Specialization and Committees in the US House of Representatives

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Background

- Specialization as a norm
- Past research
 - Interviews
 - Specialization in general
 - Committees in terms of legislative business
 - Specialization and party
 - Matthews (1960), Asher (1973), Smith (1989)

Assumptions and Research Question

- Committees predict what members will specialize in?
- Research Question: Do committee memberships predict what members choose to specialize and therefore speak on?
- What percent of members on a given bill are a member of the jurisdiction committee?
- C-SPAN Video Library as research tool

Research Methods

- Four Congresses: 103rd, 104th, 112th, 116th
 - All large freshman classes
 - Even split of Republican and Democratic control
- Filter bills via:
 - HR, public law, and specific Congress
- Random number to establish starting point
- Every 10th bill

Research Methods Continued

- From each bill extract:
 - Jurisdiction committee
 - Each speaker and their:
 - Committee assignments, party, state, district, member of jurisdiction committee t/f
 - Suspension bill t/f
 - Appropriation bill t/f

. A	Jurisdiction Committee	c	D	E	F	G	H	Committee 1	Committe 2	L Member of Jurisdiction Committee	N O P Q R S T U V W X
1 Bill 2 H.R.4193	Post Office and Civil Service	Арр	Speaker First Benjamin	Speaker Middle Arthur	Speaker Last Gilman	Gilman, Benjamin	R NY20th	Committee 1 Foreign Affairs	Post office and civil service	Committee 3 Member of Jurisdiction Committee	Suspension Bill Y/N Suspension Bill T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H9168)
3 H.R.4193	Post Office and Civil Service		Ron	Arthur	DeLugo	DeLugo, Ron	D VI	Public Works and Transporation	Education and Labor	Natural Resources F	T Considered under suspension of the rules, (consideration; CR H9168)
4 H.R.4571	Post Office and Civil Service		Barbara		Collins	Collins, Barbara	D MI15th	Public Works and Transporation	government operations	post office and civil service T District of Columbia F	T Considered under suspension of the rules, (consideration: CR H9167-9168) T Considered under suspension of the rules, (consideration: CR H10476-10477
5 H.R.5102 6 H.R.5102	Judiciary		Dana	Rohrabacher Brooks		Rohrabacher, Dana Brooks, Jack	R CA 45th	Foreign Affairs	Science Space and Tech	District of Columbia F	T Considered under suspension of the rules (consideration: CR H10476-10477 Considered under suspension of the rules (consideration: CR H10476-10477
7 H.R.5102	Judiciary		Ham	Fish	Jr.	Jr., Ham	R NY19th	Judiciary		T	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H10476-10477 T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H10476-10477
8 H.R.4778 9 H.R.4778	Judiciary Judiciary		Jack George	Brooks Gekas		Brooks, Jack Gekas, George	D TX 9th	Judiciary Judiciary	Select Intelligence	T	T Considered under suspension of therules. (consideration: CR H10747-10752) T Considered under suspension of therules. (consideration: CR H10747-10752)
	Judiciary; Energy and Commerce		Jack	Brooks		Brooks, Jack	D TX 9th	Judiciary		T	T Considered under suspension of the rules, (consideration: CR H10773-10783)
11 H.R.4922 12 H.R.4535	Judiciary; Energy and Commerce Energy and Commerce		Henry Edward	J. Markey	Hyde	Hyde, Henry Markey, Edward	R IL6th D MA7	Judiciary Energy and Commerce	Foreign Affairs Natural Resources	T T	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H10773-10783) T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6507-6509)
13 HR4535	Energy and Commerce		Jack	Fields		Fields, Jack	R TX 8	Energy and Commerce	Merchant Marine and fisheries	T	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6507-6509) T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6507-6509)
14 H.R 4535 15 H.R 4535	Energy and Commerce Energy and Commerce		Ron Carlos	Wyden Moorhead		Wyden, Ron Moorhead, Carlos	D OR 3 R CA 27	Energy and Commerce	Small Business	T T	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6507-6509) T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6507-6509)
16 H.R 5155	Foreign Affairs		Robert	Andrews		Andrews, Robert	D NJ 1st	Energy and Commerce Foreign Affairs	Education and Labor	T	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H10827-10828)
17 H.R 5155 18 H.R 3839	Foreign Affairs Post Office and Civil Service		Benjamin Tom	Arthur	Gilman	Gilman, Benjamin Petri, Tom	R NY20th R Wi6th	Foreign Affairs Public Works and Transporation	Post office and civil service Education and Labor	post office and civil service T	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H10827-10828) T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H3840-3841)
