Dissertation Abstract: Donors influence state policy development through campaign contributions to legislative candidates. To curb this influence, states rely on disclosure requirements, campaign contribution limits, and public finance laws to restrain campaign contributions in elections. I argue that donors do not share the same motivations in providing campaign contributions to state legislators. For example, business interest groups seek to build long-term relationships, while ideologically leaning groups hope to elect like-minded candidates. I examine the effectiveness of campaign finance laws to regulate donations to state legislative candidates. I find that the success of campaign contribution law is dependent upon the motivations of the group providing contributions. Using data on 65,928 legislative candidates from 1999-2014, I show that disclosure requirements, contribution limits, and public finance laws have very different effects on state legislative campaign contribution patterns based on their source. These findings have important policy implications as we seek out ways to reform campaign finance regulations.

M.S. Psychology- Purdue University, December 2014
M.A. Political Science- Purdue University, May 2012
B.A. Economics- Michigan State University, May 2010
B.A. Political Science- Michigan State University, May 2010

Research Interests


Teaching Interests

Intro American Politics, Intro Public Policy, State and Local Politics, Judicial Politics, Congress, the U.S. Presidency, Campaigns and Elections, Political Parties, Political Psychology, Constitutional Law, Research Methods.
Peer Reviewed Publications


Peer Reviewed Scholarship of Teaching and Learning


Law Review Publications


In Preparation

Kulesza, Christopher. “Term Limits and Their Effects on Interest Group Campaign Contributions.”

Kulesza, Christopher, Wu Kuan-Sheng, Walter Schostak, and Eric Waltenburg. “A Relational-Based Measure of State Legislator Consequence.”

Working Papers


Kulesza, Christopher. “When Candidates Reject Donations. Why Campaign Contributions are Turned Down in State Legislative Races.”
**Research Experience**

Research Assistant- Dr. Bryce Reeder (September 2015-April 2016).
Research Assistant- Dr. Eric Waltenburg (June 2018-Present).

**Conference Papers**


Kulesza, Christopher. 2015. “The Case Against Specialization at Purdue University and Indiana University.” *Midwest Political Science Association Conference.*


Teaching Experience

Adjunct Faculty “POLS Y103: Introduction to American Government”, Department of Political Science, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (Fall 2017, Spring 2018).

Instructor of Record “POL 372 Y: Indiana State Politics, Online”, Department of Political Science, Purdue University (Summer 2014, Summer 2015).

Instructor of Record “POL 120 Y: Introduction to Public Policy, Online”, Department of Political Science, Purdue University (Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Summer 2016, Summer 2017).

Instructor of Record “POL 120: Introduction to Public Policy”, Department of Political Science, Purdue University (Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017).

Instructor of Record “POL 101: Introduction to American Politics”, Department of Political Science, Purdue University (Summer 2012).

Teaching Assistant “POL 237: Modern Weapons and International Relations”, Professor Keith Shimko, Department of Political Science, Purdue University (Fall 2011).

Teaching Assistant “POL 101: Introduction to American Politics”, Professor Glenn Parker, Department of Political Science, Purdue University (Spring 2012).

Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics- Tutor for Student Athletes in Comparative Politics and Public Policy (August 2015-August 2016).

Other Presentations


Kulesza, Christopher. 2013. “Using Feedback, Discussion and ‘Guest Lecturers’ in Distance Learning.” Purdue Political Science Department.
**Professional Membership**

American Political Science Association  
Midwest Political Science Association  
Southern Political Science Association

**Professional Development**

Purdue University Center for Instructional Excellence Graduate Teaching Certificate Program (September 2017).  
Collaborative IRB Training Initiative Certification (November 2010).  
Graduate School Academic Integrity Workshop- Purdue University (October 2010).

**Reviewer Experience**

Politics, Groups and Identities, (Western Political Science Association, publisher Taylor & Francis).

**Select Purdue University and Community Service**

President- West Lafayette Historic Preservation Commission (August 2015-Present).  
President- Purdue Graduate Student Government (April 2012-April 2013, March 2014-March 2015).  
Vice President for External Affairs- Purdue Graduate Student Government (March 2013-March 2014, March 2016-April 2017).  
Chair- PGSG Grant Review and Allocations Committee (April 2015-March 2016).  
Vice President- West Lafayette Historic Preservation Commission (January 2014-August 2015).  
Member- Purdue University Graduate Council (April 2012-April 2013, April 2014-April 2015).  
Member- Purdue University Senate (April 2012-December 2012, April 2013-December 2013, April 2014-Present).  
Vice Chair- East Lansing Historic District Commission (January 2010-August 2010).  
Co-President- Purdue Political Science Graduate Student Association (August 2010-April 2011).  
Member- Social Science Mechanics Workshop Committee (October 2011-April 2012).  
Member- Greater Lafayette Holocaust Remembrance Committee (April 2016-Present).
Honors, Awards, and Recognitions

Purdue University Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship- A competitive fellowship that provides support to outstanding Ph.D. candidates in their final year of degree completion (2017).
Purdue University Political Science Department Outstanding Independent Instructor Award- Given by Political Science faculty to one graduate student per academic year for demonstrating excellence in classroom instruction (2016).
Purdue University Political Science Summer Dissertation Fellowship- Competitive fellowship provided by Political Science faculty to graduate students to conduct work on dissertation during the summer semester (2016).
Ross Fellowship- Four-year fellowship for the recruitment of outstanding, Ph.D.-track students to graduate programs (2010).

Purdue College of Liberal Arts PROMISE Travel Grant- $750 (2017).
Purdue College of Liberal Arts PROMISE Travel Grant- $270 (2015).
Purdue Graduate Student Government Conference Travel Grant- $994 (2015).
Purdue Graduate Student Government Professional Grant- $100 (2014).
Purdue Graduate Student Government Student Organization Grant- $1000, With Katie Cahill Rincón, (2012).
Social Science Mechanics Seminar Recognition (SSM)- Purdue Political Science Department- Given to graduate students who organized SSM. Our research on learning outcomes from SSM resulted in a publication in *PS: Political Science and Politics* (2012).

Member- Pi Sigma Alpha, Political Science Honor Society (April 2010).
TippyConnect Top 10 Professionals Under 40 Nominee (June 2018).
References

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