

Douglas R. Hess

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Public Policy, George Washington University, 2012. State and urban politics and policy, social policy, political behavior.

M.A., Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 1999. Comparative nonprofit sector studies and nonprofit management, policy analysis, program evaluation.

B.A., Psychology, Grinnell College, 1991.

ACADEMIC CAREER

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Grinnell College. 2013 – 2021.

Adjunct Professor, Department of Government, Smith College, Jean Picker Semester-in-Washington Program. Fall semester, 2012.

Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science, Grinnell College. Grinnell-in-Washington Program. Fall semesters, 2008 to 2011.

Lecturer, Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration, George Washington University. Summer semester, 2008.

Lecturer, Department of Political Science, George Washington University. Various semesters between 2005 and 2011.

COURSES TAUGHT

Grinnell College, Grinnell, Iowa.

- First-Year Tutorial—The Haitian Revolution: Interpretations & Reverberations.
- Introduction to Political Science.
- Introduction to Statistics.
- Politics of Congress.
- Foundations of Policy Analysis.
- Voting Rights and Election Policy Seminar.
- Policy Analysis Seminar: Community and Household Food Security in the US and Iowa.
- Policy Analysis Seminar: Improving Public Decision Making & Problem Solving (Cognitive Psychology and Policy Analysis).
- Policy Analysis Seminar: Domestic and International Food Security.
- Policy Analysis Seminar: Addiction Policy (Neuroscience and Policy Analysis).
- Advanced Policy Research Seminar (capstone course for the Policy Studies program)

Smith College, Jean Picker Semester-in-Washington (DC) Program.

- Seminar in American Government.
- Art and Craft of Political Science Research.

Grinnell College, Grinnell-in-Washington Program.

- Policy Analysis in Context.

Georgetown University, Department of Government.

- Politics & Cyberspace.

George Washington University, Department of Political Science & School of Public Policy and Public Administration, Washington, DC.

- Policy Analysis (core course for MPP/MPA students).
- State and Urban Politics.
- Introduction to American Politics.
- State and Urban Policy Problems.
- American Politics & Welfare Policy (writing seminar for political science majors).

POLICY CAREER

Policy Research and Strategy Consultant. Freelance consultant for the following projects:

- ***Rockefeller Family Fund, August 2012 – December 2012.*** Assisted the Fund president with an exploratory project examining how states used funds from multi-billion dollar bank settlements related to the mortgage crisis.
- ***ACT for Alexandria, August 2012 – August 2013.*** Conducted an assessment and co-authored a report with recommendations about food access among vulnerable populations in Alexandria, Virginia. Report was widely read by community foundations, public officials, and local leaders. Report led to the founding of a new organization to address hunger in the city.
- ***Food Research and Action Center, May 2012 – August 2013.*** Reviewed published research, examined program evaluations, and conducted interviews for a draft white paper on food access and demand in low-income communities.
- ***Consultant, Wellspring Advisors, June 2011 – August 2011.*** Reviewed strategic opportunities for enhancing civic engagement projects in 2012 and used Census data to project state populations and demographic change.
- ***Research and Strategy Consultant, Project Vote, Summer 2004, May 2007 – August 2010.*** Provided civil rights organizations with detailed research and advice for a complex national campaign to improve how states implement the National Voter Registration Act (NVRA).
 - By influencing how the NVRA was governed and implemented, this project helped millions of people to register to vote through social service agencies in several states.
 - Co-authored technical assistance materials and reports on policy compliance using data from the US Election Assistance Commission, Census Bureau, USDA, state election officials, and local investigations. Reports received significant media attention.
 - Reports and technical materials authored served as a resource for advocates, federal and state government officials, and other researchers.
 - Co-authored testimony presented before Congress and the National Research Council.
 - Designed techniques for reviewing NVRA compliance by state agencies.

- Initiated or assisted with meetings and correspondence between federal officials and coalition partners over several years resulting in renewed federal action on enforcement.
- Developed detailed technical assistance and performance monitoring plans that established best practices. These plans were adopted by several states voluntarily and serve as the basis for legal settlements in this area of law.
- Created databases and analytical reports for public or private audiences using state and county demographic data, litigation-related data, and election statistics.
- Hired, supervised, and mentored another research consultant.

