

Shanna Pearson-Merkowitz

Fall 2008

Department of Government and Politics
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Education

Ph.D. 2009 (expected) University of Maryland, College Park

Qualifying fields: American Politics, Public Policy

Dissertation:

Out of Sight, Out of Mind: How Latino Segregation affects Political Participation and Policy Outcomes

Committee: Karen Kaufmann (Chair), James G. Gimpel, Irwin Morris, and Michael Hanmer

Abstract: Famously described by W.E.B. Du Bois as the problem of the century, racial segregation persists in the United States. Although residential segregation has declined marginally for African Americans over the past 15 years, it has increased significantly for Latinos over this same period. Using a variety of data sets and methodological approaches, I investigate the socio-political consequences of residential segregation for Latino Americans. I argue that residential segregation not only precludes socioeconomic mobility for Latinos, but also decreases their likelihood of civic engagement and political participation. Latinos who live in residential isolation are more likely to be economically marginalized and less politically empowered than their less segregated counterparts. Further, because segregation creates social distance between groups, white legislators in segregated areas with burgeoning Latino communities are more likely than others to pursue anti-Latino and anti-immigrant legislation.

M.A. 2006 University of Maryland, College Park, Political Science

B.A. 1998 Hampshire College, Film Studies and Social Policy

Publications

Peer Reviewed Journal Articles

"The Check Is In The Mail: Interdistrict Funding" in *The American Journal of Political Science*, April 2008, Volume 52 (2): 373-394 (with James Gimpel and Frances Lee).

“Mountains and Molehills: The Geography of U.S. State Intraparty Factionalism” in *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, Spring 2008, Volume 8 (1): 7-31 (with John M. McTague).

“Distance-Decay in the Political Geography of Friends-and-Neighbors Voting” in *Political Geography*, February 2008, Volume 27 (2): 231-252 (with James Gimpel, Kimberly Karnes, and John M. McTague).

“Battleground States versus Blackout States: The Behavioral Implications of Modern Presidential Campaigns” in *The Journal of Politics*, August 2007, Volume 69 (3): 786-797 (with James Gimpel and Karen Kaufmann).

“Mighty Fortresses: Explaining the Spatial Distribution of American Megachurches” in *The Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, June 2007, Volume 46 (2): 261-268 (with Irwin Morris, Wayne McIntosh, and Kimberly Karnes).

Book Chapters

“Political Socialization and Religion.” In the *Oxford University Handbook of Religion and Politics*. Oxford: Oxford University Press (with James Gimpel) (Forthcoming).

“Civic Engagement and Political Socialization Beyond the Schoolyard.” In *Youth Political Socialization* (working title), edited by James Youniss and Peter Levine. Vanderbilt University Press (with James Gimpel) (Forthcoming).

Other Publications

“Where Have All Our Elected Officials Gone?” In *The Prince George’s County Gazette*. November 29, 2007.

“Debate Over Spellman Overpass Seems Racist.” In *The Greenbelt News Review*, August 9, 2007. Page 2. (Reprinted in *The Prince George’s County Gazette*, August 30, 2007)

“Taxing Concerts and Theatre at UMD a Poor Choice.” In *The Prince George’s County Gazette*, June 1, 2006.

Work in Progress

“Voting from the Pew: The Effect of Senators’ Religious Affiliations on Cultural Issues Votes, 1976-2004” (with John M. McTague). Work in progress.

“Moral Politics? Parenting Values, Policy Attitudes, and Ideological Constraint from the 1950s to the 2000s” (with Geoffrey C. Layman, John M. McTague, and Michael Spivey). Work in progress.

“Abortion, the 700 Pound Gorilla: A Content Analysis of Recent Supreme Court Nominations.” Work in progress.

“Separate But Not Equal: The Consequences of Residential Segregation on Minority Group Participation.” Work in progress.

