

NATHAN A. PAXTON

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EMPLOYMENT

American University, School of International Service

Professorial Lecturer (Term Assistant Professor), September 2011-present

Harvard University, Department of Government

Lecturer, January 2010-December 2010

EDUCATION

Harvard University

Doctor of Philosophy in Government, submitted January 2010

Fields of Concentration: International Relations, Political Theory, Mixed-Methods Research

Dissertation: "Learning to Live?: Examining Differential International Responses to HIV/AIDS."

Committee: Bear Braumoeller, Stephen Peter Rosen (chair), and Beth A. Simmons.

University of California, Berkeley

Master of Arts in Political Science, May 2001

Fields of Concentration: Int'l Relations, Political Theory and Philosophy, Research Methods (courses include: Quantitative Analysis, Game Theory, Research Design)

Thesis: "Punctuated Equilibrium and International Relations: The Case of European Monetary Union"

University of Cambridge

Master of Philosophy in International Relations, July 1999

Thesis: "A Punctuated Equilibrium Approach to Discontinuity in International Relations"

California State University, Sacramento

California State Senate Fellow, 1997-98, with coursework in public policy

University of California, Davis

Bachelor of Arts with Honors in International Relations (History minor), June 1997.

Elected to Phi Beta Kappa as a junior (June 1996)

PUBLICATIONS

Academic

"Virtue From Vice: Duty, Power, and The West Wing" in *Deceptive Words: The Poetics and Politics of Aaron Sorkin*, Thomas Fahy, ed., Jefferson, North Carolina: McFarland Press, 2005.

<http://bit.ly/iGhiXZ>

"Outside Public View: Let the Games Begin!" in *Making Government Work: California cases in policy, politics, and public management*, Barry Keene, ed., Berkeley: IGS Press, 2000.

<http://bit.ly/ku3aMk>

Semi-Academic

Secondary author: "The Effects of Including Gay and Lesbian Soldiers in the Australian Defense Forces: Appraising the Evidence." Prepared for the Center for the Study of Sexual Minorities in the Military, UC Santa Barbara. <http://bit.ly/ksEy9y>

"Politics and Policy of HIV." Group blog with several other young political science and public health scholars considering various aspects of the HIV pandemic. Used as resource by classes at Princeton and UCLA (among others) for information and commentary on the social science of the pandemic. <http://blogs.law.harvard.edu/politicshiv>

MANUSCRIPTS, WORKING PAPERS

"Plague, War, and Democracy: Political Processes and the spread of HIV/AIDS." Under submission.

- This paper examines the relationship between political processes that affect citizen association, like democracy or various types of war, and the spread of HIV/AIDS. It hypothesizes that political circumstances that promote association will also raise HIV/AIDS levels in the affected countries, while anti-associative processes will restrain the spread of the disease. Using data sources common in political science and international relations but not in more epidemiological sciences, I construct a dataset and conduct time-series-cross-section, fixed-effects regression analysis. The results indicate that democracy and democratic transitions are associated with increased HIV/AIDS, while civil and ethnic warfare have lower associated levels of HIV.

"Thinking Politically About HIV: Political Science and the Global Epidemic." Under submission.

- The academic discipline of political science has substantially addressed the politics and policy of the HIV/AIDS epidemic over the last two decades, but it has not done so in a systematic, theory-based fashion. This article critically reviews the extant research. I then identify 7 broad and theoretical research agendas that most of the current research fits into. I suggest some future directions that political science may take, so as to further investigation of the empirical problem of HIV/AIDS, as well as to meet the disciplinary imperative to advance more general theories and explanations of political phenomena.

"Organizational Learning in the Development of HIV/AIDS Policies." In draft.

- Good ideas for policy programs and potential changes may be blocked at a number of points in most political regimes. I argue for an alternative understanding of organizational learning that focuses not on behavioral outcomes (that gatekeepers can halt) but on *expansion* of policy possibilities. I assess this model of learning via narrative process-tracing case analysis to the development of Mexico's HIV and AIDS policies from 1985 to the present.

"Networks and Organizational Learning." In draft.

- Network structural forms transmit information in different fashion and with different costs than anarchical or hierarchical (market or corporate/bureaucratic) structures. This project contends that this movement of information alters the organizational learning process, because it alters the means, amount, and paths of information transmission. I develop a theory of networked organizational learning, and I test theory on the comparative cases of Mexico and Botswana. In each case, controlling for economic and demographic factors, the configuration of government units addressing the HIV epidemic has affected the responsiveness and output of the policy response.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND CONFERENCE ACTIVITIES

Research Presentations

Presenter, "Thinking Politically about HIV/AIDS." UNAIDS/International AIDS Society sponsored workshop, 27-28 April 2011. Bangkok, Thailand.