19 H.R 3839	Post Office and Civil Service		Gene	Taylor		Taylor, Gene	R MS5th	merchant marine and fisheries	Armed Services	F	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H3840-3841)
20 H.R 4606 21 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Nita	Lowey		Lowey, Nita Fazio, Vic	D NY18th D CA3rd	Appropriations Appropriations	_	T T	F na
22 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 Neal	Smith		Smith, Neal	D IA4th	Appropriations	Small Business	Ť	F na
23 H.R 4606 24 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 John 1 Louis	Edward Stokes	Porter	Porter, John Stokes, Louis	R L10th	Appropriations Appropriations		T T	F na
25 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 Lamar	S.	Smith	Smith, Lamar	R TX 21st	Budert	Judiciary	F	F na
26 H.R 4606 27 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Jose 1 Connie	E. Moralla	Serrano	Serrano, Jose Morella, Connie	D NY16th R MD8th	Appropriations Post Office and Civil Service	Science, Space, and Technology	T E	F na
28 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 Helen	Delich	Bentley	Bentley, Helen	R MD 2nd	Appropriations	Merchant Marine and fisheries	T	F na
29 H.R 4606 30 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 George 1 Thomas	E. Ewing	Brown	Brown, George Ewing, Thomas	D CA 42nd R IL 15th	Agriculture Public Works and Transporation	Science, Space, and Technology Agriculture	F E	F na
31 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 Robert	Underwood		Underwood, Robert	D GU	Armed Services	Education and Labor	Natural Resources F	F na
32 H.R 4606 33 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 William 1 Fred	J.	Hughes	Hughes, William Upton, Fred	D NJ 2nd R Ml6th	Judiciary Energy and Commerce	Merchant Marine and fisheries	F	F na E
34 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 Steve	Gunderson		Gunderson, Steve	R WI3rd	Agriculture	Education and Labor	F	F na
35 H.R 4606 36 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Michael	Bilirakis		Bilirakis, Michael	R FL9th	Energy and Commerce Ways and Means	Veterans' Affairs Standards of official conduct	F	F na E na
37 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 Nancy 1 Bob	Michel		Michel, Bob	R IL18th	none		F	F na
38 H.R 4606 39 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Dennis 1 David	Hastert	Obey	Hastert, Dennis Obey, David	R L14th D W17th	Energy and Commerce Appropriations	government operations	F	F na l
40 HR4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Bob	R. Walker	wey	Walker, Bob	R PA 16th	Appropriations Science, Space, and Technology		F	F na
41 H.R 4606 42 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Thomas 1 Charles	DeLay Stenholm		DeLay, Thomas Stenholm, Charles	R TX 22nd	Appropriations Agriculture	Buildent	T	F na
43 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 Rosa	DeLauro		DeLauro, Rosa	D CT3rd	Appropriations	Budget	T	F na
44 H.R 4606 45 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Scott	L Greenwood	Klug	Klug Scott Greenwood, Jim	R WI2nd R PA8th	Energy and Commerce Energy and Commerce		F	F na C na
46 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 Louise	Slaughter		Slaughter, Louise	D NY28th	Budget	Rules	F	F na
47 H.R 4606 48 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 John	A	Boehner	Boehner, John	R OH8th D HI1st	Agriculture Armed Services	Education and Labor	House Administration F	F na
49 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Rod	Abercrombie Grams		Abercrombie, Nell Grams, Rod	R MN6th	Banking, finance, urban affairs	Natural Resources Science, Space, and Technology	F	F na
50 H.R 4606 51 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Dan 1 Duke	Miller		Miller, Dan Cunningham, Duke	R FL13th R CA51st	Budget Armed Services	Science, Space, and Technology Education and Labor Education and labor	merhcant marine and fisheries F	F na
52 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 Patsy	Cunningham Mink		Mink, Patsy	D HI2nd	Budget	Education and labor	Natural Resources F	F na
53 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 Harris	Fawell		Fawell, Harris	R L13th	Education and labor	Science, Space, and Technology	F	F na
54 H.R 4606 55 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 John 1 Bill	Mica Baker		Mica, John Baker, Bill	R PL7th	Public Works and Transporation Public Works and Transporation	government operations Science, Space, and Technology	F	F na
