

ABBY K. BLASS

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Education

The University of Texas at Austin

PhD candidate, Political Science

Daniel Brinks (chair), Profs. Elkins, Jacobsohn, Lindquist, Theriault

Exam fields: Public Law, American Politics

GPA 3.91

The University of Oxford (Oxford, United Kingdom)

Visiting PhD student, Centre for Socio-Legal Studies (2012-13)

Institute of Political Studies ‘Sciences Po’ (Paris, France)

Visiting Researcher, Center for European Studies (2011-12)

The University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

BA, Political Science, with honors (2001-2004)

James B. Angell Scholar 2003, 2004

Publications

“Corruption, Political Participation, and Appetite for Reform: Americans’ Assessment of the Role of Money in Politics” (with Brian Roberts and Daron Shaw)

Election Law Journal, December 2012. 11(4): 380-398. (peer-reviewed)

“Roll-call Votes” (with Sean Theriault and Patrick Hickey)

In *The Oxford Handbook of the American Congress*. Frances Lee and Eric Schickler (eds.), New York: Oxford University Press. 575-597. 2011.

Manuscripts Under Review

“Rethinking Judicial Empowerment: The New Foundations of Constitutional Justice”

(with Daniel Brinks)

“Inclusion-Exclusion: Constitutional governance and the politics of judicial design”

(with Daniel Brinks)

Papers

Weak Review, Strong Courts: Judicial Influence in France, the US, and the UK

“Beyond the Façade: Institutional Engineering and Potemkin Courts in Latin America”

(with Daniel Brinks)

Training

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (2010 and 2009)

Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Spatial and Dimensional Analysis (2009)

Longitudinal Analysis, Structural Equation Models (2010)

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-method Research (IQMR)

Syracuse University (2010)

Methodology Institute sponsored by Consortium on Qualitative Research Methods,

APSA Qualitative Methods section, and National Science Foundation

Summer Statistics Institute (SSI)

University of Texas at Austin (2009)

Hazard/Duration Analysis

French School Summer Language Program

Middlebury College (2011)

Experience

Research Assistant (RA or GRA)

Zachary Elkins, Comparative Constitutions Project (NSF funded)

Fall 2008 - present

Daniel Brinks, Judicial Institutional Design in Latin America

Summer 2009

Bruce Buchanan, Public Perception of Presidential Performance (data analyst)

Summer 2008

Teaching Assistant / Assistant Instructor*

Supreme Court & Public Policy* (Powe)

2008 - 2011

Constitutional Law: Structure of Power (Jacobsohn)

2010

Constitutional Interpretation (Perry)

2008, 2009

American Presidency (Buchanan)

2008

Legal Assistant, Graves, Dougherty, Hearon & Moody, PC (Austin, TX)

2005 - 2007

Fellowships

Graduate School Named Continuing Fellowship (full stipend, tuition, and benefits), 2014-15

Graduate School Continuing Fellowship (full stipend, tuition, and benefits), 2013-14

Macdonald Long Research Fellowship (full stipend, tuition, and benefits), 2012-13

FLAS Dissertation Research Fellowship (full stipend, tuition, and benefits), 2011-12

FLAS Tuition Fellowship, Middlebury Summer Language Program, Summer 2011

Macdonald Long Research Fellowship, Summer 2011

Patterson Fellowship, Spring 2011

Tuition Fellowship and stipend to attend University of Michigan ICPSR, Summer 2010

Tuition Fellowship to attend Institute for Qualitative & Mixed Method Research, Spring 2010

University of Michigan Clogg Tuition Fellowship for ICPSR, Summer 2009

Fellowship stipend to attend ICPSR, Summer 2009

Awards

Graduate School Professional Development Award to attend APSA, Fall 2013
Erwin Chair Professional Development Award to attend MPSA, Spring 2013
Graduate School Professional Development Award to attend APSA, Fall 2012
Conference Travel Award to attend APSA, Fall 2011
Conference Travel Award to attend APSA, Fall 2010
Intellectual Entrepreneurship Mentor Award, Spring 2010
Intellectual Entrepreneurship Conference Award to attend MPSA, Spring 2010
Conference Travel Award to attend APSA, Fall 2009
Conference Travel Award to attend MPSA, Spring 2009
Nominated, Outstanding Graduate Student Academic Employee (TA) Award, Govt., Fall 2008

Conference Presentations

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, September 2015

“Weak Review, Strong Courts: Judicial Influence Reconsidered”

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, September 2013

“Weak Review, Strong Courts: The Judicialization of Politics in the US and France”

“Polarizing Picks: The Conditional Effect of Divided Government on Judicial Confirmation Politics” (with Sean Theriault)

Ruling Politics, Chicago, Chicago, May 2013

University of Chicago

Beyond the Façade: Institutional Engineering and Potemkin Courts in Latin America (with Daniel Brinks)

Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2013

“Hopes and Fears: the Politics of Judicial Design” (with Daniel Brinks)

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, New Orleans, September 2012

“Hopes and Fears: the Politics of Judicial Design” (with Daniel Brinks) *meeting cancelled

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, September 2011

“The Role of Diffusion and Domestic Politics in Judicial Design” (with Daniel Brinks)

“The Conceptualization and Measurement of Formal Judicial Power” (with Daniel Brinks)

How Autocracies Work: Beyond the Electoral Paradigm, Ann Arbor, April 2011

University of Michigan Weiser Center for Emerging Democracies

“Dictators, Democrats, and their courts: Judicial Institutions in Latin America”
(with Daniel Brinks)

American Political Science Association, Washington DC, September 2010

“Americans’ Assessment of the Role of Money in Politics”

(with Brian Roberts and Daron Shaw)

Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2010

“Advice and Consent: Separation of Powers, Partisanship and Judicial Ideology”

“Americans’ Assessment of the Role of Money in Politics”

(with Brian Roberts and Daron Shaw)

American Political Science Association, Toronto, September 2009

“The Role of Diffusion and Domestic Politics in Judicial Design” (with Daniel Brinks)

Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2009

“A Science of the Possible: Judicial Tenure and Activism in Colombia and India”

Service

Undergraduate Mentor, Intellectual Entrepreneur Program for Minorities (2009, 2010)

Co-President, Graduate Student Organization, Government Department (2009-2010)

Project Assistant, Public Perception of Presidential Performance, PI: B. Buchanan (2008)

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association (Law & Courts, Qualitative Methods sections)

Midwest Political Science Association

Languages

English (native)

French (advanced reading, oral comprehension, writing, speaking)

Fieldwork

Paris, France (8 months, French Constitutional Council)

Washington, D.C. (2 months, US Supreme Court)

London, England (6 months, UK Supreme Court)

Interests

Judicial Politics (American, Comparative)

Comparative Institutional Design

American Politics

Constitutional Law