Senior Policy Analyst, Food Research and Action Center, January 2000 – August 2003.

- Analyzed a complex, national household survey on food security conducted by the Census Bureau and produced a report on state food insecurity rates.
- Designed surveys of state officials and analyzed results for a series of reports I co-authored on various food assistance programs in US. Provided interviews for the national and state media on the reports. These reports received significant media attention, and served as a resource for advocates, government officials, and other researchers.

Research Director, Congress Watch, May 1999 – December 1999.

- Analyzed campaign finance and lobbying data for reports that received major news coverage.
- Supervised a full-time research assistant.

Graduate Research Assistant, Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project, Johns Hopkins University, August 1997 – May 1999.

- Reviewed and summarized academic literature on civil society for two leading scholars in nonprofit studies (Lester Salamon and Helmut Anheier).

Southern Regional Organizer, Human Rights Campaign, September 1996 – August 1997.

- Mobilized membership and state LGBT rights organizations to achieve the electoral and legislative goals of the Human Rights Campaign and its political action committee.

Director, National Voter Registration Act Implementation Project, Project Vote, January 1994 – September 1996.

- Organized plaintiffs and *pro bono* attorneys for successful and ground-breaking litigation in several states regarding enforcement of the NVRA after its passage in 1993.
- Developed and executed strategies for performance monitoring and remediation of voting rights violations. These methods remain central components of litigation, remediation, and analysis related to the NVRA to this day.
- Hired and supervised a team of research assistants, collected data, designed and conducted original analyses, and wrote reports on implementation of the NVRA.

Assistant, International Liaison Office of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide, June 1993.

- Temporary assistant in the Washington, DC office of the president of Haiti while in exile.
- Shared communications from the president's negotiation team on Governor's Island with interested parties in DC.

Assistant to Executive Director, Washington Office on Haiti, November 1992 – May 1993.

- Assistant to Claudette Werleigh (later the first female prime minister of Haiti).

- Led a delegation of human rights observers, immigration attorneys, and journalists to Haiti to talk to Haitian pro-democracy and human rights advocates during *junta* government.
- Created and co-managed the first National Lobby Day for Haitian Americans.
- Created a coalition of human rights delegations to Haiti. Edited report summarizing the findings from delegations which received national media coverage.

Field Organizer, Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, September 1991 – November 1992. Developed multi-racial community organizations and campaigns in Jennings, MO, St. Louis, MO, and Little Rock, AR.

RESEARCH GRANTS & ACADEMIC AWARDS

- Grant for \$25,000 from the American Political Science Association’s 2020 Special Project Fund, with three other scholars. “The Components, Processes, and Implications of Conducting Civically Engaged Research in Political Science.” <https://bit.ly/2Rs22dx>
- Selected Participant, Obermann Center of Advanced Studies, University of Iowa, spring 2020.
- Selected Participant, Institute for Civically Engaged Research, American Political Science Association, summer 2019.
- Grant for \$60,000 for voting rights research from consortium of anonymous funders, 2017 – 2019. Principal Investigator and funds managed at Grinnell College.
- Travel grant from University of Wisconsin-Madison Elections Research Center to attend conference, 2018.
- Travel grant from MIT Election Data & Science Lab to attend invite-only conference, 2015.
- Grant for \$50,000 from Carnegie Corporation of New York for voting rights research, 2013, with two other scholars; Principal Investigator and funds managed at Grinnell College.
- Inducted into the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration, 2012.
- Selective Excellence Fellowship for graduate studies, George Washington University, 2003 – 2006.
- Fellowship for graduate studies, Institute for Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 1997 – 1999.

ACADEMIC AND POLICY PUBLICATIONS (see <http://www.douglasrhess.com> for copies)

Bullock, Graham and Douglas R. Hess. (Forthcoming, October 2021). “Defining civically engaged research as scholarship in political science.” *PS: Political Science & Politics*.

