

Heather L. Ondercin

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Education

Ph.D. Expected 2007 Pennsylvania State University, Dual Degree in Political Science and Women's Studies. Minor Field: Methods.

The Changing Social Definitions of Men and Women and Their Effect on the Partisan Gender Gap, 1953-2003.

This project develops a theory and empirical measures of the *social definition of gender* to explain changes in the partisan attachments of men and women and the resulting *partisan gender gap*. The meaning society ascribes to men and women -- the social definition of gender -- is constantly evolving as a result of political, economic, and social changes -- both those that result from slow demographic trends and those that occur as a result of individual events. These changes in the social definition of gender result in men and women developing new needs from government, producing partisan realignments based on pre-existing differences in the political parties. I examine the causes and consequences of the social definition of gender using Gallup survey data to measure partisanship between 1953 and 2003, and public opinion data and content analysis of news periodicals to capture the social definition of gender. Hypotheses are tested using time series methods.

Committee: Suzanna De Boef (Chair), Susan Welch, Lee Ann Banaszak, Jennifer Mittlestadt.

ICPSR Summer Program: Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Summer 2003.

M.A. 2003. Pennsylvania State University. Dual Degree in Political Science and Women's Studies Minor Field: Methods.

B.A. 2001. Eastern Michigan University. Majors: Political Science and Communication Arts. Honors in Political Science, Communications, and General Education. *Magna Cum Laude*.

Publications

"Gender Gaps in Senate Elections, 1988-2000: The Impact of Campaign-Level and State-Level Factors" with Jeffery Bernstein. Accepted *Politics and Gender*.

"Women Candidates" with Susan Welch in *Women and Elective Office: Past, Present and Future 2nd Ed.* Edited by Sue Thomas and Clyde Wilcox. Oxford University Press. 2005.

Contributing author to the *Encyclopedia of Social Science Research Methods*. 2003. Michael Lewis-Beck, Alan Bryman, and Tim Futing Liao, eds. Sage Publications. Article Titles: "External Validity," "Efficiency," "Residual," "Unbiased."

Current Projects

“Electing Women as a Political Innovation” with Susan Welch. Revise and Resubmit *Political Research Quarterly*.

“The Dynamic Meaning of Being a Woman: Changes in the Social Definition of Gender.” Conference Paper Under Revision.

“Differences in Men’s and Women’s Political Knowledge” with Daniel Jones-White. Conference Paper Under Revision.

Honors and Awards

National Science Foundation Dissertation Support Grant, "Doctoral Dissertation Research in Political Science: The Changing Social Definitions of Men and Women and Their Effect on the Gender Gap, 1953-2003." July 1, 2006 – June 30, 2007. \$4,804, Principle Investigator: Suzanna De Boef.

RGSO Dissertation Support, Release time Fall 2006, College of Liberal Arts, The Pennsylvania State University.

American Political Science Association Travel Grant. 2006. \$300.

Social Science Statistics Partnership, College of Liberal Arts, The Pennsylvania State University. Fall 2005-Fall 2006.

Department of Political Science Dissertation Support Grant. The Pennsylvania State University. 2005.

Department of Political Science Travel Grant Awards: Midwest Political Science Association Meeting 2006, American Political Science Association Annual Meetings and Women and Politics Section Pre-Conference 2005, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meetings 2005, American Political Science Association Annual Meetings 2003, and Southern Political Science Association Annual Meetings 2001.

Graduate Student Mentor of the Year. 2005-2006. Department of Political Science. The Pennsylvania State University.

Miller Summer Research Grant, Department of Political Science at The Pennsylvania State University, 2003.

Graduate Scholar Award, The College of Liberal Arts, The Pennsylvania State University, 2001-2004.

Miller Fellow, The Department of Political Science, The Pennsylvania State University, 2001-2002

2001-2002 Pi Sigma Alpha/Howard Penniman Graduate Scholarship, \$2000.

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Honors and Awards (Continued)

1997-2001 Presidential Scholar Eastern Michigan University, four year full ride competitive academic scholarship awarded to 10 individuals a year.

Conference Presentations

“Dynamic Meaning of Being a Woman: Changes in the Social Definition of Gender”

Accepted for Across Generations: Scholarship on Women and Gender
American Political Science Association Pre-Conference. Philadelphia,
Pennsylvania. August 30, 2006.

