

# Rebecca U. Thorpe

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GOVERNANCE STUDIES  
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(Through July 2009)

## Positions

Congressional Fellow, American Political Science Association Fellowship Program, 2009-2010

Research Fellow in Governance Studies, The Brookings Institution, 2008-2009

## Education

Ph.D, Government & Politics, University of Maryland (expected Fall 2009).

Fields: American Politics, Public Law

### DISSERTATION & COMMITTEE MEMBERS

*The Welfare-Warfare State: Perpetuating the U.S. Military Economy*

This dissertation examines the institutional processes that led a country founded on a grave distrust of standing armies and centralized power to develop and maintain the most powerful military in history. A systemic explanation suggests that, after World War II, the importance of the defense sector of the economy to key political institutions created strong incentives to grow the military industry. Analysis of an original dataset demonstrates that economic and political factors encourage military spending in economically reliant areas. Evidence suggests that overlapping institutional interests perpetuate the defense sector independent of strategic goals. Consequently, expansive military resources promote independent executive actions in military and intelligence realms. Political power concentrates when separate institutions find shared incentives to cooperate, weakening the system of checks and balances.

Committee: Frances Lee (Chair), Jim Gimpel, Mark Graber, Wayne McIntosh, Irwin Morris, Jacques Gansler (School of Public Policy, University of Maryland)

B.A. Government, Law and Society, Skidmore College, 2004.

*Magna Cum Laude*, Departmental Honors, Phi Beta Kappa

**THESIS:** *A Constitutional Safeguard for Individual Rights: Synthesizing Rehnquist Court Federalism with the Letter & Spirit of the Fourteenth Amendment*

## Publications

### *Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles*

“The Role of Economic Reliance in Defense Procurement Contracting.” *American Politics Research*. Forthcoming Fall 2009.

### *Current Submissions*

“The Political Geography of Candidate Emergence: The Distinctive Origins of Statewide Candidates” (with Jim Gimpel & Frances Lee). *Electoral Studies*. Revise & Resubmit.

“Defining National Defense Needs: Economic Motivations for Congressional Defense Spending.” Under Review.

### *Additional Academic Publications*

“*Amicus Curiae* Participation and Impact on U.S. Supreme Court Fifth Amendment Takings Decisions: 1953-2007,” (with Wayne McIntosh, Michael Evans and Stephen Simon). In *Property Rights and Neo-Liberalism: Cultural Demands and Legal Actions*, eds., Wayne McIntosh and Laura Hatcher. Forthcoming 2009.

“Alexis de Tocqueville and the U.S. Supreme Court.” In *Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court of the United States*, ed., David S. Tanenhaus (Macmillon References USA, Thomson/Gale) 2008.

Baker, Nancy V. *General Asbcroft: Attorney General At War*. In *Law & Politics Book Review*, Vol. 16, No. 9 (September 2006), 754-756.

### Work in Progress

“Your Revolving Door or Mine? Military Privatization in United States & Syria,” (with S. Marshall)

“Textualism vs Active Liberty: Testing the Doctrinal Approaches of Justices Scalia and Breyer” (NSF-funded study with W. McIntosh, C. Cates, and M. Evans)

“Madison, Tocqueville and Nietzsche on the Problem of Majority Tyranny: Confronting Tensions in Liberal Theory & Democratic Social Structures”

### Original Data Collections

Nation-wide locations of major U.S. defense industries, coded by congressional district, 1993-2007, coded by FIPS place and county codes, 1940 – 2006

Digital database classifying amicus curiae participants and judicial documents associated with U.S. Supreme Court cases, 1953-2008 (NSF-funded project with Wayne McIntosh, Michael Evans, et al.)

### Grant Work/Research Experience

#### **GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANT**

NSF Research Grant BSC-0624067, *A Computational Approach to Understanding the Dynamics of the Judicial System*, Fall 2006 – Summer 2008

Co-directed a multi-year, interdisciplinary grant to develop and apply computational linguistics and information retrieval techniques to U.S. Supreme Court texts (with PI Wayne McIntosh).

NSF Law & Sciences Grant SES-0519157, *Intercourt Relations in the American Legal System*, 2005-2007

Developed tools to examine transmission of precedent in regulatory takings cases within the American court system (assisted Principal Investigator Wayne McIntosh).

