Gov 92r Project Postings
Fall 2017

Arthur Applbaum

Civil and Official Disobedience in Established Democracies
RA will find and document important examples of unlawful dissent, disobedience, and resistance by civilians and officials in established democracies since World War II.
Prerequisites (courses and/or methodological skills): Curiosity; dogged library and online research skills; clarity of writing; two courses in political theory, political philosophy, ethics, law, or social studies.
Contact: If you’re interested, send a CV, 2 references, and a short paragraph on why this project interests you to: arthur_applbaum@harvard.edu

Colin Brown

Preference Voting, Electoral Systems, and Descriptive Representation
This project is looking at preference voting and other forms of electoral design to determine whether there is a relationship between candidate selection rules and representation of immigrant minorities and/or women. Analysis will be carried out on municipal elections in Germany, France, and potentially other European countries. Students will be involved in coding and transforming data from public sources, and looking through comparative election laws and procedures to help identify other potential research "sites."
Prerequisites (courses and/or methodological skills): Excel and Gov 50 or some other (basic) statistics background. Helpful: Experience with R, working knowledge of at least one European language (esp. French, Danish or Swedish)
Contact: If you’re interested, send a CV, 2 references, and a short paragraph on why this project interests you to: Dr. Colin Brown, brown4@fas.harvard.edu

Horacio Larreguy

Education and Political Participation: Evidence from a School Construction Program in Kenya
In this project we want to understand how education shapes political participation. To that end, we plan to work with Afrobarometer survey data and census data from Kenya. Since education is endogenous and might be affected by other variables that also explain political participation, the idea is to exploit a Universal Primary Education program that took place in the 1970s to generate plausibly exogenous variation in education. In particular, the goal is to compare the political behavior of cohorts affected by the program because they were marginally young enough to cohorts that were not affected by it because they were marginally too old. The student assisting with this project will learn to construct a database and to conduct some econometric analysis through coding in Stata.
Prerequisites (courses and/or methodological skills): Some basic knowledge of Stata is necessary.
Contact: If you’re interested, send a CV, 2 references, and a short paragraph on why this project interests you to: Professor Horacio Larreguy at hlarreguy@fas.harvard.edu

Horacio Larreguy

A Market Equilibrium Approach to Reduce the Incidence of Vote-buying
We are in the process of evaluating an unusually large anti-vote buying campaign in 4,000 villages across 53 districts in Uganda in January and February 2016. It was designed and run by a vast network of local civil society
activists across all of Uganda, the Alliance for Election Campaign Finance Monitoring (ACFIM), coordinated by an international NGO, the National Democratic Institute (NDI). Their approach tried to foster collective commitments in a village not to sell any votes.

After conducting a preliminary analysis using voter-level surveys, which shows that the campaign actually increased vote buying, we decided that there was the need to survey the brokers in charge of mediating vote-buying transactions between candidates and voters. The goal was to further get at how candidates and brokers responded to our intervention and more generally the mechanisms behind such unanticipated findings, as well as how to get at the organizational structure of the candidates' vote-buying machines. We conducted semi-structured interviews to a 100 brokers.

The student assisting with this project will code up the data of the semi-structured interviews to the brokers, and perform some preliminary analysis.

**Prerequisites (courses and/or methodological skills):** Some basic knowledge of Stata is desirable but not required.

**Contact:** If you're interested, send a CV, 2 references, and a short paragraph on why this project interests you to: Professor Horacio Larreguy at hlarreguy@fas.harvard.edu

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**Payam Mohseni**

**Iranian Regional Security Policy and Sectarian De-Escalation in the Middle East**

This project focuses on sectarian politics in the Middle East and Iran’s regional foreign policy. In specific, this project focuses on the “Axis of Resistance” comprising of Iran, Iraq and Syria as well as various non-state actors such as Hezbollah, Iraq’s Hashd al-Shaabi and other militia actors. We will be looking at larger geo-political struggles, social transformations, and political thought affecting Axis players. Researchers may also be required to undertake analysis of Saudi and GCC state foreign policies, as well as Sunni Salafi movements in the Middle East. Responsibilities will include news and analysis monitoring and collecting and synthesizing secondary scholarship.

