

Cameron G. DeHart

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Employment

University of California, Merced 2020-present

Lecturer of Political Science

The Hoover Institution 2019-present

Researcher

Education

Stanford University 2020

PhD, Political Science

Fields: American Politics, Comparative Politics

The Ohio State University 2013

B.A., Economics and Political Science (summa cum laude)

with Honors and Honors Research Distinction in Political Science

Research and Teaching Interests

Institutions, State & Local Politics, Federalism, Public Policy, Representation, American Political Development

Dissertation Project

“The Proliferation of State and Local Elections in the United States, 1776-1900”

Committee: Gary W. Cox (Chair), David W. Brady, Bruce E. Cain

Circa 1787, Americans elected very few state and local officials. Yet, by the 20th century they elected far more politicians than any other country. In this project, I present original data and a theoretical framework for thinking about “electoralization” – the process by which state governments proliferated elected offices at the state and county levels – in the century after Independence. First, I present a model of a bargaining problem, faced by all governments, in which leaders must simultaneously fill public offices and fully fund the government’s budget. Applying the model to the early American states, I argue that the growth of elective offices stemmed from political elites’ fears that suffrage expansion would threaten their control of unitary executive power. To marshal evidence for my theory, I pair a novel dataset on electoralization from 1776 to 1900 with a difference-in-difference approach, taking advantage of the states’ asynchronous timing of suffrage expansion to estimate the effect of Universal Male Suffrage on the number of elected offices.

Research in Progress

Book project on state emergency powers with the Hoover Institution, the Bill Lane Center for the American West, and the Brennan Center for Justice.

“Do Reserved Seats Work? Evidence from Tribal Representatives in Maine” with Elliot Mamet (Under review)

“The Rise (and Fall) of Elected Sheriffs”

“Territorial Delegates and Party Balance: House Committee Membership after 1970”

Teaching Experience

Lecturer: University of California, Merced

Fall 2020:

POLI-100 Congressional Politics

POLI-107 California Politics

POLI-127 Race, Gender and Politics

Spring 2021:

POLI-1 Introduction to American Politics

POLI-101 The Presidency

POLI-106 Urban and Rural Politics

Teaching Assistant: Stanford University

Hoover Institution Summer Policy Boot Camp
August 2019, August 2020 (cancelled)

Introduction to American National Government and Politics
Instructors: Bruce Cain & David Brady
Winter 2015, Winter 2016, Winter 2017, Winter 2018, Winter 2019

American Political Institutions in an Uncertain Time
Instructor: Adam Bonica
Spring 2017

Political Power in American Cities
Instructor: Clayton Nall
Winter 2017

Conference Presentations & Invited Talks

“Emergency Powers in the American States”
Panel, Western Political Science Association, 2021

Screening of the documentary “Rigged: The Voter Suppression Playbook”
Panel, Stanford Law School, October 2019

“The Elite Origins of Local Elections in the United States”
Workshop on History of American Democracy, The Tobin Project, 2018

“Committee Packing in the U.S. House: The Strategic Use of Territorial Delegates”
Panel, Midwest Political Science Association and Western Political Science Association, 2018

“The Unique Challenges of Policing the Rural West”
Panel, Rural West Conference, Bill Lane Center for the American West, 2015

“The Federal Reserve’s Dual Mandate: Balancing Act or Inflation Obsession?”
Poster, Midwest Political Science Association, 2013

Other Research

“Metal By Numbers: Revisiting the Uneven Distribution of Heavy Metal Music” (2018), *Metal Music Studies*, Vol. 4:3, pp. 559-571.

“Balancing Inflation and Unemployment: Text Analysis of Annual Monetary Policy Reports” (2013), *Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics*, Vol. 13:1, pp. 1-16. [Cited in *Cornell Law Review*, Nov. 2016]

Research Assistant

California’s Integrated Regional Water Management Program, Bruce E. Cain & Iris Hui, 2015

Interest Group Networks & Presidential Nominations, Janet Box-Steffensmeier & Dino Christenson, 2012-2013

Awards & Grants

Thomas D. Dee II Graduate Fellowship, Bill Lane Center for the American West, 2019-2020

Fellow, History of American Democracy Graduate Student Workshop, The Tobin Project, 2018

Phi Beta Kappa (2013) and Phi Kappa Phi (2012)

Service

Referee, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*

Mentor-in-Teaching Fellow in Political Science, Stanford Vice Provost for Teaching & Learning, 2017 - 2018

Mentor to first-generation college students, Stanford Office of Diversity and First-Gen, 2016-2018

Skills

ArcGIS, L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office, R

References

Gary W. Cox
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