

Bethany Lee Albertson

Department of Political Science
University of Washington
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EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Washington. (2006-present)

Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, Princeton University. (2005-2006)

Visiting Instructor, University of Notre Dame. (2004-2005)

EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2006 Ph.D., Political Science

2006 Certificate of Graduate Study, Social Psychology

Dissertation: *Mysterious Ways: The Mechanisms of Religious Persuasion in American Politics*

Committee: John Brehm (chair), Melissa Harris Lacewell, Penny Visser

This research examines the ways that politicians use religious language, and how these persuasive messages affect political attitudes and choices in the United States. Specifically, this project explores the conditions under which religious rhetoric is persuasive, and whether it complicates or simplifies political choices. This project combines survey data with a series of original experiments to evaluate the ways that Americans with different religious beliefs process these messages, and how religious considerations interact with competing predispositions. The specific focus on religion is used to contribute to more general theories of coded communication, implicit processes, and ambivalence.

2001 M.A., Social Science.

M.A. Thesis: *Victorian Courtship: The Restrained Relationship between Social Science and the Court*

Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

1999 B.A., Political Science

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Psychology, Public Opinion, Political Participation, Religion and Race in US Politics, Quantitative Methods.

HONORS & GRANTS

- 2008 Harrington Faculty Fellow, University of Texas, Austin.
- 2008 Royalty Research Fund, University of Washington. Family Values in Political Campaigns. (\$34,825)
- 2007 National Science Foundation, Time Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences. Fear and Learning: How Do Anxious Voters Get Their News? (with Shana Kushner Gadarian).
- 2007 Institute for Ethnic Studies in the United States, University of Washington. Fear and Learning in the Immigration Debate: How Do Anxious Citizens Get Their News? (with Shana Kushner Gadarian). (\$4,600)
- 2005 National Science Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant. (\$12,000)
- 2005 Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, Princeton University.
- 2005 Honorable Mention, Seymour Sudman Student Paper Competition, AAPOR. (with Adria Lawrence).
- 2003 APSA Political Psychology Section Scholarship, Summer Institute in Political Psychology.
- 2002 Earl S. Johnson Prize for best M.A. paper, University of Chicago.

PUBLICATIONS

Albertson, Bethany, John Brehm and Michael Alvarez. 2005. Ambivalence as Internal Conflict. *Ambivalence and the Structure of Public Opinion*. Stephen Craig and Michael Martinez, eds. New York: Palgrave.

Harris-Lacewell, Melissa and Bethany Albertson. 2005. Good Times? Understanding African Americans' Misperceptions of Racial Economic Fortunes. *Journal of Black Studies*. 35:5.

Albertson, Bethany and John Brehm. 2003. Comments: Social Neuroscience in Political Psychology. *Political Psychology*. 24: 4.

Albertson, Bethany and Adria Lawrence. After the Credits Roll: Evaluating the Long Term Effects of Educational Television. Under Review.

BOOK REVIEWS

Race, Republicans and the Return of the Party of Lincoln. By Tasha S. Philpot. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, forthcoming.

In Defense of Negativity: Attack Ads in Presidential Campaigns. By John C. Greer. *American Review of Politics*, forthcoming.

PRESENTATIONS

Is Lou Dobbs Frightening? The Effect of Threatening Advertisements on Black, White and Latino Attitudes towards Immigration. 2008. Midwest Political Science Association. (with Shana Kushner Gadarian).

Religious Appeals and Implicit Attitudes: Evidence from the 2008 Democratic Primary. 2008. Midwest Political Science Association, Western Political Science Association.

Fear and Learning in the Immigration Debate: How do anxious citizens get their news? 2007. American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association and International Society of Political Psychology. (with Shana Kushner Gadarian).

Mysterious Ways: The Mechanisms of Religious Persuasion in American Politics. 2006. Social Psychology Brown Bag, University of Washington.

Dog Whistle Politics, Coded Communication, and Religious Appeals. 2006. American Political Science Association and International Society of Political Psychology.

Interpersonal Ambivalence and Partisanship. 2006. American Political Science Association. (with Jeff Grynaviski).

Religious Appeals and Implicit Attitudes. 2006. Midwest Political Science Association.

How Does Television Change Us? An Analysis of Three Field Experiments. 2005. American Association of Public Opinion Research. (with Adria Lawrence).

Coded Communication and Candidate Appeals. 2005. Midwest Political Science Association and Political Psychology Workshop, University of Chicago.

How Presidential Debates are Like Football Games: Selective Perception, Cognitive Consistency, and Political Attitudes. 2004. Invited talk, Carroll Hall, Notre Dame.

God on Their Side? Understanding the Effect of Religious Cues on Political Attitudes.” 2004. American Political Science Association.

The Effect of Religion and Ideology on Abortion and Welfare Attitudes: Is Religiosity Complicating or Simplifying Political Choices? 2004. Midwest Political Science Association.

Emotions and Political Attitudes in the Aftermath of the September 11th Terrorist Attacks. 2004. Depression: What is it Good For? Conference at the University of Chicago.

The 9/11 Terrorist Attacks: Ethnic Differences in Emotional Response and Recovery. 2003. Midwest Political Science Association and Political Psychology Workshop, University of Chicago. (with Kenneth Rasinski, Alicia Matthews, Tom Smith, and Jennifer Berkold).

Good Times? Understanding African American Misperceptions of Racial Economic Fortunes. 2003. Midwest Political Science Association. (with Melissa Harris Lacewell).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Washington, Assistant Professor

Undergraduate Level:

Political Psychology (Spring 2008)

Honors Seminar: Sources of Evil (Spring 2008)

Introduction to American Politics (Winter 2007, Winter 2008)

American Elections and Voting (Fall 2006)

Graduate Level:

Survey Research and Experimental Methods (Winter 2008)

Political Psychology (Winter 2007)

Notre Dame, Visiting Instructor

American Politics (Fall 2004, Spring 2005)

Senior Writing Seminar (Fall 2004)

Political Participation (Spring 2005)

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2003 Summer Institute in Political Psychology, Ohio State University

2002 ICPSR, University of Michigan (Regression Analysis, Maximum Likelihood Estimation)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Reviewer for: National Science Foundation, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Politics Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Psychology*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Science and Politics*, *Public Choice*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*

American Political Science Association Member (2001 to present)

International Society for Political Psychology (2003 to present)

Midwest Political Science Association Member (2001 to present)