**Prerequisites (courses and/or methodological skills):** Reading ability in Arabic or Persian is preferred but not required.

**Contact:** If you're interested, send a CV, 2 references, and a short paragraph on why this project interests you to: Dr. Payam Mohseni, Payam_Mohseni@hks.harvard.edu

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**Daniel M. Smith**

**Candidates and Elections in Comparative Perspective**

This project involves the collection of candidate-level and legislator-level biographical and electoral data from several democracies. The RA will be involved in collecting and cleaning the data and, in the process, will learn about the electoral systems, candidate selection methods within parties, and patterns of representation in each of the countries included in the study.

**Prerequisites (courses and/or methodological skills):** None. Japanese, Norwegian, Italian, French, Spanish, or Swedish language skills are helpful, but not required. The student should be familiar with Microsoft Excel. Other data management skills are helpful, but not necessary.

**Contact:** If you're interested, send a CV, 2 references, and a short paragraph on why this project interests you to: Professor Daniel M. Smith: danielmsmith@fas.harvard.edu
George Soroka

Legislating Memory in Europe
This project seeks to build a database of the growing number of European laws that restrict how the past, and specifically crimes against humanity and/or genocide, can be publicly discussed. I am working on this project with a scholar from Oxford University, and we are interested in why and how states decide to restrict free speech dealing with both relatively settled (e.g., the Holocaust) and still contentious (e.g., communist or colonial-era crimes) historical episodes.

Prerequisites (courses and/or methodological skills): Curiosity and attention to detail, strong research skills and work ethic, ability to read at least one and preferably two major European foreign language(s) (German, French, Spanish, or Italian).

Contact: If you're interested, send a CV, 2 references, and a short paragraph on why this project interests you to:
Dr. George Soroka, soroka@fas.harvard.edu

George Soroka

Russian and Chinese Foreign Policy
This is an article-length project I am working on with a co-author from Wheaton College (MA). We seek to better understand, via discourse- and content-analysis, recent shifts in Russian and Chinese foreign policy. Specifically, we are interested in why/when these rising/resurgent powers act in accordance with neo-realist predictions versus liberal predictions and how they conceive of their respective status and standing in the world system. The project centers on collecting and analyzing various publicly available documents (white papers, speeches, interviews).

Prerequisites (courses and/or methodological skills): Fluency in either Russian or Chinese is required. Strong internet and library research skills, meticulous attention to detail. Knowledge of (or willingness to learn) automated content-analysis techniques.

Contact: If you're interested, send a CV, 2 references, and a short paragraph on why this project interests you to:
Dr. George Soroka, soroka@fas.harvard.edu

Ana Catalano Weeks

Parties and Work-Family Policies in Advanced Democracies
How, and under what conditions, do political parties address work-family issues? Perhaps the largest gender gap in policy preferences in advanced democracies is over the issue of maternal employment (women being more progressive than men by an average of ten points). Yet, we know very little about political party attention to these issues in comparative perspective. The goal of this project is to collect, clean, and code political party positions related to work-family policies (parental leave, child care, family allowances, flexible working, etc). This data does not exist, despite a huge project coding party manifestos for other issues like education and social justice. The RA will be involved in collecting the data and coding for different issues. In addition, the RA may perform other tasks like compiling literature reviews and beginning to analyze the data that they coded. We will use this new database to explore the effect of political gender quotas and women’s representation on work-family positions, among other potential research projects.

Prerequisites (courses and/or methodological skills): Ability to read in another language would be helpful, but not required (Spanish, French, German, Italian, Japanese, Norwegian, Swedish, Finnish, Dutch, Danish, or Icelandic). The student should be familiar with Microsoft Excel. Other data management skills and/or familiarity with STATA or R are helpful, but not required.

Contact: If you're interested, send a CV, 2 references, and a short paragraph on why this project interests you to:
Dr. Ana Catalano Weeks: catalan@fas.harvard.edu