

John D. Wilkerson

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I study legislative agenda setting and federal policymaking using innovative data and machine learning methods. I also develop computer-based simulations and interactive data visualizations to promote research, teaching and public understanding of government.

Affiliation

- Chair, Political Science, University of Washington (2018-)
- Donald R. Matthews Distinguished Professor, University of Washington
 - Director, Center for American Politics and Public Policy (cappp.org)
 - Executive Committee, Center for Statistics in the Social Sciences
 - Faculty Affiliate, eScience Institute

Education

- 1991 Ph.D. University of Rochester (American Politics, Methodology)
 - Dissertation: *The Evolution of Strategy: A Case Study of Congressional Pay Raise Politics* (Committee: Richard Fenno, Larry Bartels, Randall Calvert)
- 1988 M.A. University of Arizona (Public Policy)
- 1984 B.A. Portland State University (Political Science)

Previous Affiliations and Appointments

- Associate Professor, University of Washington (9/16/2000-2011)
- Visiting Scholar, University of Barcelona (9/1/2007-2/28/2008)
- Visiting Scholar, University of Aarhus, Denmark (1/31/2000-5/31/2001)
- Robert Wood Johnson Scholar, University of California, Berkeley (9/16/1994-6/30/1996)
- Assistant Professor, University of Washington (12/16/1991-9/15/2000)
- Acting Assistant Professor, University of Washington (9/16/1990-12/15/1991)

Fellowships and Awards

- 2015 *Award of Excellence*, Communication Arts (Interactive design) for Legislative Explorer
- 2013 *Exemplary Research Award*, National Council of Social Studies (for “Rethinking Advanced High School Coursework”)
- 2011 Finalist, *James D. Clowes Teaching Award for Learning Communities* (UW)
- 2007-08 *Ministerio de Educacion Y Ciencia Investigadore Extranjeros Fellowship* (Government of Spain)
- 2007 *Best Educational Website*, APSA Information and Technology section [Policy Agendas Project]
- 2002 *Best Educational Website*, APSA Information and Technology section [LegSim]
- 2000 *Institute For Teaching Excellence Fellowship*, University of Washington
- 1994-96 *Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research Faculty Fellowship*, UC/Berkeley
- 1990 *Richard D. Irwin Dissertation Fellowship in the Social Sciences*
- 1986-89 *Rush Rhees Doctoral Fellowship*, University of Rochester
- 1986 *Best Graduate Teaching Assistant*, University of Rochester

Courses

Undergraduate

Introduction to American Politics
U.S. Congress (simulation)
State Politics and Policy
Legislative Internship
Undergraduate Research

Graduate

Text as Data
American Institutions
Game Theory for Political Scientists
Quantitative methods
Legislative Politics

Peer Review Journal Articles and Books (chronological)

- More Effective Than We Thought: Accounting for Legislative Hitchhikers Reveals a More Inclusive and Productive Lawmaking Process. *American Journal of Political Science* (with Andreu Casas and Matthew J. Denny).
- “A Delicate Balance: Party Branding during the 2013 Government Shutdown” 2017. *American Politics Research* (with Andreu Casas)