Manuscript, "Organizational network learning: A theory and an application to national HIV policy formation." APSA 2010 Annual Meeting Paper. Available at SSRN:

<http://ssrn.com/abstract=1642739>. Made SSRN's Top Ten Download List for "ERN: Other Institutions", "ERN:Transition Economics: Theoretical & Methodological Issues", and "PSN: Health" in October 2010.

"Learning to Live? Organizational Learning and the Development of Country HIV/AIDS Policy," Harvard School of Public Health—Dept. of Global Health and Population, 9 February 2010.

Paper, "Quantitative Analysis of Organizational Learning and the Development of HIV Policy." Annual Meeting, American PSA, August 2007.

Paper, "Information, Configuration, Many Nations: Organizational Learning and the Development of Public Health Policy." Annual Meeting, Midwest PSA, April 2007.

Paper, "Organizational Learning and Differential Response to HIV." Annual Meeting, Midwest PSA, April 2006; Conference on "Politics and Policy of HIV/AIDS in the Developing World" sponsored by the Princeton University Center on Globalization and Governance and the Princeton AIDS Initiative, May 2006; Berkeley Working Group on HIV/AIDS, March 2006

Paper, "Duty, Power, and The West Wing." Annual Meeting, Midwest PSA, April 2004.

Discussant/Organizer

Panel Organizer, "The International and Comparative Politics of HIV/AIDS," 2007 Annual Meeting, American PSA.

Discussant, "Qualitative Methods and International Relations." Qualitative Methods Section, Annual Meeting, American PSA, August 2007.

Discussant, "Social and Communicative Action Theories of International Relations." Annual Meeting, Midwest PSA, April 2007.

Discussant, "History of the Great Powers and IR Theory." Annual Meeting, Midwest PSA, April 2006.

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

UNAIDS: "Thinking Politically About HIV/AIDS"

Consultant, Fall 2010 to Spring 2011

Investigated and reported on the extant research in political science on the global (and various domestic) HIV/AIDS pandemic. Presented research results to UNAIDS-organized international workshop of academics, policy practitioners, and IO officials to discuss the application of research to current problems in the politics of HIV. Report under revision for submission to peer-reviewed publication.

Social Science Research Council, AIDS 2031 Project (funded by Joint United Nations Program on HIV/AIDS [UNAIDS])

Working Group on Countries in Rapid Transition, Spring 2008 to Winter 2009, with Dr. Alex de Waal, Harvard Humanitarian Institute & SSRC

Received research grant (\$6,000). Prepared quantitative analysis of the effects of political, macroeconomic, and conflict-related factor-related transitions on changes in the "HIV epidemic and/or for specific populations in the countries experiencing rapid transition."

Department of Political Science, UC Berkeley

Prof. Beth Simmons, Fall 2001 to Summer 2002. Provided historiographic and legal background research related to Professor Simmons' *Mobilizing for Human Rights: International Law in Domestic Politics* (Cambridge UP, 2009).

Prof. Norman Jacobson, Summer 2000 to Spring 2001. Assisted with project on political and gender theory of women in sports (specifically, baseball and softball).

ELM Research, Berkeley, California.

Summer/Fall 2000. Assisted in research, writing, and production of report on Australian policy regarding the admission of gays and lesbians into military. Full text of report available at <http://www.gaymilitary.ucsb.edu>

Department of Political Science, UC Davis

Profs. Scott Sigmund Gartner and Gary Segura (now at Stanford), April 1996 to October 1997. As undergraduate, prepared several annotated bibliographies of Mormon history and Freemason history for project on political fortunes of “invisible minorities.”

TEACHING AND ADVISING EXPERIENCE

American University, School of International Service

Courses: Intro to International Relations, International Development, Intro to IR Theory (M.A. level)

Harvard University (Lecturer)

Global Politics of Health and Disease (junior honors research seminar), Spring and Fall 2010

Harvard Extension School, Master of Liberal Arts Research Proseminar, Fall 2010

Department of Government, Harvard University (Graduate Work)

Author, “A Guide for Thesis Writers in the Department of Government.” Received grant (\$4000) and wrote booklet (~100 pp.) to assist students writing theses with research and writing process. http://www.gov.harvard.edu/uploads/Government%20thesis%20book_final_9.2.pdf

Teaching Fellow, “Conflict and Cooperation in the Modern World.” Spring 2007, Spring 2010. Profs. Stephen Peter Rosen and Michael Hiscox