56 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 Phil	Crane		Crane, Phil	R IL8th D MA7th	Ways and Means		F	F na
57 H.R 4606 58 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Edward 1 Dara	Rohrbacher		Markey, Edward Rohrbacher, Dara	R CA45th	Energy and Commerce District of Columbia	Natural Resources Foreign Affairs	Science, Space, and Technology F	F na
59 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 Stephen	Buyer		Buyer, Stephen	R IN5th	Armed Services	Veterans' Affairs	F	F na
60 H.R 4606 61 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Peter	Barca	Gross	Barca, Peter Gross, Peter	D WI1st R FL14th	Public Works and Transporation	Science, Space, and Technology Standards of official conduct	F	F na
62 HR4606	Appropriations		1 Bill	Richardson		Richardson, Bill	D NM3rd	Energy and Commerce	Natural Resources	Select Intelligence F	F na
63 H.R 4606 64 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Marine 1 Dick	Waters Durbin		Waters, Maxine Durbin, Dick	D CA35th D IL20th	Banking, finance, urban affairs Appropriations	Small Business	Veterans' Affairs F	F na E
65 HR 4606	Appropriations		1 Henry 1 Bill	Bonilla		Bonilla, Henry	R TX 23rd	Appropriations		T	F na
66 H.R 4606 67 H.R 4606	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Bill 1 Kweisi	Goodling Mfume		Goodling, Bill Mfume, Kweisi	R PA 19th D MO7th	Education and labor Banking, finance, urban affairs	Foreign Affairs Small Business	standards of official conduct F	F na
68 H.R 4606	Appropriations		1 Norm	Dicks		Dicks, Norm	D WA 6th	Appropriations	Select Intelligence	T	F na
69 H.R 3197 70 H.R 3197	Post Office and Civil Service Post Office and Civil Service		Barbara Sherwood	Rose	Collins Boehlert	Collins, Barbara Boehlert, Sherwood	D MI15th R NY23rd	Public Works and Transporation Public Works and Transporation	government operations Post office and civil service	post office and civil service T Science, Space, and Technology T	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H8886-8887) T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H8886-8887)
	Post Office and Civil Service		Tim	Holden			D PA 6th	Armed Services	Agriculture	F	T Considered under suspension of therules. (consideration: CR H8886-8887)
72 HR 4453 73 HR 4453	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Barbara 1 Thomas	F. Foglietta	Vucanovich	Vucanovich, Barbara Foglietta, Thomas	R NV 2nd D PA 1st	Appropriations Appropriations	Natural Resources	T T	F NA
74 H.R 4453	Appropriations		1 Duncan	Lee	Hunter	Hunter, Duncan	R CA52nd	Armed Services		F	F NA
75 H.R 4453 76 H.R 4453	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Carrie	Meek Burton		Meek, Carrie Burton, Dan	D FL17th	Appropriations Foreign Affairs	Post office and civil service	Veterans' Affairs F	F NA
77 H.R 4453	Appropriations		1 Nancy	Pelosi		Pelosi, Nancy	D CA8th	Appropriations	Select Intelligence	standards of official conduct T	F NA
78 H.R 2532 79 H.R 2532	Public Works and Transportation Public Works and Transportation		James Bill	Traficant Barrett		Traficant, James Barrett, Bill	D OH17th R NE3rd	Public Works and Transporation Agriculture	Science, Space, and Technology Administration	T Education and Labor F	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6600-6601) T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H6600-6601)
	Public Works and Transportation		Larry	Combest		Combest, Larry	R TX 19th	Agriculture	Select Intelligence	Small Business F	T Considered under suspension of the rules, (consideration; CR H6600-6601)
81 HR 1758 82 HR 1758	Judiciary Judiciary		Jack Hamilton		Brooks	Brooks, Jack	D TX 9th R NY19th	Judiciary Judiciary		T T	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5152-5339) T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5152-5339)
83 HR 2868	Public Works and Transportation Public Works and Transportation		Martin	Frost	1	Frost, Martin	D TX 24th	Rules	Administration	F	T Considered under suspension of the rules (consideration: CR H9578-9581)
84 H.R 2868 85 H.R 2868	Public Works and Transportation Public Works and Transportation		James William	A.	Traficant Jefferson	Traficant, James Jefferson, William	D 0H17th D LA2nd	Public Works and Transporation District of Columbia	Science, Space, and Technology Ways and Means	T E	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H9578-9581) T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H9578-9581)
86 H.R 2868	Public Works and Transportation		Alan	Wheat		Wheat, Alan	D MO5th	Rules	District of Columbia	F	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H9578-9581)