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- The .GOV Internet Archive: A Big Data Resource for Political Scientists. Spring 2017. *The Political Methodologist*. (with Emily Gade and Anne Washington)
- Large Scale Computerized Text Analysis in Political Science: Opportunities and Challenges. (2017) *Annual Review of Political Science* (with Andreu Casas)
- “Tracing the Flow of Policy Ideas in Legislatures: A Text Reuse Approach” (2015) *American Journal of Political Science*, April 2015 (with David Smith and Nick Stramp)
- “Legislative Explorer: Data-driven discovery of lawmaking” (2015) *PS: Political Science and Politics* 48:1 (with Nick Stramp)
- “Staying Focused: Tracing the flow of ideas from the Online Parliament to Canberra” (2013) in Lyn Carson and John Gastil eds. *The Australian Citizens’ Parliament and the Future of Deliberative Democracy*. Penn State University Press. (with John Gastil)
- Book. *Congress and the Politics of Problem Solving*, Cambridge University Press (Dec. 2012) (with E. Scott Adler)
- “Textual Predictors of Bill Survival in Congressional Committees” (2012). *Proceedings of the Conference of the North American Chapter of the Association for Computational Linguistics*. (with Noah Smith and Tae Yano, Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon University.)
- “Tradeoffs in Accuracy and Efficiency in Supervised Learning Methods” (2012) *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*, 9(3): 298-318. (with Loren Collingwood)
- “Rethinking Advanced High School Coursework: Tackling the Depth/Breadth Tension in the AP US Government and Politics Course.” (2011) *Journal of Curriculum Studies*, 43:4, 533-559 (with John Bransford, Susan Mosborg, Walter Parker, Nancy Vye and Robert Abbott)
- “Comparative Studies of Policy Dynamics” (2011) *Comparative Political Studies*, 44(8): 947-972. (with Frank Baumgartner and Bryan Jones).
- “Le Projet Agendas Compares: Objectifs et Contenus.” (2009) *Revue Internationale de Politique Comparee*, 16(3): 365-379. (with Frank Baumgartner, Sylvain Brouard, Laura Chaques, Christopher Green-Pedersen, Emiliano Grossman, Bryan D. Jones, Arco Timmermans, Stefaan Walgrave)
- “Comparer Les Productions Legislatives: Enjeux et Methods.” (2009) *Revue Internationale de Politique Comparee*, 16(3): 381-404. (with Sylvain Brouard, Frank Baumgartner, Arco Timmermans, Shaun Bevans, Geraard Breeman, Christian Breunig, Laura Chaques, Christopher Green-Pedersen, Will Jennings, Peter John, Bryan D. Jones, David Lowery)
- “Representation and American Governing Institutions.” (2009) *Journal of Politics*, 71: 277-290 (with Bryan Jones and Heather Larsen-Price).
- Edited Volume. *Text Annotation for Political Science*. (2008) *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*, 5(1). (with Claire Cardie, Computing and Information Sciences, Cornell)

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- “Computer assisted Topic Classification for Mixed Methods Social Science Research” (2008) *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*, 4(4): 31-46 (with Dustin Hillard and Stephen Purpura).
- “Intended Consequences? Jurisdictional Reform and Issue Control in the U.S. House of Representatives.” (2008) *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 33(1): 85-114. (with E. Scott Adler)
- “Simulating A Federal Legislature” (2006) *Academic Exchange*. 10(4). (with Ruth Fruland)
- “How Agenda-setting Attributes Shape Politics: Problem Attention, Agenda Dynamics and Comparative Health Policy Developments in the U.S. and Denmark.” (2006) *Journal of European Public Policy*, 13(7): 1039-52. (with Christoffer Green-Pedersen)
- “The Political Economy of Health in the United States” (2003) *Annual Review of Political Science*, 6: 327-43.
- “Killer Amendments in Congress.” (1999) *American Political Science Review*, 93(3): 1-18.
- Book. *Competitive Managed Care: The Emerging Health Care System* (1997) San Francisco: Jossey-Bass/Wiley. (with Kelly Devers and Ruth Givens)
- “Money and Medicine: The American Medical PAC’s Strategy of Giving in House Races.” (1999) *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 24(2): 235-55. (with David Carrell)
- “National Health Care Reform, 103rd Congress: A Description of the Activities and Influence of Public Health Activists.” (1997) *American Journal of Public Health*, 87(7): 1107-12. (with Helen Halpin)
- “Local Television News Coverage of President Clinton’s Introduction of the Health Security Act.” (1996) *Journal of the American Medical Association*, 275(15): 1201-1205. (with Lori Dorfman, Helen Halpin, and Judith Feinson)
- “The Electoral Connection in the Early Congress: The Case of the Compensation Act of 1816.” (1996) *American Journal of Political Science*, 40(1): 145-171. (with William Bianco and David Spence)
- “The Analysis of Committee Power: A Critique.” (1991) *American Journal of Political Science*, 35(3): 613-23.
- “Reelection and Representation in Conflict: The Case of Agenda Manipulation.” (1990) *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 15(2): 263-282.

Invited Submissions; Chapters, and Other Published Writings

- “The Ties that Bind: Coalitions in Congress” (2011) Eric Shickler and Frances Lee, eds, *Oxford Handbook of Congress*. Oxford University Press. Chapter 27 (with Barry Pump)
- *Project-based advanced placement courses: AP U.S. Government and Politics* (Technical Report). (2009) Seattle: University of Washington LIFE Center. Mosborg, S., Bransford, J., Abbott, R., Vye, N., Parker, W., & Wilkerson, J.

