

Robin E. Best

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Assistant Professor, Binghamton University (SUNY), 2013-present
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Missouri, 2010-2012
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Leiden University (the Netherlands), 2007-2010
Instructor, Department of Political Science, Syracuse University, 2006-2007

EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, Binghamton University (SUNY), August 2007
Fields of Study: Comparative Politics, Research Methodology, American Politics
M.A. Political Science, Binghamton University (SUNY), May 2005
M.A. Social Sciences, University of Chicago, August 2002
B.A. Political Science, University at Albany - SUNY, May 2001

PUBLICATIONS

McDonald, Michael D. and Robin E. Best. "Unfair Partisan Gerrymanders in Politics and Law: A Diagnostic Applied to Six Cases." Forthcoming in *Election Law Journal*.

Best, Robin E. and Michael D. McDonald. "Models in Political Science: Forms and Purposes." Forthcoming in Hans Keman and Jaap Woldendorp (eds.) *Handbook of Research Methods and Applications in Political Science*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Best, Robin E. and Andrei Zhirnov. "The Perils and Pitfalls of Ignoring Disproportionality's Behavioral Components." *Electoral Studies*, 40: 256-267.

Best, Robin E. 2013. "How Party System Fragmentation Has Altered Political Opposition in Western Democracies." *Government and Opposition*, 48(3): 314-342.

Best, Robin E. 2013. "Using Manifesto Estimates to Correct Systematic 'Centring' Error in Expert and Electoral Positioning of Parties." In Andrea Volkens, Judith Bara, Ian Budge, Michael D. McDonald, Hans-dieter Klingemann (eds.) *Mapping Policy Preferences from Texts III*. New York: Oxford University Press.

McDonald, Michael D., Ian Budge, and Robin E. Best. 2012. "Electoral Majorities, Political Parties, and Collective Representation." *Comparative Political Studies*, 45(9) 1104-1131.

Best, Robin E. 2012. "The Long and the Short of It: Electoral Laws and the Dynamics of Party System Size in Western Democracies, 1950-2005." *European Journal of Political Research*, 51(2): 147-165.

- Best, Robin E., Ian Budge and Michael D. McDonald. 2012. "Representation as a Median Mandate versus Bilateralism: Taking Cross-National Differences Seriously" *European Journal of Political Research*, 51(1): 1-23.
- Best, Robin E. 2011. "The Declining Electoral Relevance of Traditional Cleavage Groups." *European Political Science Review*, 3(2): 279-300.
- Best, Robin E., and Steve B. Lem. 2011. "Electoral Volatility, Competition, and Third Party Candidacies in US Gubernatorial Elections." *Party Politics*, 17(5): 611-628.
- Best, Robin E. and Michael D. McDonald. 2011. "The Role of Party Policy Positions in the Operation of Democracy." In Christopher J. Anderson and Russell J. Dalton (eds.) *Citizens, Context, and Choice: How Institutional Structures Shape Citizen Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Best, Robin E. 2010. "Increasing Irrationality? The Equilibrium Relationship between Electoral and Legislative Party System Size, 1950–2005." *Electoral Studies*, 29(1): 105-116.
- McDonald, Michael D., and Robin Best. 2006. "Equilibria and Restoring Forces in Models of Vote Dynamics" *Political Analysis*, 14(4): 369-392.

WORKING PAPERS

- "Party System Polarization: Measurement Strategies and Performance." With Jay K. Dow. Under review.
- "Toward an Objective and Simple Measure of Gerrymandering: A Demonstration from New York State." With Michael D. McDonald, Jonathan Krasno, Daniel B. Magleby, Joshua Zingher, and Daniel Mosesson
- "Toward a Bidirectional Account of the Relationship between Party System Size and Electoral Institutions."
- "Do Voters Have a Choice? Party Policy Positions and Support for Non-Establishment Parties in 15 Western Democracies"
- "Explaining Social Cleavage-Based Voting Behavior: The Role of Electoral Systems." With Mathias Tromborg

AWARDS

- First place winner of the 2015 Common Cause "Gerrymander Standard" writing competition. With Michael D. McDonald

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Research Interests

Democratic Representation, Political Parties and Party Systems, Electoral Systems, Electoral Reform, Electoral Geography, Voting Behavior, Social Cleavages, Party Competition.

Teaching Interests

Comparative Politics, Democratic Representation, Political Parties, Politics of Industrialized Democracies, Politics of the European Union, Politics of Western Europe, Research Methodology and Statistics, Social Choice Theory, Political Institutions, Elections and Voting Behavior.

