

# ERIC PLUTZER

May 2011

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science  
219 Pond Laboratory  
The Pennsylvania State University  
University Park, PA 16802

Telephone: (814) 865-6576 or 7515  
Fax: (814) 863-8979  
Email: Plutzer @ psu.edu

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1987 Washington University (Sociology)  
M.A. 1983 Washington University (Sociology)  
A.B. 1980 Washington University (Urban Studies)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Opinion and Voting  
Gender and Politics

Participation and Turnout  
Policy Responsiveness and Education Policy

## ADDITIONAL TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Socialization  
Scope and Methods

Survey Research Methods  
Statistics

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2005-present Professor of Political Science & Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University

Academic Director, Survey Research Center (2006 – present)  
Senior Scholar in Residence, Survey Research Center (2005 – 2006)

1994-2005 Associate Professor of Political Science & Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University

Acting/Interim Department Head (January 1998-June 1999)  
Director of Graduate Studies (August 1995-July 1999)  
Graduate Placement Director (August 1995-December 1999)

Guest Professor, Institute for Social Science, Humboldt University (Spg. 2000)  
Senior Fulbright Lecturer, University of Malaya (Spring/Summer 1995)

1989-1994 Assistant Professor of Political Science, Iowa State University (with courtesy appointments in Sociology and Women's Studies).

1987-1989 NIMH Post-Doctoral Fellow, Program in Measurement, Indiana University.

**SELECTED COURSES TAUGHT**

Graduate:	Political Analysis (Scope and Methods) Statistical Methods for Political Research (Statistics I) Political Behavior Analysis of Survey Data	
Undergraduate:	American Government Research Methods Political Opinion	Introduction to Sociology Social Problems/Social Issues Gender and Society

**BOOKS**Scholarly Books

Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2010. *Evolution, Creationism, and the Battle to Control America's Classrooms*. Cambridge University Press.

Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2005. *Ten Thousand Democracies: Politics and Public Opinion in America's School Districts*. Georgetown University Press.

Textbook

Plutzer, Eric. 1994. *Your Research: Data Analysis for American Government and Politics*. St. Paul: West Publishing (149 pp.).

**REFEREED ARTICLES**

Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2012. "Local Autonomy vs. State Constraints: Balancing Evolution and Creationism in U.S. High Schools." *Publius* 42 (Fall): ***In Press***.

Berkman, Michael B., and Eric Plutzer. 2011. "Defeating Creationism in the courtroom, but not in the classroom." *Science* 331 (no. 6016): 404-405.  
doi:10.1126/science.1198902

Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2009. "Scientific Expertise and the Culture War: Public Opinion and the Teaching of Evolution in the American States." *Perspectives on Politics* 7 (September): 485-499.

Plutzer, Eric and Michael B. Berkman. 2008. "Evolution, Creationism and the Teaching of Human Origins in Schools." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 72 (3): 540-553.

Pacheco, Julianna, and Eric Plutzer. 2008. "Political Participation and Cumulative Disadvantage: The Impact of Economic and Social Hardship on Young Citizens." *Journal of Social Issues* 64 (3): 571-593.

- Berkman, Michael B., Julianna Pacheco, and Eric Plutzer. 2008. "Evolution and Creationism in America's Classrooms: A National Portrait." *PLoS Biology* 6 (5), May 20, 2008.
- Pacheco, Julianna, and Eric Plutzer. 2007. "Stay in School, Don't Get Pregnant: The Impact of Teen Life Transitions on Voter Turnout." *American Politics Research* 35 (January): 32-56.
- Plutzer, Eric and Nancy Wiefek. 2006. "Family Transitions, Economic Status and Voter Turnout Among African American Inner-City Women." *Social Science Quarterly* 87 (September): 658-678.
- Sandell, Julianna and Eric Plutzer. 2005. "Families, Divorce and Voter Turnout in the US." *Political Behavior* 27 (June): 133-162.
- Plutzer, Eric and Michael Berkman. 2005. "The Graying of America and Support for Funding the Nation's Schools." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 69 (Spring): 66-86.
- Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2004. "Gray Peril or Loyal Support? The Effects of the Elderly on Educational Expenditures." *Social Science Quarterly* 85 (December): 1178-1192.
- Plutzer, Eric. 2002. "Becoming a Habitual Voter: Inertia, Resources, and Growth in Young Adulthood." *American Political Science Review* 96 (March): 41-56.
- Plutzer, Eric and John F. Zipp. 2001. "Class, Gender and the Family Unit: A Dynamic Model of Stratification and Class Politics." *Social Science Research* 30 (September): 426-448.
- Zipp, John F. and Eric Plutzer. 2000. "From Housework to Paid Work: The Implications of Women's Labor Force Experiences on Class Identity." *Social Science Quarterly* 81 (June): 538-554.
- Plutzer, Eric, Ardith Maney and Robert E. O'Connor. 1998. "Ideology and Elite's Perceptions of the Safety of New Technologies." *American Journal of Political Science* 42 (January): 190-209.
- Plutzer, Eric and John F. Zipp. 1996. "Identity Politics and Voting for Women Candidates." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 60 (Spring):30-57.
- Zipp, John F. and Eric Plutzer. 1996. "Wives and Husbands: Social Class, Gender, and Class Identification in the U.S." *Sociology* (May):235-252.
- Maney, Ardith and Eric Plutzer. 1996. "Scientific Information, Elite Attitudes, and the Public Debate Over Food Safety." *Policy Studies Journal* 24 (Spring):42-56.