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- “The Biggest Problem Facing Congress? Ex-members say: Itself.” *Roll Call : The Newspaper of Capitol Hill* October 26, 2006 (with E. Scott Adler)
- “Doing the Right Thing: Collective Action and Procedural Choice in the New Legislative Process” (Book Review). (2005) *Perspectives on Politics*. 3:893-894.
- “Social Choice: Implications for the fairness of voting methods in general and proposal evaluation methods in particular.” (2004) Prepared for Washington State Department of Public Lands/ Interagency Commission. CAPP Working Paper.
- "Studying Policy Dynamics." (2002) (with Bryan D. Jones and Frank Baumgartner) in Frank Baumgartner and Bryan D. Jones eds *Policy Dynamics* (University of Chicago, 2002)
- "Using Bills to Trace Attention in Congress: Policy Windows in Health Care Legislating." (with T. Jens Feeley, Christi Sue, and Nicole Schiereck) in Frank Baumgartner and Bryan D. Jones eds, *Policy Dynamics* (University of Chicago, 2002)
- “Que Le Bien Triomphe: Le Proces en Destitution Du President Clinton” (1999) *Pouvoirs*, (Fall 1999) (with Bryan Jones).
- “Competing Principals: Committees, Parties and the Organization of Congress.” (Book Review) (1997) *Congress and the Presidency*, 24: 229-30
- “Contributions from the American Medical Political Action Committee to Members of Congress. (Letters)” (1994) *New England Journal of Medicine*, 330(22): 1614.
- “Congressional Procedure and Practice: A Reference, Research, and Legislative Guide.” (book review) (1991) *American Political Science Review*, 85(1): 303-4.
- “Compactness and the 1980s Districts in the Indiana State House: Evidence of Political Gerrymandering?” (1990) in *Political Gerrymandering and the Courts*. New York: Agathon Press. Pp. 255-65. (with Richard Niemi)

Published Conference and Working Papers

- Jason Chuang, Yuening Hu, Ashley Jin, John D. Wilkerson, Daniel A. McFarland, Christopher D. Manning, and Jeffrey Heer. “Document Exploration with Topic Modeling: Designing Interactive Visualizations to Support Effective Analysis Workflows.” (2013) Workshop on Topic Models, Conference on Neural Information Processing Systems (NIPS). Lake Tahoe, Nevada.
- “The US Policy Agendas Legislation Corpus – Volume 1: A Language Resource from 1947-1998.” (2008) *International Conference on Language Resources and Evaluation (LREC)* Marrakech, May 26-June 1. (with Stephen Purpura and Dustin Hillard)
- “A Needs Analysis for Instructional Support in LegSim.” (2008) *International Perspectives in the Learning Sciences*, Utrecht, June 24-28 2008 (with Mahesh Joshi, Xui Wang and Carolyn Penstein Rose (Dept of Computer Science, Carnegie Mellon))

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- “Comparing Governmental Agendas: Evolution of the Prioritization of Issues in Spain and the U.S.” (2008) IBEI Working Paper (with Laura Chaques, Luz Maria Munoz Marquez and Anna Maria Palau Roque, University of Barcelona).
- Measuring State Party Ideology (Development of the National Elections Study (NES) party ideology variable). (1989) University of Rochester Public Policy Analysis Series, #8911. (with Larry Bartels)

Awarded Grants

- \$25,000 National Science Foundation, 9th Annual New Directions in Text as Data (graduate student support) 2018. (with Noah Smith)
- EScience Incubator (University of Washington, 2014-15) One of 6 projects campus wide to receive computer science support for a big data research project (with Nora Webb Williams)
- \$302,000 National Science Foundation, “The Power of Images: A Computational Investigation of Political Mobilization via Social Media” 2017-19.
- EScience Incubator (University of Washington, 2014-15) One of 6 projects campus wide to receive computer science support for a big data research project (with Professor Magda Balazinski (Computer Science) and Emily Gade (Political Science))
- \$498,353 National Science Foundation, *PI-NET: Poli-Informatics Research Network* 2012-15
- \$236,422 National Science Foundation, *The Progress of Policy Ideas: Tracing Legislative Language in the Congressional Landscape*. 2012-15
- \$30, 628 UW Royalty Research Fund. 2012
- \$24,000 National Science Foundation, *Comparative Agendas Project* Workshop. 2010-11. Principal Investigator
- \$49,000 National Science Foundation, *Tools for Text* Training Workshop. 2009-10. Principal Investigator
- \$18,000 George Lucas Educational Foundation and William H. Gates Foundation. For the development and assessment of an Advanced Placement Government curriculum emphasizing informal learning environments. 2010-11. (Co-investigator; John Bransford of the UW LIFE Center is the P.I.)
- \$3, 000 Dirksen Center for Congressional Studies, *Development Support for LegSim: U.S. Senate*, Robert H. Michel Special Project Grant. Awarded March 2006. Principal Investigator
- \$49, 986, UW Technology Gap Innovation Fund (TGIF), “Desktop Democracy: Versioning Simulation Software for the American Politics Marketing.” Awarded January, 2005. Principal Investigator (with John Gastil)