Teaching Fellow, Senior Honors Thesis Seminar, 2009-10

Teaching Fellow, “Introduction to Political Theory.” Fall 2005. Prof. Sharon Krause

Teaching Fellow, “Sophomore Tutorial,” Spring 2005. Profs. Stanley Hoffmann and Cindy Skach

Head Teaching Fellow, “International Law.” Spring 2004, Fall 2004. Prof. Beth Simmons

Senior Thesis Advising: Ryan Coughlan (Harvard, 2006), “Differential Sovereignty and Military Contamination Cleanup,” graded *magna cum laude*

College of Arts and Sciences, Harvard University

Resident Tutor in Government and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender Advising; John Winthrop House; August 2005 to June 2009

Undergraduate Major Adviser, September 2003 to June 2010

Department of Political Science, UC Berkeley

Graduate Student Instructor, “International Law.” Spring 2001, Spring 2002. Prof. Beth Simmons

Graduate Student Instructor, “Research Practice and Quantitative Methodology.” Fall 2001. Prof. Eric Schickler

Graduate Student Instructor, “International Relations.” Fall 2000. Prof. Steven Weber

Department of Political Science, UC Davis (undergraduate)

Course Reader, “History of United States Foreign Policy.” Fall 1996. Prof. Scott Sigmund Gartner

AWARDS/GRANTS

Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Science Benjamin Bainbridge Tregoe Graduate (Dissertation Completion) Fellowship, 2008-09

SSRC/“aids2031” Research Grant (\$6000), 2008
Harvard John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies Dissertation Research and Travel Grant, 2008
Harvard University Graduate Student (full) Fellowship, 2002-04
UC Berkeley Political Science Department Fellowship, 1999-2000
University of Cambridge Honorary Overseas Trust Scholar, 1998-99
Trinity Hall (Cambridge) Postgraduate Research Bursary, 1998-99
Rotary International Ambassadorial Scholar, 1998-99
Marshall Scholarship Finalist, 1997
UC Davis International Relations Citation for Outstanding Performance, 1997
Finalist, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace Junior Fellowship, 1997
UC Davis, Institute of Government Affairs Undergraduate Research Fellowship, 1996-97
Phi Beta Kappa (elected as junior), 1996

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Fourth Annual Institute for Qualitative Research Methods

Consortium on Qualitative Research Methods, Arizona State University, January 2005.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

California State Senate, Sacramento, California

Legislative Aide to Sen. Quentin L Kopp (I-San Francisco), October 1997 to September 1998. Primary staff person on 10-15 bills, including significant reforms of mortgage brokers, expansion of protections against age-related employment discrimination, and civil liberties.

U.S. Department of State

London Embassy: Intern to Labor and Social Affairs Officer and General Services Officer, June 1996 to August 1996.

Offered position as U.S. Foreign Service Officer (April 1998), declined.

MEDIA

Interview, National Public Radio: Open Source, 6 November 2006, “Homosexuality and the American Church.”

Non-Academic

Nate Knows Nada. Personal weblog (“blog”). May 2003 to Summer 2007. Official accredited blogger of the 2004 Democratic National Convention. Indexed as part of the Library of Congress MIN-ERVA permanent historical collection on the 2004 election cycle.

<http://www.nateknowsnada.org>

SERVICE

Berkeley Canterbury (Episcopal Ministry) Foundation

Board of Directors Member, September 2000 to August 2002.

UC Berkeley Graduate Assembly

Grants Adviser, December 2001 to August 2002.

New Graduate Student Orientation Coordinator, Summer 2001.

Department of Political Science Representative (1999-2001)

Trinity Hall (Cambridge University) Middle Combination Room Committee

Member-at-Large (1998-99), Trinity Hall Graduate Student Government

UC Davis

Joint Campus Committee on Information Technology, Undergraduate Representative (1996-97)

PROFICIENCIES

Research competency (read, write) in Spanish.

[Stata](#) statistical software, [R](#) statistical language, [L^AT_EX](#) typesetting language.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & AFFILIATIONS

Peer-review Referee: International Development Studies Bulletin; Public Administration: An International Quarterly; Routledge Publishers; Journal of Health Politics, Policy, and Law

American Political Science Association, 2001–present

- Consortium on Qualitative Research Methods, 2005–present
- Health Politics Working Group, APSA 2007
- Organized Section on Health Politics and Policy, 2008–present

Midwest Political Science Association, 2004–present (intermittent)

International AIDS Society, 2008–present

INTERESTS

Amateur potter/ceramicist (5 years)

Bicycle building and repair (2 years as a professional bike mechanic)