Honors and Awards

APSA Fund for Latino Scholarship Travel Grant, 2008

Ann G. Wiley Dissertation Fellowship, University of Maryland, Spring 2008

James F. Hoobler Fellowship Award, Department of Government and Politics and the School of Public Policy, 2007-2008

Conley H. Dillon Dissertation Award, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, 2008

George M. Phillips Award, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland, 2008

Roger H. Davidson Award, University of Maryland, 2007

Maryland State Senatorial Academic Scholarship, September 2006-Present

Summer Research Scholarship, University of Maryland, Department of Government and Politics, June 2006

State and Local Politics Fellowship, September 2005-September 2006

Teaching and Academic Employment

Instructor, Summer 2006- 2008, Winter 2008, and Fall 2009
University of Maryland, College Park

Courses Taught:

- Government 377. Capital Hill Internship Program. Upper level course on Congress and legislative procedure. Accompanies an internship on Capital Hill (Fall 2008).
- Government 366. Public Policy. Upper level introduction to the policy process and discourse. Accompanies a public policy internship to help bridge academic and real world learning about policy making. Taught on-line (Summer 2006, 2007, and 2008).
- Government 170. Introduction to American Government and Politics. Basic introduction to American Government and Politics (Winter Term 2008).

Research and Editorial Assistant, Sept. 2006- Aug. 2007
University of Maryland, College Park

Editorial Assistant for *American Politics Research*. Researched and compiled datasets on voter turnout and preferences in state elections, produced tables for publications, and other projects as assigned.

Research Assistant, Sept. 2004- Aug. 2005
University of Maryland, College Park

Compiled data on congressional candidates, proofread manuscripts, produced charts and tables for publication, and other projects as assigned.

Guest Lectures:

- Guest Lecturer, American Presidential Elections, Johns Hopkins University. Summer 2008.
- Guest Lecturer, Government 479A: One Nation Under God? Religion and Politics in America. Summer 2007.
- Guest Lecturer, Women in Politics, University of Maryland. Fall 2005.

Non-Academic Employment

Legislative Director, Jan. 2003- Sept. 2004, May 2007- Sept. 2008

Maryland General Assembly

Legislative Director for State Delegate Brian Feldman. Oversaw staff and interns, researched and wrote legislation, testimony and press materials, produced monthly newsletter, and conducted constituent service.

Field Director, Aug. 2002-Dec. 2002

Congressman Chris Van Hollen

Recruited volunteers, conducted field events including rallies, door-knocking, phone banking, and other activities as needed.

Conference Papers

"Distance-Decay in the Political Geography of Friends and Neighbors Voting," with James Gimpel, Kimberly Karnes, and John McTague. Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 12-15, 2007.

"Moral Politics? Parenting Values, Policy Attitudes, and Ideological Constraint from the 1950s to the 2000s," with Geoffrey C. Layman, John McTague, and Michael Spivey. Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, January 4-7, 2007.

"Voting from the Pew: The Effect of Senators' Religious Affiliations on Cultural Issues Votes, 1976-2004," with John McTague. Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 20-23, 2006.

"The Geography of Intraparty Factionalism: Contested Primaries and Variable Electoral Terrain," with John McTague. Presented at the American Politics Workshop, Washington, DC, February 2006.

"Patterns of Judicial Influence: Tracking Regulatory Takings Policy in the Lower Federal Courts," with Wayne McIntosh, Ken Cousins, James Rose, Stephen Simon, Michael Evans, Kimberly Karnes, and John McTague. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC September 1-4 2005.

"A Mighty Fortress: The Social and Economic Foundations of the American Megachurch Movement," with Kimberly Karnes, Wayne McIntosh, and Irwin

Morris. Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC, September 1-4, 2005.

“Using Information Technology to Examine the Communication of Precedent: Initial Findings and Lessons From the CITE-IT Project,” with Wayne McIntosh, Ken Cousins, James Rose, Stephen Simon, Michael Evans, Kimberly Karnes, and John McTague. Presented at the Western Political Science Association Conference, Oakland, CA, March 17-18, 2005.

Professional Service and Memberships

Panel Chair, Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2007
Panel Chair, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2005
Reviewer, American Politics Research, 2006, 2007, 2008
Reviewer, Journal of Politics, 2007, 2008
Reviewer, American Politics Workshop, University of Maryland, 2005, 2006, 2007
Member, American Political Science Association
Member, Midwest Political Science Association
Member, Western Political Science Association
Member, Southern Political Science Association
Presenter, National Association for Multicultural Education, 1999 Conference
Presenter, National Association for Needle Exchange Programs, 1998 Conference

References

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