“Who’s Responsible for the Gender Gap in Partisanship?” Accepted for the Annual
American Political Science Associations Meetings, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.
August 31- September 3, 2006.

“The Dynamic Meaning of Being a Woman: Changes in the Social Definition of
Gender.” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, Il.
April 20-23, 2006.

“Donna Reed and the Partisan Gender Gap: How Changes in Social Identity have Caused
Changes in the Partisan Gender Gap” Annual Political Science
Association Meetings, September 2005.

“Differences in Men’s and Women’s Political Knowledge” with Daniel Jones-White.
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meetings, Chicago, Il. April 7-10,
2005.

“Changing Times, Changing Partisan Attachments: Explaining the Gender Gap in
Partisanship from 1953 to 2003” Midwest Political Science Association Annual
Meetings. Chicago, Il. April 7-10, 2005.

“Donna Reed and the Partisan Gender Gap: How Changes in Social Identity have Caused
Changes in the Partisan Gender Gap” The Pennsylvania State Women’s Studies
Graduate Student Annual Conference. University Park, PA. April 2, 2005.

“Electing Women as a Political Innovation” with Susan Welch. Annual Meetings of the
Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois. April, 2004.

“Women’s Gendered Relationship with Government: Structural and Environmental
Explanations of the Dynamic Gender Gap.” Annual Meeting of the American
Political Science Association, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, Aug 28, 2003.

“The Aggregate Determinates of the Gender Gap in Senate Elections.” with Jeffery
Bernstein. Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association,
Atlanta, Georgia, Nov 9, 2001.

Additional Presentations

“The LaTeX Basics” October 17, 2005. Social Science Statistics Partnership (SSSP).
College of Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University.

“Modeling Changes in Attitudes over Fifty Years.” September 26, 2005. Methodological
Problems in Applied Research Series. Social Science Statistics Partnership
(SSSP). College of Liberal Arts, Pennsylvania State University.

Teaching Experience

PL SC 428 Women and Politics, Instructor, Summer 2006

PL SC 001 Introduction to American Politics, Instructor, Summer 2005.

“Women and Politics” Guest Lecture, Introduction to Women’s Studies. Nov. 2, 2004

Teaching Certificate, The Center for Excellence in Learning & Teaching, The
Pennsylvania State University Course in College Teaching, Summer 2006.

Professional and University Service

Reviewer for *Politics and Gender*

American Politics Search Committee, Department of Political Science, Fall 2005.

Co-organizer of the Gender Working Group, Department of Political Science, Fall 2005-
Spring 2006 and Fall 2002-Spring 2003.

Colloquium Committee, Department of Political Science, Fall 2004-Spring 2005.

Women’s Studies Advisory Committee, Women’s Studies Program, Fall 2003-Spring
2004 .

Vice-President, Women’s Studies Graduate Organization, Fall 2003-Spring 2004.

Co-organizer of The 3rd Annual Women’s Studies Graduate Student Conference,
Changing the Subject: Feminist Theories and Practice, February 29, 2004.
Pennsylvania State University.

Editorial Assistant, *The Political Methodologist*. The newsletter for the political
methodology section of the American Political Science Association, Fall 2002-
Spring 2003.

Research Assignments

Group Economic Performance, Economic Accountability and Economic Voting
(Supervisor: Susanna De Boef): For this project I have assisted in data collection
and analysis. Summer 2002- 2005.

Research Assignments (continued)

Attention to Disease Project (Supervisor: Marie Hojnacki): For this project I worked to identify the communities of groups associated with a variety of diseases. I designed and managed the Access database used for the data collection. Spring and Summer 2004.

Advocacy and Public Policy Making (Supervisors: Frank Baumgartner and Marie Hojancki.): I worked on an ongoing data collection effort about advocacy activity in the 107th Congress. Fall 2003.

Monte Carlo Analysis for Recurrent Events Data (Supervisor: Suzanna De Boef): I ran Monte Carlo simulations of event history estimators. I also prepared graphical representations of the results using S-Plus. Fall 2003-Spring 2004, Summer 2003 and Fall 2002-Spring 2003.

Public Identity and Welfare (Supervisor: Ange-Marie Hancock.): Collected information about statements made in Congress about welfare reform. Additionally, I transcribed several taped interviews. Fall 2002-Spring 2003

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association
Midwestern Political Science Association
Pi Sigma Alpha (political science honorary)

References

Suzanna DeBoef
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Lee Ann Banaszak
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