

CURRICULUM VITAE

Neil Carlson

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CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science, Duke University, February 1999. Preliminary examination fields in American and comparative politics. Degree expected Spring 2004.

B.A. Wheaton College, Wheaton IL, 1990. *Summa Cum Laude*; ranked first in class; double major in Political Science and Biblical Studies; six-month internship in development in Lima, Peru.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Pre-Doctoral Research Associate, Kettering Foundation, Dayton, Ohio; Fall 2003 to Summer 2004.

Graduate Instructor, Department of Political Science, Duke University, Durham, North Carolina, Summer and Fall 2001, Spring 2003.

Teaching Assistant, Institute of Statistics and Decision Sciences (ISDS), Duke University, Fall 2000 and Spring 2001.

Graduate Fellow and Research Assistant, Department of Political Science, Duke University, Fall 1996 to Spring 2003.

HONORS, AWARDS AND GRANTS

Research Stipend, Center for the Study of Philanthropy and Voluntarism, Terry Sanford Institute of Public Policy, Duke University, Summer 2003.

Teaching Fellowship, Gerst Program in Political, Economic and Humanistic Studies, 2002-2003.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, awarded for three years beginning summer 1997.

James B. Duke Fellowship, Duke University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, awarded for four years beginning fall 1996.

PUBLICATIONS

Rahn, Wendy, John Brehm and Neil Carlson. 1999 "National Elections as Institutions for Generating Social Capital," in Theda Skocpol and Morris Fiorina, eds., *Civic Engagement in American Democracy*, Washington, D.C.: Brookings Institution Press.

DISSERTATION

Tentatively titled "The Institutional Design of Civil Society: Practical Roots of Constitutional Democracy", the dissertation will be complete by Spring 2004. The project seeks to inform scholarship on voluntary associations and civil society by applying the tools of "new institutionalist" analysis to the thinking of Alexis de Tocqueville and his contemporary disciples. A web-based survey of leaders at over 65 large U.S. voluntary associations provides data on their institutional structure and practice. This contextual information is merged with public opinion data from those associations' members from the American National Election Studies (NES); this data became publicly available in August 2003 as a supplement to the 1996 NES. Data analysis and observation will show whether and how organizational democracy, membership standards and other institutional characteristics alter the impact of voluntary associations on the broader democratic political culture.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Carlson, Neil. "Testing the Transmission Belt: Do Associational Institutions Affect National Political Attitudes and Behaviors?" Paper presented at the 2003 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, August 28-31, 2003.

Carlson, Neil. "The Rationality of Political Culture: Voter Turnout and Social Capital," paper presented at the 1999 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Atlanta, Georgia, September 2-5, 1999.

OTHER WRITING IN PROGRESS

"A Brief Manifesto on Organizational Governance for Founders and Reformers." Thirty pages and growing, this effort at practical application of political science is intended for revision through discussion with association leaders and eventual publication; currently under discussion by founding constituents of a potentially significant new economic-development nonprofit.

RESEARCH SUPPORT

Research Assistant to Prof. Karen Stenner of Princeton University, Spring and Summer 2003. Prepared a literature survey of research on political engagement and shocks to public trust, including scandals, crises, negative campaigns and conflictual politics.

Research Assistant to Prof. Stephen Wilkinson, 2000-2001 academic year and occasionally since. Developed a very large relational database (over 150,000 records) to facilitate time-series analysis of Dr. Wilkinson's state- and town-level histories of ethnic violence in India; supported Dr. Wilkinson's efforts to learn to support and revise the database.

TEACHING

Course creator and instructor, Political Science 199C.27, Civil Society, Social Capital and Voluntary Association, Spring 2003. Sponsored by the Gerst Program in Political, Economic and Humanist Studies. Provided undergraduates with a broad theoretical and empirical perspective on the debate surrounding the political roles of nongovernmental organizational forms and cultural values, considering both normative political theory and empirical research methods. Please see <http://www.duke.edu/~nec/ps/ps199c-27/syllabus.htm>.

Course instructor, Political Science 129S, Internet and Politics, Fall 2001. Course examined the political effects of emerging digital communications and decision-support technologies. Students learned political science theory and research methods, hands-on web design skills in Dreamweaver, and the powerful implications of the combination of the two for future campaigns, elections, and governance. Developed a stand-alone database-driven website for the course (now offline due to a server change), including a working election system using actual student votes to compare different decision rules (plurality, Borda count, and approval voting), a peer review system, and the basis for a web-based collaborative class project. Please see http://www.duke.edu/~nec/ps/ps129_fall_2001/syllabus.htm.

Course instructor, Political Science 91, American Political System, Summer 2001 Term 1. Course emphasized the theme of self-government, focusing on civil society, interest groups, federalism and the American institutional political culture. During this intensive session, students wrote weekly posts to an online course discussion group and took weekly current-events quizzes; these formed the basis for discussion applying course materials to present-day politics. Please see http://www.duke.edu/~nec/ps/ps91_ss1_2001/syllabus.htm.

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Sandra McBride, Statistics 242, Applied Regression Analysis, Spring 2001. Taught two computer lab sections to Master's students using S-Plus 2000 software. Nominated by students for best TA of Nicholas School of the Environment.

Teaching Assistant to Prof. Dalene Stangl, Statistics 101, Data Analysis and Statistical Inference, Fall 2000. Taught two computer lab sections with 55 total students, staffed help sessions for all 10x-level statistics students, participated in grading and materials preparation. Course used JMP-IN software.

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE AND SKILLS

Languages: Working Spanish with experience in Peru and Mexico. Rudimentary Portuguese and Russian; residual biblical Greek. Participated in Duke in Russia program, summer 1998, for seven weeks of language training in St. Petersburg.

Business administration and consulting: six years' experience in non-profit business administration with Young Life in Southern California, 1990-1996; Young Life national data analyst and decision-support staff 1999-2002 (20-30 hours weekly). Eight years' experience as an independent computer consultant under "Efficiency by Design" moniker. Summer 2000 internship in management consulting with McKinsey & Company, Cleveland, Ohio. Online survey engineer for Stratalys Research, 2002-2003.

Geographic Information Systems: ICPSR one-week seminar on spatial statistics, Ann Arbor, Michigan, August 1999. CSISS conference, Boulder, Colorado, March 2000. Long-term expertise in MapInfo Professional and some experience with ArcView.

Digital Information and Design: mastery of Windows 2000 and XP, basic Windows 2000 Server administration. Statistical analysis and data presentation in Stata 8, SAS System, S-Plus and other packages. Expertise in Microsoft Access and FileMaker Pro. Presentation and advanced automation skills in Microsoft Excel and PowerPoint, Microsoft Word and Corel WordPerfect, CorelDraw 9. Efficient, clean web design in Macromedia Dreamweaver MX and Adobe Acrobat; Active Server Pages database-driven web applications, management of Microsoft Internet Information Server and some Zope 2.x web server. Scripting ability in Visual Basic and JavaScript. Extensive experience in data preparation and conversion, one-on-one user training, problem solving and system planning.