Dobbs, Kirstie L., Douglas R. Hess, Adriano Udani, and Graham Bullock. (Forthcoming, October 2021). “Introduction to Special Symposium.” *PS: Political Science & Politics*. Co-author and Co-editor of a special symposium on civically engaged research.

Hess, Douglas R. (2019). NVRA Performance Data, Missouri. MIT Election Data and Science Lab Hosted Election Science Data, Harvard Dataverse. <https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/YE2EE1>

Ashbrook, Alexandra, Sarah Brannon, and Douglas R. Hess. (July 2017). "A review of National Voter Registration Act compliance in SNAP applications and how anti-hunger groups can advocate for improvements." Food Research and Action Center & Project Vote: Washington, DC.

Hess, Douglas R., Michael J. Hamer, & David W. Nickerson. (2016). "Encouraging local compliance with federal civil rights laws: Field experiments with the National Voter Registration Act." *Public Administration Review*, 76(1): 165-174.

Hess, Douglas R. and Lisa Lowry. (2014). "Toward an end to hunger in Alexandria, VA." Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria: Alexandria, VA.

Hess, Douglas R. and Jody Herman. (2009). "Representational bias in the 2008 electorate." Project Vote: Washington, DC.

Herman, Jody, Douglas R. Hess, and Margaret Groarke. (2009). "A review of academic literature on the effectiveness of the National Voter Registration Act." Project Vote: Washington, DC.

Hess, Douglas R. and Scott Novakowski. (2008). "Unequal access: Neglecting the National Voter Registration Act, 1995 – 2007." Project Vote: Washington, DC.

Hess, Douglas R. (2007). "Representational bias in the 2006 electorate." Project Vote: Washington, DC.

Hess, Douglas R. (2004). "Food and anti-hunger charities" in *Philanthropy in America: A comprehensive historical encyclopedia*, edited by Dwight F. Burlingame. Volume 1: 155-158. ABC-CLIO: Santa Barbara.

Hess, Douglas R. (2003). "Review of *Civic Innovation in America: Community empowerment, public policy and the movement for civic renewal* by Carmen Sirianni and Lewis Friedland." *Journal of Community Practice*, 11(1): 126-128.

PAPERS IN PROGRESS

Hess, Douglas R. "Policy governance, implementation cycles, and program outcomes: A cautionary tale from election studies." Drafts presented at APSA and APPAM conferences.

Hess, Douglas R, Gwenna Ihrle, and Nick Conway. "Comparing self-reported spatial and temporal proximity to food stores in the American Housing Survey."

CURRENT RESEARCH PROJECTS

National Voter Registration Act (NVRA) Implementation Project. Scholarly research, writing, data analysis, and advising from 2013 through the present on this federal voting rights law.

- Raised \$110,000 from Carnegie Corporation of New York and an anonymous donor fund to study implementation of the NVRA.
- Supervised student research assistants to collect, clean, and organize county-level monthly data from election and social services agencies in a dozen states.
- Provide state data and analyses of the data to state and federal officials and to organizations regarding NVRA performance and compliance.

- Advised the national think tank Demos on a 2018 report that evaluated the impact of their interventions to improve NVRA compliance.
- Organized and chaired a half-day workshop for senior attorneys and support staff from three leading national organizations (National ACLU, Demos, Food Research and Action Center) regarding NVRA data collection, storage, analysis, and use (April 2018).
- Trial attorneys of the Voting Section of the US Department of Justice requested conversations about the NVRA (2014-2015); meet with Deputy Chief to discuss my research on compliance problems with the NVRA (April 2018); worked with Iowa advocates and officials to improve NVRA compliance in the state, increasing registrations by several thousand each year.
- Responded to questions from officials, journalists, and academics about historical and contemporary issues regarding the NVRA.

State Election Policy Project.

- Initiated project to develop an improved and publicly available database of state election policies. Extant data sets are not readily accessible and do not share time spans or policies sufficient for building upon each other. This should increase the transparency and validity of election policy research, as well as the utility of the research to practitioners.
- Conceived and co-convened meeting of political scientists at the 2018 MPSA conference in Chicago to discuss this project.

