2015
- “Public Attitudes Toward Congressional Action: Partisanship and Procedure,” Presented at the 2015 WPSA Annual Meeting, April 3, 2015

COURSES TAUGHT

UNDERGRADUATE

Introduction to American Government
 U.S. Congress
 The American Presidency
 Senior Seminar: Leadership & U.S. Politics
 Senior Seminar: Party Polarization in the United States
 National Internship Program (with the Hinckley Institute)
 Capital Encounter (with the Hinckley Institute)

GRADUATE

American Political Institutions
 U.S. Congress / American Legislatures (independent study)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS & SERVICE

Scholars Strategy Network
 Member: 2015 –
 Utah Regional Chapter, co-leader: 2015 –

American Political Science Association
 Legislative Studies Section
 Secretary-Treasurer, 2015-19
 Chair, Alan Rosenthal Prize Award Committee, 2017
 Member, Carl Albert Dissertation Award Committee, 2013
 Other Service
 Take Force on Congressional Reform, 2019
 APSA Dissertation Workshop on U.S. Congressional Politics, 2017 (co-leader)

Midwest Political Science Association
 Section Head for Legislative Institutions, 2018 Annual Meeting

Article Reviewer

American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; American Politics Research; Congress & the Presidency; Electoral Studies; Interest Groups & Advocacy; Journal of Politics; Legislative Studies Quarterly; Perspectives on Politics; Policy Studies; Political Behavior; Politics; PS: Political Science & Politics; Presidential Studies Quarterly; Social Science Research

Manuscript Reviewer

Cambridge University Press; University of Chicago Press; University of Michigan Press

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

DEPARTMENTAL

Director of Graduate Studies, Fall 2019-

Chair, Visiting American Politics Position Search Committee, Spring 2019

Member, American Politics / Law & Courts tenure-track search committee, 2018-19

Member, Political Science Strategic Hiring Committee, 2016, 2018

Member, Political Research Colloquium Committee, 2012-13, 2017-19

Member, American Politics Comprehensive Exam Committee, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2016, 2017, 2019

Member, Society, Water, and Climate Cluster Hire Search Committee, 2015-16

Member, Visiting American Politics Position Search Committee, Spring 2014

Faculty advisor, Hinckley Journal of Politics, 2013, 2016

Member, American Politics Field Committee, 2012-

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY

Member, Distinguished Scholarship Endorsement Committee, 2017-19

Member, Special UROP Awards Review Committee, 2017-18

Member, University Teaching Assistantships Committee, 2012-13