

Douglas R. Hess

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EDUCATION

Ph.D., Public Policy, George Washington University, 2012.

M.A., Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 1999.

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

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Grinnell College. 2013 - current

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

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

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

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

RESEARCH GRANTS ACADEMIC AWARDS

- Grant for \$26,000 for voting rights research from anonymous donor-managed fund, 2018.
- Travel grant from University of Wisconsin-Madison Elections Research Center to attend their conference, 2018.
- Grant for \$34,000 for voting rights research from anonymous donor-managed fund, 2017.
- Travel grant from MIT Election Data and Science Lab to attend their conference, 2015.
- Grant for \$50,000 for voting rights research from Carnegie Corporation of New York, 2013.
- Inducted into the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration, 2012.
- Selective Excellence Fellowship, George Washington University, 2003 – 2006.
- Fellowship, Institute for Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 1997 – 1999.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS AND RECENT POLICY PUBLICATIONS

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. DOI: 10.1111/puar.12473

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.

PUBLICATIONS IN PROGRESS

Hess, Douglas R. "Policy governance, implementation cycles, and program outcomes: A cautionary tale from election studies."

Hess, Douglas R. (Report forthcoming this winter). "An evaluation of the impact of fourteen years of interventions by advocates to enforce the National Voter Registration Act" (working title). New York: Dēmos. [This is an evaluation of the impact of legal interventions on state NVRA performance.]

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 Project. Scholarly research, writing, or advising from 2014 through the present on the NVRA.

- Raised \$110,000 from Carnegie Corporation of New York and an anonymous donor-managed fund.
- With student research assistants, the project collects, cleans, and organizes county-level monthly data from a dozen states (some with decade's worth of data). We provide analyses

of this and other sets of data to officials and organizations and use this data in my research and that of my students.

- Authoring a report with the national think tank and advocacy group Demos that evaluates the impact of interventions to improve NVRA compliance. (Due out this winter.)
- Organized and chaired a half-day working meeting of senior attorneys and support staff from three leading national organizations (National ACLU, Demos, Food Research and Action Center) regarding NVRA data collection, storage, and analysis (April 2018).
- Meeting with Deputy Chief and two trial attorneys of the Voting Section of the US Department of Justice to discuss my research on compliance problems with the NVRA in Iowa and in other states (April 2018).
- Other work: writing or editing memos, reports, and letters for advocacy attorneys and to government officials to gather data, suggest improvements to NVRA policy, or provide results from compliance reviews; answering questions from officials, journalists, and academics about historical and contemporary issues about the National Voter Registration Act of 1993.
- The following organizations have been involved in this ongoing project: Center for Secure and Modern Elections; Demos; Disability Rights Iowa; Food Research and Action Center; Iowa ACLU; Iowa Security of State and Iowa Attorney General; National ACLU; Project Vote; Wellspring Advisors; and Voting Section of the US Department of Justice.

State Election Policy Project.

- Initiated ongoing project with Jan Leighley (American University) to develop an improved and publically available database of state election policies dating back to 1972. Extant policy data sets are not readily available and do not share timespans or policies sufficient for building on each other. This should increase the transparency and validity of election policy research, as well as the utility of the research to practitioners.
- Conceived of and co-convened meeting of eight political scientists at the 2018 MPSA conference in Chicago to discuss this project.
- Supervised two Grinnell College students on collection of state election codes and data sources.

We the People Data Explorer.

- Developed with Julia Bauder (Grinnell College Libraries), this website 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 also search petitions by subject matter, keywords, and minimum or maximum numbers of signatures.
- <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>

CONFERENCE DISCUSSANT OR PANEL CHAIR

Panel Chair. (2018). "Building Better Elections: New Challenges in Electoral Management." Pre-conference meeting for the American Political Science Association annual conference. Boston. (Also filled in for absent discussant.) <http://bit.ly/2O8aShf>

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

Discussant. (2002, 2003, 2004). USDA's Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Innovation and Development Grants Conference.

RECENT 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.

TEACHING WORKSHOPS

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

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

RECENT MEDIA PUBLICATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

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). "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://www.usnews.com/opinion/debate-club/articles/2016-10-26/divided-government-begets-gridlock-not-compromise>

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*.

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.
- Policy Analysis Seminar: Improving Public Decision Making & Problem Solving (Cognitive Science and Policy Analysis).

- Applied Policy Analysis Seminar: Food Security (Domestic and International).
- Policy Studies Seminar: Advanced Policy Research (capstone course for Policy Studies concentration students).

Smith College, Jean Picker Semester-in-Washington Program

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

Grinnell College, Grinnell-in-Washington Program

- Contextual Policy Making

Trachtenberg School of Public Policy & Public Administration, George Washington University, Washington, DC

- Policy Analysis (core course for MPP/MPA students).

George Washington University, Washington, DC

- State and Urban Politics.
- Introduction to American Politics
- State and Urban Policy Problems.
- American Politics & Welfare Policy (writing seminar for political science majors).

PRESENTATIONS AT GRINNELL COLLEGE

Gallery Talk for *En voyage: Hybridity and Vodou in Haitian art*. (February 2018). Faulconer Gallery.

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

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

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

“Social Justice Careers.” (June 2016). College Reunion. Discussion leader and 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 STUDENTS' ADVANCED RESEARCH & INDEPENDENT STUDIES

Grinnell College

- Zach Steckel. 2017-2018. Co-chair of independent major in decision sciences and senior thesis, Mentored Advanced Project (MAP), with Janet Gibson in Psychology.
“Environmental load and political conservatism.”

- 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 MAP. “Household characteristics as predictors of food access in the American Housing Survey.” Research poster presented at 2015 Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago.
- Chris Lee. 2014 MAP. “NVRA-related data in the Current Population Survey.”
- Ryan Hautzinger. 2014 MAP. “State-level performance data on the NVRA.”
- Rebecca Moreland. 2014 MAP. “Third-party governance: an Iowa case study in refugee resettlement.”

POLICY WORK EXPERIENCE

Policy Research and Strategy Consultant. Self-employed policy and advocacy consulting for the following organizations:

Rockefeller Family Fund, August 2012 – December 2012. Assisting the Fund president with an exploratory project examining how states use the money received from a multi-billion dollar bank settlement regarding the mortgage crisis.

ACT for Alexandria, August 2012 – August 2013. Contracted to conduct an assessment and write a report with recommendations about food access among vulnerable populations in Alexandria, Virginia for community foundations, public officials, and local leaders.

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 create demographic projections of state populations.

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 of 1993.

- This project helped hundreds of thousands of people to register to vote or update their registrations 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. The reports and technical materials served as a resource for advocates, government officials, and other researchers.
- Co-authored testimony presented before Congress and the National Research Council.
- Designed techniques for testing NVRA compliance by local 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 conducted by the Census Bureau and produced a report on state food insecurity rates.
- Designed and analyzed surveys of state officials for a series of reports I co-authored on food assistance programs. 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 in various nations for two of the leading scholars in nonprofit studies (Lester Salamon and Helmut Anheier).

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

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

Director of the 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 the NVRA.
- Hired and supervised a team of research assistants, collected data, designed and conducted original analyses, and wrote reports on implementation of the NVRA.
- Developed successful plans for performance monitoring and remediation of voting rights violations that remain components of current litigation and advocacy in this area.

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 a National Lobby Day for Haitian Americans and a coalition of human rights delegations traveling to Haiti. Edited a report, which received national media coverage, summarizing the findings from delegations.

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 in Little Rock, AR.

LANGUAGES

English, native fluency.

Haitian, moderate fluency.