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate

Introduction to Comparative Politics
West European Politics
Comparative Political Parties
Representation & Democracy
European Political Systems
Gender & Politics
Rational Choice Theory
Elections & Geography
Politics of the European Union

Graduate

Comparative Parties & Elections
Politics of Industrialized Societies
Comparative Political Parties
Comparative Government and Politics
State of the Art in Political Science
Research Proposal Lab
Data Collection and Analysis (co-lecturer)

INVITED INSTRUCTOR

Co-Instructor for Cornell University summer course on West European Politics, Turin, Italy, June 2015.

“Error Correction Models.” Invited instructor for the 2008 Oxford Spring School in Quantitative Methods for Social Research on Time-Series, Oxford University.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

“The Radical Right in Western Europe.” Cornell Institute for European Studies, Cornell University, February 2015.

“Toward a Bidirectional Account of the Relationship between Party System Size and Electoral Institutions.” Pennsylvania State University, May 2012.

“How Party System Fragmentation Has Altered Political Opposition in Western Democracies” London School of Economics and Political Science, April 2012.

“Equal Access for All? Electoral Laws and the Dynamics of Party System Size in Western Democracies, 1950-2005.” Essex University, Department of Government, and Binghamton University, Political Science Department, 2008

“Disloyalty or Diminishing Numbers? Party System Fragmentation and the Decline of Traditional Social Cleavages.” 2007. Nuffield Political Science Seminars, Nuffield College, Oxford University.

ADDITIONAL EDUCATION

Political Parties Summer School, Rijs, the Netherlands, 2005. “Democracy in Europe: European Politics and Multi-level Governance”

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan, 2004.

RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“An Objective and Simple Measure of Gerrymandering: A Demonstration from New York State.” With Michael D. McDonald, Jonathan Krasno, Daniel B. Magleby, Joshua Zingher, and Daniel Mosesson. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL, April 16-19, 2015.

“The Perils and Pitfalls of Ignoring Disproportionality’s Behavioral Components.” With Andrei Zhirnov. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL, April 3-6, 2014 and the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington, DC, August 28-31, 2014.

“Explaining Social Cleavage-Based Voting Behavior: The Role of Electoral Systems.” With Mathias Tromborg. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Chicago, IL, August 29-September 1, 2013.

“Using Manifesto Left-Right Estimates to “Centre” Survey Estimates of Political Party Placements” Presentation of book chapter for *Mapping Policy Preferences III* at the meeting of the MARPOR research group, Wissenschaftszentrum, Berlin (WZB), Germany, September 14-21, 2011.

“Toward a Bidirectional Account of the Relationship between Party System Size and Electoral Institutions” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Seattle, WA, September 1-4, 2011. Presented at the Visions in Methodology conference, Pennsylvania State University, May 2012.

“Party System Polarization: Measurement Strategies and Performance.” With Jay K. Dow. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Seattle, WA, September 1-4, 2011 and at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL, April 3-6, 2014.

“Do Voters Have a Choice?: Establishment-Party Polarization and Support for Non-Establishment-Parties in 13 Western Democracies” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL, March 31-April 3, 2011. Paper presented at the European Consortium for Political Research Joint Sessions of Workshops, Münster, Germany, March 2010.

SERVICE

University

Binghamton University Member, Graduate Committee, 2013-present
Member, Executive Committee, 2014-2015, Binghamton University

Member, Richard I. Hofferbert Best Paper Award Committee, 2014, 2015.
Participant, Faculty panel on the international job market for political science department graduate students.

University of Missouri Member, Faculty Search Committee
Member, Undergraduate Committee
Member, Committee on External Speakers
“Pizza and Politics” Led political conversation among undergraduate students in residence halls.
Grant application reviewer for University of Missouri system

Leiden University Chair, MA admissions committee (2009-2010)
Member, MA admissions committee
Co-Coordinator, Honors Class on Agenda Setting
Member, Faculty Search Committee

Profession

Member of the Steering Committee for the *Manifesto Research on Political Representation* (MARPOR) project, Social Science Research Center (WZB) Berlin, January 2012 – present.

Assistant Editor for the *Political Handbook of the World*, CQ Press, 2008-2011.

Section Chair, *Representation and Electoral Systems*, 2012 Program Committee for annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

Discussant Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2007, 2009-2011, 2015.
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2008, 2009, 2013.
ECPR Joint Sessions, 2010
Workshop on European Parties and Representation, Syracuse University, 2009.
PoliticoGenetmaal (meeting of the Dutch/Flemish Political Science Association), 2008, 2009

Reviewer *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *European Journal of Political Research*, *Comparative Politics*, *Government & Opposition*, *Journal of Politics*, *Party Politics*, *European Union Politics*, *Research & Politics*

Community

Statistical analysis in Boone v. Nassau County, NY and Arbor Hill Concerned Citizens Neighborhood Association v. County of Albany voting rights cases.

REFERENCES

Available upon request