87 H.R 2868 88 H.R 4122	Public Works and Transportation Merchant Marine and Fisheries		Norman	Mineta	Studds	Mineta, Norman Studds, Gerry	D CA 15th	Public Works and Transporation Merhcant Marine and Fisheries	Energy and Commerce	T	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H9578-9581)
89 HR 2535	Veterans' Affairs		Sonny	Montgomery	Noods	Montgomery, Sonny Stump, Bob	D MS3rd	Armed Services	Veteran's Affairs	T	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5566-5571.)
90 H.R 2535 91 H.R 2535	Veterans' Affairs Veterans' Affairs		Bob Chris	Stump		Stump, Bob Smith, Chris	R AZ3rd R NJ4th	Armed Services Foreign Affairs	Veteran's Affairs Veterans' Affairs	T	T Considered under suspension of the rules, (consideration: CR H5566-5571) T Considered under suspension of the rules, (consideration: CR H5566-5571)
92 HR 2535	Veterans' Affairs		Stephen	Smith		Buyer, Stephen MNAME?	R IN5th	Armed Services	Veteran's Affairs	T	T Considered under suspension of the rules, (consideration; CR H5566-5571)
93 H.R 2535 94 H.R 486	Veterans' Affairs Natural Resources		Spencer	Skelton	Bachus	Skelton, ike	R AL6th	Banking, finance, urban affairs Armed Services	Veterans' Affairs Small Business	T	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5566-5571)
95 H.R 486	Natural Resources		Joseph	Jacobs	Kennedy	Kennedy, Joseph	D MA8th	Banking, finance, urban affairs	Veterans' Affairs	F	F IM
96 H.R 3161 97 H.R 3161	Education and Labor; Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs		Matthew Steven		Martinez Gunderson	Martinez, Matthew	D CA 31st R WI3rd	Education and labor Education and labor	Foreign Affairs	T	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H8884-8886) T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H8884-8886)
	Education and Labor; Banking, Finance, and Urban Affairs Judiclary		video error		ounderson	Gunderson, Steven , video error			Agriculture		T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H1648-1650, H1661-1662.)
99 HR 2445 100 HR 2445	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Joe	Skeen		Skeen, Joe Bevill, Tom	R NM2nd D AL4th	Appropriations Appropriations		T	F NA
101 H.R 2445	Appropriations		1 Deborah	Pryce		Pryce, Deborah	R OH 15th	Appropriations Banking, finance, urban affairs	government operations	F	F IM
102 HR 2445 103 HR 2445	Appropriations		1 John 1 Sanford	James	Duncan Bishop	Duncan, John Bishop, Sanford	R TN2nd D GA2nd	transporation	oversight and government reform Post office and civil service	F Veterans' Affairs T	F NA
104 H.R 2445	Appropriations Appropriations		1 Sonny	Montgomery		Montgomery, Sonny	D MS3rd	Agriculture Armed Services	Veteran's Affairs	F	F IM
105 H.R 2445 106 H.R 38	Appropriations Natural Resources		1 James	Vear	Hansen	Hansen, James	R UT1st D MN4th	Armed Services Natural Resources	Natural Resources	Select Intelligence F	F NA
107 H.R 38	Natural Resources		Bruce Dan		Vento Burton	Vento, Bruce Burton, Dan	R IN6th	Foreign Affairs	Banking, finance, urban affairs Post office and civil service	T Veterans' Affairs F	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H1920-1924) T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H1920-1924)
108 H.R 38	Natural Resources Merchant Marine and Fisheries		James Bill	Class	Hansen	Hansen, James	R UT1st	Armed Services	Natural Resources	Select Intelligence T	T Considered under suspension of therules. (consideration: CR #1920-1924) T Considered under suspension of therules. (consideration: CR #6808-6809)
109 H.R 3049 110 H.R 490	Nerchant avarine and Fisheries District of Columbia; Government Operations; Public Works and Transportations	tion	James	Clay	Traficant	Clay, Bill Traficant, James	D OH17th	Education and the Workforce Public Works and Transporation	house administration Science, Space, and Technology	post officeand civil service F	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H5808-6809) T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H1066-1072)
111 HR 490	District of Columbia; Government Operations; Public Works and Transportar District of Columbia; Government Operations; Public Works and Transportar	tion	John		Duncan	Duncan, John	R TN2nd	Public Works and Transporation	Natural Resources	T	T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H1066-1072) T Considered under suspension of the rules. (consideration: CR H1066-1072)
4 ▶	103 Sheet14	Sheet2 103 pt	103 org	inal names	3 10	04	104th Pivot	104 og names 112th	112th Pivo	116th Sheet1	116th Pivot +
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Results