Huckfeldt, Robert, Eric Plutzer, and John Sprague. 1993. "The Alternative Contexts of Political Behavior: Churches, Neighborhoods, and Individuals." *Journal of Politics* 55 (May):365-81.

Expanded version included in Huckfeldt and Sprague. 1995. *Citizens, Politics, and Social Communication*. Cambridge University Press.

Banaszak, Lee Ann and Eric Plutzer. 1993. "Contextual Determinants of Feminist Attitudes: National and Subnational Influences in Western Europe." *American Political Science Review* 87 (March):147-57.

Banaszak, Lee Ann and Eric Plutzer. 1993. "The Social Bases of Feminism in the European Community." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 57 (Spring):29-53.

Plutzer, Eric. 1991. "Preferences in Family Politics: Women's Consciousness or Family Context?" *Political Geography Quarterly* 10 (April):162-173.

Plutzer, Eric and Michael McBurnett. 1991. "Family Life and American Politics: The 'Marriage Gap' Reconsidered." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 55 (Spring):113-127.

Plutzer, Eric. 1991. "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Academia: An Essay on Graduate Education." *Teaching Sociology* 19 (July):302-307.

Ryan, Barbara and Eric Plutzer. 1989. "When Married Women Have Abortions: Spousal Notification and Marital Interaction." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 50 (February):41-50.

(cited in *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*).

Plutzer, Eric. 1988. "Work Life, Family Life, and Women's Support of Feminism." *American Sociological Review* 53 (August):640-649.

Plutzer, Eric. 1987. "Determinants of Leftist Radical Belief in the U.S.: A Test of Competing Theories." *Social Forces* 65 (June):1002-1019.

Plutzer, Eric and Barbara E. Ryan. 1987. "Telling Husbands About an Abortion: An Empirical Look at Constitutional and Policy Dilemmas." *Sociology and Social Research* 71 (April):183-189.

Plutzer, Eric. 1986. "Fertility and Agricultural Structure: Rural America in 1930." *Rural Sociology* 51 (Summer):156-168.

Zipp, John F. and Eric Plutzer. 1985. "Gender Differences in Voting for Female Candidates: Evidence From the 1982 Election." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 79 (Summer):179-197.

**CHAPTERS**

- Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2012. "Education Policy and Politics." In *Politics in the American States* 10<sup>th</sup> Edition. Russell L. Hanson, Virginia Gray, and Thad Kousser, eds. Congressional Quarterly Press.
- Plutzer, Eric. 2004. "Are Moral Voices Gendered? Care, Rights, and Autonomy in Reproductive Decision Making." Chapter 5 in *Gender and Contemporary American Politics: Women, Men and the Political Process*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition. Edited by Sue Tolleson-Rinehart and Jyl J. Josephson. Armonk: M. E. Sharpe.  
[This appeared as Chapter 2 in the 1<sup>st</sup> edition of the volume (2000)]
- Plutzer, Eric. 1998. "Family Structure and the Political Participation of African American Women." Chapter 8 (pp. 187-203) in Anne Colby, Jacqueline James, and Daniel Hart (Eds), *The Development of Character and Competence Through Life*. University of Chicago Press.