We the People Data Explorer.

- Developed with Julia Bauder (Grinnell College Libraries), a website that allows users to download geographic and time-stamped data about hundreds of thousands of signatures on the White House's "We the People" online petition system. Users can search petitions by subject matter, keywords, and minimum or maximum numbers of signatures. Available at: <http://dasil.sites.grinnell.edu/political-science/we-the-people-data-explorer/>

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Hess, Douglas R. (2018). "Better models of state policy effects on low-income voter registration and voting through matching multiple Current Population Survey Supplements." Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2018, Boston, MA

Hess, Douglas. (2016). "Implementation theories and interventions: Improving civil rights compliance in three states." Paper presented at the Spring Conference of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, 2016, Washington, DC.

Hess, Douglas. (2015). "The dynamics of voting rights implementation in a federal system: Case studies on compliance with the National Voter Registration Act in two states." Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2015, San Francisco, CA.

Hess, Douglas R., Michael Hanmer, and David Nickerson. (2011). "Encouraging bureaucratic compliance with civil rights law: A field experiment with county agencies in two states." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2011, Chicago, IL.

Hess, Douglas R. and Jody Herman. (2008). "Evaluating the NVRA with state and county-level data and indicators of compliance: A multi-level analysis." Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2008, Boston, MA

Hess, Douglas R. (2007). "Food security measurement at the metropolitan and county level: Useful as an outcome indicator?" Poster presented at the 2007 annual meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington, DC.

Hess, Douglas R., Pamela Blumenthal and Meghan Salas. (2007). "Urban leadership and partnerships: A framework for future research." Paper presented at the 2007 annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Seattle, WA.

Young, Garry, Harold Wolman and Douglas R. Hess. (2006). "Can old dogs learn new tricks? The impact of changed constituencies on representative behavior." Paper presented at the 2006 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Hess, Douglas R. (1999). "Community organizing, building and developing: Their relationship to comprehensive community initiatives." Paper presented digitally for COMM-ORG: The On-Line Conference on Community Organizing and Development: <http://comm-org.utoledo.edu/papers99/hess.html>

POLICY TESTIMONY

Mellor, Brian and Douglas R. Hess. (March 19, 2009). "Improving voter registration performance in public assistance agencies through modernizing data transfer systems." Testimony for the Committee on State Voter Registration Databases of the National Research Council.

Slater, Michael and Douglas R. Hess. (April 1, 2008). "The National Voter Registration Act: The challenges public agencies face." Testimony for a hearing before the Subcommittee on Elections of the Committee on House Administration, U.S. House of Representatives.

RECENT MEDIA PUBLICATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

Hess, Douglas R. (March 17, 2021). "Making it easier to vote does not threaten election integrity." *The Conversation*. <https://bit.ly/theconvol>

Hess, Douglas R. (October 29, 2020). "A serious test of US democracy will come after November 3." *The Hill*. <https://bit.ly/hillhess2020>

Hess, Douglas R. (January 4, 2019). "Declining confidence in election results may be depressing voter turnout." *London School of Economics, US Centre Blog on American Politics and Policy*. <http://bit.ly/lsehess>

Hess, Douglas R. (July 28, 2017). "Why Trump's management style doesn't work." *Fortune*. <https://for.tn/2vXNhEe>

Hess, Douglas R. (April 22, 2017). Interviewed for "Part of Georgia's preparation for runoff election in June involves a lawsuit." National Public Radio. <https://n.pr/2vWsUqG>

Hess, Douglas R. (February 22, 2017). "Voter ID bills try to solve problems that don't exist." *Des Moines Register*. <https://dmreg.co/2vXMjb4>

Hess, Douglas R. (October 26, 2016). "Divided government begets gridlock, not compromise." *US News*. <https://bit.ly/usnewshess>

Hess, Douglas R. (September 27, 2016). "After a rocky debate, here's what Trump needs to do to win over voters." *Fortune Insiders*. <https://for.tn/2vR4QWl>

Hess, Douglas R. (July 4, 2015). "States are ignoring federal law about voter registration. Here's why." *Monkey Cage/The Washington Post*. <http://bit.ly/nvral>

Hess, Douglas R. (March 5, 2015). "Iowa misses chance to improve students' health, education." *The Des Moines Register*.