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- \$51,736 The William and Flora Hewlett Foundation, *Development of LEGSIM: Legislative Simulation and Election Day: Election Simulation*, Awarded November, 2003. Principal Investigator (with John Gastil)
- \$750,000 National Science Foundation, *Collaborative Research: Database Development for the Study of Public Policy*. January, 2002-December 2009. Co-PI with Bryan D. Jones; Principal Investigator 2009.
- \$215,000 National Science Foundation, *Collaborative Research on Congressional Committee Jurisdictions, Gatekeeping and Agenda Setting*. July 2000-June 2002. Principal Investigator (with E. Scott Adler)
- \$18,500 National Science Foundation, REU (Research Experience for Undergraduates) Supplemental. September 2000 - August 2001. Principal Investigator
- \$19,272 UW Royalty Research Fund, "Policy Interest and Legislative Responsiveness: Bill Introductions as Indicators of Issue Responsiveness." (Awarded but declined due to NSF grant.) Principal Investigator
- \$5,000 "Design and Development of LEGSIM, an on-line legislative simulation" *UW Office of Undergraduate Education*. 2000. Principal Investigator

Current Database and Technology Projects

- **LegEx: Legislative Explorer** (www.legex.org) Data-driven visualization of congressional lawmaking (1973-present). Enables researchers and the public to explore the lawmaking activities of Congress from 1973 to yesterday. 2015 Communication Arts Excellence Award.
- **IdeaTracer** (<http://cappp.org/ideatracer3/vis.html>) Interactive tool that enables researchers and the public to trace the legislative histories of specific ideas found in congressional legislation. Work in progress.
- **.GOV** A very large (80 terrabytes) database of webcrawl results for all .gov domains from 1995 to the present (with Emily Gade)
- **AUTH** A relational database that links the lawmaking activities of Congress to the downstream activities of government agencies for all laws, agencies and regulations since 1995 (with Kevin Shotwell)
- **Congressional Bills Project** (www.congressionalbills.org). A relational database for researchers that provide extensive information about the topics, progress and sponsors of congressional bills introduced from 1947-present. Collaborator: E. Scott Adler (U. Colorado)
- **LegSim: Legislative Simulation** (www.legsim.org). A virtual legislature used by thousands of high school and colleges students across the nation every academic year. Best Educational Website, American Political Science Association ITP Section

Service to National Political Science Organizations

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- Senior Editorial Board, *Journal of Information Technology and Politics* (2006-present)
- Secretary/Treasurer, Legislative Studies Section, American Political Science Association (2005-07)
- Editorial Board, *Political Research Quarterly* (2002-06)
- Section Coordinator, Midwest Political Science Association, Western Political Science Association
- Reviewer for National Science Foundation, American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Political Research Quarterly, American Politics Quarterly, Journal of Information Technology and Politics and the National Science Foundation

Workshop and Conference Leadership

- Co-organizer, 9th annual New Directions in Text as Data (Seattle, August 21-22, 2018)
- Principal Investigator, PolInformatics.org (2012-2017)
- Coordinator (with Stuart Shulman), JITP Annual Conference (*The Future of Computational Social Science*), University of Washington (May 2011)
- Coordinator (with Daniel Diermeier), *Text as Data* Workshop, Northwestern University (2009, 2010)
- Principal Investigator (with Phil Schrodtt), *Tools for Text* Workshop, University of Washington, June 14-15, 2010
- Principal Investigator, *Comparative Agendas Project* Conference, University of Washington, June 17-19, 2010
- Workshop Participant, Center for Advance Study in the Behavioral Sciences (Stanford), Palo Alto June 21-25, 2010
- Coordinator (with Christoffer Green-Pederson) *European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)* Workshop (Agenda Setting), Cyprus 2006

Recent Invited Presentations (excluding conferences)

- Tracking Climate Change Adaptation: Methodological Challenges in the Age of Big Data, Yale/NUS, 2017
- University of Utah, 2015
- University of Texas/Austin, 2015
- Department of Computer Science (eScience Institute), University of Washington, 2014
- Northeastern University, 2014

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- University of Barcelona, 2013
- London School of Economics (New Directions in Text as Data), 2013
- Hertie School of Governance (Berlin), 2013
- University of Pennsylvania, 2013
- Center for Statistics in the Social Sciences (University of Washington, 2013
- Harvard University (New Directions in Text as Data), 2012
- Duke University, Political Institutions and Public Choice, 2011