- Figure 1
 - All types of bills
- Figure 2
 - Appropriation bills only
- Figure 3
 - Suspension bills only
- Figure 4
 - Non-suspension, non-appropriation bills

Figure 1 All Bills

103 rd All Bills				
			Marginal	
	Democrats	Republican	Total	
Not a member of Committee	39%	57%	48%	
Member of Committee	61%	43%	52%	
Total	100%	100%	100%	
N	56	60	116	

Figure 1: All Bills

104 th All Bills				
			Marginal	
	Democrats	Republican	Total	
Not a member of Committee	26%	28%	27%	
Member of Committee	74%	72%	73%	
Total	100%	100%	100%	
N	43	43	86	

Figure 1: All Bills

112 th All Bills				
			Marginal	
	Democrats	Republican	Total	
Not a member of Committee	44%	28%	37%	
Member of Committee	56%	72%	63%	
Total	100%	100%	100%	
N	43	39	82	

Figure 1: All Bills

116 th All Bills				
			Marginal	
	Democrats	Republican	Total	
Not a member of Committee	42%	50%	46%	
Member of Committee	58%	50%	54%	
Total	100%	100%	100%	
N	33	28	61	

Figure 1 Analysis

- Claim/research question is supported
- No major difference between Democratic and Republican parties
- Majority of other figures display similar results

Figure 2: Appropriations Bills

103 rd Appropriation non suspension bills				
			Marginal	
	Democrats	Republican	Total	
Not a member of Committee	48%	83%	68%	
Member of Committee	52%	17%	32%	
Total	100%	100%	100%	
N	27	35	62	

Figure 2 Analysis

- 103rd as an outlier
 - HR 4606
 - Labor, HHS, Education, and other agencies
 - 76% of speakers on 4606
 - 56% non-committee speakers are related committees
 - 62 speakers larger than all others

Figure 3: Non-Appropriation Suspension Bills

116 th non appropriation suspension bills				
			Marginal	
	Democrats	Republican	Total	
Not a member of Committee	50%	53%	51%	
Member of Committee	50%	47%	49%	
Total	100%	100%	100%	
N	24	19	43	

Figure 3 Analysis

- 116th as an outlier
 - H.R 1158 comprises 65% of the speakers' topics
 - 86% were appropriations committee members
 - This is an appropriation bill that has jurisdiction in the Homeland Security Committee

Future Research

- Focus on larger bills
- Focus on party and specialization connection

Conclusion

- Overwhelming evidence in support of claim
 - Committee membership does predict specialization/speakership
- Outliers
 - Adjacent committee members
 - Large encompassing bills
 - Outside motivations to rise in non-jurisdiction committee membership

References

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- Smith, Steven S. 1989. Call to Order. Washington, D.C.: Brookings