CONFERENCE DISCUSSANT OR PANEL CHAIR

Panel Chair and Discussant. (2018). "Building Better Elections: New Challenges in Electoral Management." Pre-conference meeting for the American Political Science Association annual conference. Boston.

Discussant. (2016). "Policy Diffusion and Innovation." Panel for Midwest Political Science Association annual conference. Chicago.

Discussant. (2002, 2003, 2004). Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Innovation and Development Grants Conference (USDA/Economic Research Service). Washington, DC.

CAMPUS AND PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP

Committee on Election Assistance and Policy, American Political Science Association (2021-2024). Appointed to this new standing committee by APSA leadership for a three-year term

Committee on Assessment. (2020-2021). Appointed to the campus-wide committee on the development and assessment of learning goals.

Wilson Center for Leadership and Entrepreneurialism. (2017-2020). Appointed to the Center's programming committee and to its advisory committee of faculty and alumni leaders.

Team-Teaching Workshop. (Summer 2016). Co-designed and co-directed a three-day faculty workshop with the director of the college's Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment.

Student Engagement Workshop. (Summer 2015). Co-designed and co-directed a three-day faculty workshop with the director of the college's Center for Teaching, Learning, and Assessment.

Faculty Organizing Committee. (2014-2016). Twice elected by social sciences division to serve on this campus-wide policy committee. I helped institute electronic elections for faculty committees and designed a new survey for faculty service assignments.

PRESENTATIONS AT GRINNELL COLLEGE

Gallery Talk for *En voyage: Hybridity and Vodou in Haitian art*. (February 2018). Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell College Museum of Art.

“The gun laws controversy.” (November 2017). Faculty panel presentation and discussion.

“Community organizing, developing, and building.” (June 2017). Alumni College course.

“The 2016 presidential election.” (November 2016). Faculty panel presentation and discussion.

“Social Justice Careers.” (June 2016). Grinnell College Reunion. Discussion leader; panel member.

“Food Access, Household Resources, and Neighborhood Characteristics: Findings from the American Housing Survey.” (January 2014). Grinnell Faculty Colloquium.

“Food Security.” (September 2013). Presentation and panel discussion at Faulconer Gallery.

“The Bully Pulpit of the ‘Other President’: Harry Hopkins’ Defense of the New Deal.” (November 2012). Presentation and panel discussion on the centennial of Harry Lloyd Hopkins’ graduation from Grinnell College.

MENTORING OF STUDENTS IN ADVANCED RESEARCH & INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Grinnell College

- Takshil Sachdev. 2019. “Racial implications of non-compliance with National Voter Registration Act: Lessons from North Carolina.” Mentored Advanced Project and research poster presented at 2019 Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago.
- Zach Steckel. 2017-2018. “Environmental load and political conservatism.” Co-chaired independent major in decision sciences and senior thesis advisor with Prof. Janet Gibson (Psychology).
- Joel Bauman. 2018. “The ups and downs of state and local performance of a civil rights law.” Research poster presented at 2018 Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago.
- Keanan Gleason. 2018. “Accessing more data by matching across months in the Current Population Survey.” Research poster presented at 2018 Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago.
- James Dowel. 2015. “Compliance with the National Voter Registration Act in New Mexico.” Research poster presented at 2015 Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago.
- Gwenna Ihrle. 2014-2015. “Household characteristics as predictors of food access in the American Housing Survey.” Mentored Advanced Project and research poster presented at 2015 Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago.
- Chris Lee. 2014. “NVRA-related data in the Current Population Survey.” Mentored Advanced Project.
- Ryan Hautzinger. 2014. “State-level performance data on the NVRA.” Mentored Advanced Project.
- Rebecca Moreland. 2014. “Third-party governance: An Iowa case study in refugee resettlement.” Mentored Advanced Project.