**METHODS CONTRIBUTIONS (not refereed)**

- Plutzer, Eric. 2002. "First Things First (whatever "first" happens to mean): Syllabus Choices for Statistics I." *The Political Methodologist* 10 (Spring): 4-6.
- Plutzer, Eric. 1994. "Consensus, Idiosyncrasy, and Why Your R<sup>2</sup> Seems Low." *The Political Methodologist* 5 (Spring-Summer):28-31.

**OP-ED & COMMENTARY (not refereed)**

- Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2011. "Casualties in the New Science Wars: The Nation's Children." Op-Ed appearing along with podcast interview on [www.scienceprogress.org](http://www.scienceprogress.org), Center for American Progress.
- Plutzer, Eric. 2009. "Gastkommentar: Staat, Schule, Glaube - eine persönliche Sicht." *Die Welt* June 16, 2009. [online at: <http://www.welt.de/die-welt/article3932725/Religion-paradox.html> ]
- English version published as "A German paradox: Religion and the public schools: A personal perspective." *WZB-Mitteilungen* Heft 124 Juni 2009: 70-71. [online at: [www.wzb.eu/publikation/pdf/wm124/70-71.pdf](http://www.wzb.eu/publikation/pdf/wm124/70-71.pdf) ]
- Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2004. "How People Get What They Want: Long Islanders Rejection of School Budgets." *Newsday* May 30, 2004. [online at: <http://www.newsday.com/opinion/long-islanders-record-rejection-of-school-budgets-this-spring-raises-some-basic-questions-how-wise-is-it-for-voters-to-decide-directly-on-school-policy-and-how-much-does-the-public-really-care-about-children-and-schools-1.504110> ]

**RESEARCH REPORT**

Plutzer, Eric and Barbara E. Ryan. 1985. *The Hope Clinic Study: Individual Reasons and Social Influences on Women's Decision to Tell or Not Tell the Co-conceiver About a Pregnancy*. Granite City, IL (114 pp).

**BOOK REVIEWS**

Jennifer Lawless and Richard L. Fox. *It Takes a Candidate: Why Women Don't Run for Office*. *Politics & Gender* II (September 2006).

Marcus, Neuman, and MacKuen's *Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment*. Reviewed in *Public Opinion Quarterly* 66 (Fall 2002): 455-458.

John Zaller's *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Reviewed in *Social Forces* 73 (September, 1994): 345-46.

Zastrow & Bowker's *Social Problems*. Reviewed in *Mid-American Review of Sociology* 9 (Winter, 1984):125-27.

**AWARDS**

*College of the Liberal Arts* Distinction in Social Sciences Award, 2011

*State Politics and Policy Quarterly* Best Paper Award (best paper on the states presented at any conference in 2010).

*Ethan Alan Shepley Award*. Washington University's highest award to graduating seniors. Recognizes outstanding contributions in community service, leadership and scholarship (1980).

**RESEARCH GRANTS**

*National Science Foundation (recommended for funding)*, "Multi-Level Policy Responsiveness to Public Opinion" (\$291,210, with Michael Berkman and James Honaker; SES-1059723)

*National Science Foundation*, "Doctoral Dissertation Research in Political Science: Dynamic Policy Responsiveness in the US States" (\$3,236, with Julianna Pacheco; SES-0918280)

*John F. Templeton Foundation*, "Evolution and Creationism in America's Classrooms" (\$66,847, with Michael Berkman: 2008 – 2009; JFT #13241).

*Spencer Foundation*, "Evolution and Creationism in America's Classrooms" (\$39,725, with Michael Berkman: 2008 – 2009).

**National Science Foundation**, “Public Opinion and Policy Responsiveness in Small Electorates: Institutions and Spending in American School Districts” (\$224,638, with Michael Berkman: 2004 – 2007; SES- 0350541).

*Seeded by: Pennsylvania State University, Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant (awarded Feb 2001 -- \$7,500)*

**Russell Sage Foundation**, “Economic Hardship, Family Life and Voter Turnout in Developmental Perspective: Longitudinal Research on High School Class of 1992” (\$37,945: 2004 -- 2006).

**National Poverty Center**, “Civic and Political Engagement: The Role of Poverty in the Context of Race, Ethnicity and Neighborhood” (with Julianna Pacheco. Awarded April 2005 -- \$3,420 plus support for NPC conference participation -- through May 31, 2006).