### Teaching Experience

#### **INSTRUCTOR**

“The U.S. Military-Industrial Complex” (GVPT 409F), University of Maryland, Summer 2008

“Law and Society,” GVPT 23I, University of Maryland, Summer 2005

#### **GUEST LECTURER**

“Introduction to American Government” (GVPT 170), University of Maryland, Spring 2008

#### **TEACHING ASSISTANTSHIPS**

- “Civil Rights and Civil Liberties” (GVPT 432), University of Maryland, Spring 2006
- “Constitutional Law” (GVPT 431), University of Maryland, Fall 2005
- “Film and Politics of the Family” (GVPT 388A/399A), University of Maryland, Summer 2005
- “American Constitutionalism: Structure of Government” (GVPT 431), University of Maryland, Spring 2005
- “Law & Society” (GVPT 231), University of Maryland, Fall 2004

#### ADDITIONAL TEACHING INTERESTS

National Political Institutions (e.g., Congress, Presidency, Courts, Bureaucracy)  
 Domestic Politics & Policymaking (legislative politics, bureaucratic politics, federalism)  
 American Political Thought & Development

#### Fellowships, Grants & Honors

Congressional Fellowship, American Political Science Association, 2009-2010

Research Fellowship in Governance Studies, The Brookings Institution, 2008-2009  
 (Dissertation Fellowship)

National Science Foundation Behavioral & Cognitive Sciences Research Grant (with Principal Investigator Wayne McIntosh), 2006-2008

Summer Training Grants, Government & Politics, University of Maryland, 2006, 2007

National Science Foundation Law & Sciences Grant (with PI Wayne McIntosh), 2005-2007

Junior Fellow, American Academy of Political and Social Science, 2004

Phi Beta Kappa, Elected 2004

#### Research & Teaching Awards

Michael J. Pelczar Award for Excellence in Graduate Study, The Graduate School, University of Maryland, 2009

Roger H. Davidson Award, for best graduate student paper in American politics, Department of Government & Politics, University of Maryland, 2008

Jean Elizabeth Spencer Award, for an outstanding female graduate student in Government & Politics, University of Maryland, 2007

Conley Dillon Dissertation Award, Dept. of Government & Politics, University of Maryland, 2007

Excellence in Teaching Award, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland, 2005-2006 (sole college-wide graduate recipient)

Erwin L. Levine Prize in Government, for excellence in political theory, Skidmore College, 2004

#### Conference Papers & Presentations

(Invited talks are indicated by an \*)

\* “Defining National Defense Needs: Economic Motivations for Congressional Defense Spending,”  
 Research-in-Progress Forum, The Brookings Institution, Washington, D.C. December 3, 2008.

“You and Whose Army? How Congressional Defense Spending Shapes Presidential War Powers,” Poster Session, Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Boston, MA, August 28-31, 2008.

“The Political Geography of Candidate Emergence: The Distinctive Origins of Statewide Candidates” (with Jim Gimpel & Frances Lee). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL, April 3-6, 2008.

“The Role of Economic Reliance in Defense Procurement Contracting,” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL, April 12-15, 2007.

“The Evolution of Law: A Citation Analysis of Regulatory Takings Decisions in the Federal Circuit Courts, 1978-2004,” with Ken Cousins, Mike Evans, Steve Simon, and Wayne McIntosh. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA, August 31-September 3, 2006.

\* “Military Industry & Executive War Powers: The National Bank as a Constitutional Precursor” George Washington University Law School, Work-in-Progress Forum Sponsored by the Institute for Constitutional Studies, June 12-23, 2006.

“Beyond the Double Standard: Comparing U.S. Supreme Court Decision-Making in Property and Civil Rights Cases” (with Mike Evans). Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association. Chicago, IL, April 20-23, 2006.

\*Panelist, Roundtable on Public Law and Interpretive Methods: What Makes Critical Work Critical? (Standing in for Mark Graber). Western Political Science Association. Albuquerque, NM, March 16-19, 2006.

“Economic Due Process, Revisited: How Economic Transformations Shape the Due Process Rights Discourse.” Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association. Albuquerque, NM, March 16-19, 2006.

\*Panelist, “Living the Liberal Arts,” Skidmore College, Saratoga Springs, NY. Alumni Discussion Panel Sponsored by the Mellon Foundation. October 5, 2005.

## Additional Training

Foundations of Spatial Regression, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, June 18-22, 2007

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods and Social Research, Advanced Multivariate Statistics, Time Series Analysis, University of Michigan, July-August, 2006

“War Powers & The Constitution,” George Washington University Law School, Washington D.C. Workshop Sponsored by the Institute for Constitutional Studies, June 12-23, 2006.

## Professional Service

Manuscript Reviewer, *American Politics Research*, 2006–Present

GVPT Graduate Student Association (GSA), Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2007-2008

GVPT Graduate Student Association (GSA), Scholarship Committee Representative, 2006–2007

Panel Chair, Midwest Political Science Association, April 2006

Member, American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association

## References

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