**Radcliffe Research Support Program** (awarded January 1998 -- \$3,714)

*Above three grants seeded by: Pennsylvania State University, Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant (awarded May 1997 -- \$5,500), and by:*

*Henry A. Murray Research Center, Radcliffe College (awarded Sept. 1993 -- \$3,000)*

**Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research**, “Attitudes Toward Environmental Risk and Technological Safety.” (awarded Dec. 1991 -- \$8,323)

**USDA Food Safety Research Consortium**. “Attitudes Toward Environmental Risk and Technological Safety.” (with Ardith Maney; awarded Dec. 1991 -- \$23,178)

**Spencer Foundation** small grant. “The Religious Factor in Political Socialization.” (awarded August 1990 -- \$1,953)

**American Political Science Association** Small Grants Program, “The Religious Factor in Political Socialization.” (awarded May 1989 - \$1,260)

## **EDITORIAL SERVICE:**

### Editorial Board:

*American Politics Research (2003 – present)*

*Politics & Gender (Associate Editor 2006 –2007; Editorial Board 2008- 2010)*

*Social Science Quarterly (2002 – present)*

*American Journal of Education (2004 – present)*

Manuscript Referee (2005 - present):

**General Political Science Journals:** *American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, American Politics Research, Journal of Politics, Political Behavior, Political Psychology, Political Research Quarterly*

**General Sociology Journals:** *American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Social Science Research, Sociological Quarterly, Sociology of Education*

**Interdisciplinary Journals:** *Politics & Gender, Public Opinion Quarterly, Social Science Quarterly, Women, Politics and Policy, Gender Issues, American Journal of Education*

**Funding Agencies and Publishers:** *National Science Foundation, Thomson/Wadsworth Publishing, Westview Press, Pearson, Pine Forge Press, Sage QASS*

**Award Committees:** *State Politics and Policy Quarterly, best 2009 paper committee (Chair)*  
*State Politics and Policy Quarterly, best 2008 paper committee*  
*Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior, best 2002 paper committee*



Plutzer, Eric and Lee Ann Banaszak. 1991. "Support for Feminism in Nine Western Democracies: The Impact of National and Subnational Contexts." Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association, August 1991 in Washington, D.C.

Banaszak, Lee Ann and Eric Plutzer. 1991. "The Social Bases of Feminism in Ten Western Democracies." Annual Meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 1991 in Chicago.

Huckfeldt, Robert, Eric Plutzer, and John Sprague. 1990. "The Alternative Contexts of Political Behavior." Annual Meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 1990 in Chicago.

Plutzer, Eric. 1990. "Playing to the Public: Pro-Choice and Pro-Life Coalition Building After Webster." The Webster Case: Abortion and the Body Politic, conference sponsored by Drake University Center for the Humanities, February 9 (invited lecture).

Plutzer, Eric, George Bohrnstedt & Margaret Ensminger. 1989. "The Family Emotional Environment: Theoretical, Conceptual and Methodological Issues." Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, August 1989 in San Francisco.

Plutzer, Eric. 1989. "Family Lifestyle and Support for the Feminist Agenda." Annual Meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society, March 1989 in St. Louis.

Dancer, L. Suzanne and Eric Plutzer. 1989. "Two Dimensional Scalogram Analysis: Analyzing the Scalability of Attitudes Toward Abortion." American Educational Research Association, March in San Francisco.

Plutzer, Eric. 1988. "The Abortion Conflict in American: The Ideological Landscape." Annual Meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society, March 1988 in Minneapolis.

Plutzer, Eric. 1987. "Family Politics in the United States." Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Association, August 1987 in Chicago.

Plutzer, Eric. 1987. "Status Politics, Lifestyle Concern, and the New Right." Annual Meetings of the Midwest Sociological Society, April 1987 in Chicago.

Plutzer, Eric. 1986. "The Social Bases of Americans' Attitudes Toward Abortion." Annual Meetings of the American Sociological Assoc., Sept. 1986 in New York.

Plutzer, Eric and Barbara Ryan. 1986. "Did you tell your partner?": Answers and Explanations From Women Obtaining Abortions." Annual Meetings of the Eastern Sociological Society, April 1986 in New York.

Plutzer, Eric. 1985. "Experiencing Unemployment in Your Lifetime: The Human Consequences of Job Loss." Invited lecture: Meramec College Liberal Arts Symposium, March 29.