

# Charles E. Smith, Jr.

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## Appointments

University of Mississippi, Department of Political Science, Associate Professor, 1999 – present.  
University of Mississippi, Department of Political Science, Assistant Professor, 1993 – 1999.  
University of Mississippi, Social Science Research Laboratory, Founding Co-Director, 1994 –1997.  
Ohio State University, Department of Political Science, Instructor, 1992 –1993.

## Education

Ph.D., Political Science, Ohio State University, 1993.  
Major: U.S. Politics. Minor: Quantitative Research Methods  
B.A., Political Science, University of Alabama, 1985

## Research Interests

Quantitative Methods in Social Science  
Politics of the American Judiciary  
Voting and Political Behavior in the United States

## *General Journal Articles*

“A Framework for Measuring Leaders’ Willingness to Use Force.” 2020. *American Political Science Review* 114:1352-1358. With Jeff Carter.

“Measuring Policy Content on the U.S. Supreme Court.” 2009. *Journal of Politics* 71:1305-1321. With Kevin T. McGuire, Georg Vanberg, and Gregory A. Caldeira.

“Race, Political Empowerment, and Minority Perceptions of Judicial Fairness.” 2005. *Social Science Quarterly* 86:444-62. With L. Marvin Overby, Robert D. Brown, John M. Bruce, and John W. Winkle, III.

“Party Balancing and Voting for Congress in the 1996 National Election.” 1999. *American Journal of Political Science* 43:737-64. With Robert D. Brown, L. Marvin Overby, and John M. Bruce.

“Campaigning for the Court: The Dynamics of Public Opinion on the Thomas Nomination.” 1996. *Journal of Politics* 58:655-81. With Gregory A. Caldeira.

“Patterns and Sources of Ticket-Splitting in Subpresidential Voting.” 1992. *American Political Science Review* 86:916-28. With Paul Allen Beck, Lawrence Baum, and Aage R. Clausen.

“The Influence of the Economy on Party Identification in the Reagan Years.” 1991. *Journal of Politics* 53:1077-92. With Herbert F. Weisberg.

*Other Articles, Chapters, and Essays*

“Strategic Choice in Hilbert Space.” 2017. In *The Palgrave Handbook of Quantum Models in Social Science*, Emmanuel Haven and Andrei Khrennikov, eds. London: Palgrave MacMillan. With Christopher Zorn.

“Pseudo-classical Nonseparability and Mass Politics in Two-Party Systems.” 2011. In *QI 2001, LNCS 7052:83-94*. Song, Dawei, Massimo Melucci, Ingo Frommholz, Peng Zhang, Lei Wang, and Sachi Arafat, eds. With Christopher Zorn.

“Justice in Black and White: Race Perceptions of Justice and Diffuse Support for the Judicial System in an American State.” 2004. *Justice System Journal* 25:159-81. With L. Marvin Overby, Robert D. Brown, John M. Bruce, and John W. Winkle, III.

“The Partisan Choice: Bob Dole or Bill Clinton?” 1999. In *Reelection 1996: How Americans Voted*. Herbert F. Weisberg and Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, eds. New York: Chatham House. With John H. Kessel and Peter Radcliffe.

“Divided Government and the Politics of Judicial Confirmation.” 1998. *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 28:832-37. With Mary Stuckey and John W. Winkle, III.

“The Dynamics of Outlier Committees in Congress.” 1997. *Journal of Legislative Studies* 3:70-88. With Robert D. Brown, L. Marvin Overby, Jennifer M. Davis, and David Holian.

“The Partisan Choice: George Bush or Bill Clinton?” 1995. In *Democracy’s Feast: The 1992 U.S. Elections*. Herbert F. Weisberg, ed. New York: Chatham House. With John H. Kessel.

“The Advent of Dynamic Graphic Statistical Computing.” 1993. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 26:228-32. With Herbert F. Weisberg.

“Graduate Training Outside the Department: Taking Full Advantage of the Methodological Trade Deficit.” 1992. *The Political Methodologist* 5:7-9.

*Invited Presentations*

“Voting on Writs of Certiorari.” 2000 Democracy Lecture Series. Department of Political Science, University of Alabama, Tuscaloosa, AL.

“Party Balancing in American National Elections.” 1999. Duke-UNC American Politics Program Lecture Series. University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill, NC.

*Recent Conference Papers*

“A Framework for Measuring Leaders’ Willingness to Use Force.” 2017. Paper prepared for the Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco. With Jeff Carter.

“The Ideological Content of Reversals and Affirmances Revisited.” 2016. Paper Prepared for the Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia. With Gregory A. Caldeira, Douglas Rice, and Christopher Zorn.

“Benchmarking Pre-Primary and Pre-Caucus Polls.” 2016. Paper Prepared for the Annual Meetings of the Southern Political Science Association, San Juan. With Christopher Zorn.

“Observational Error and Statistical Distances in Bounded Spaces.” 2015. Paper Prepared for the Annual Meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago. With Christopher Zorn.

“Measuring and Modeling Preference Separability.” 2015. Paper Prepared for the Annual Meetings of the Southern Political Science Association, New Orleans. With Christopher Zorn.

*Current Working Papers*

“The U.S. Supreme Court’s Evolution from Mandatory to Discretionary Jurisdiction.” 2020. With Gregory A. Caldeira, Douglas Rice, and Christopher Zorn. We chronicle, date, and model the growth

and decline in the number of cases affirmed by the United States Supreme Court as its docket evolved from mandatory to discretionary review.

“Information Entropy on the Closed Interval  $[0,1]$ .” 2020. With Christopher Zorn. We show that what Wootters (1981) called “statistical distance” can be fashioned into a natural metric for measuring what Shannon (1948) called “information entropy.” The metric seems to hold out a structural “home base” for understanding elementary geometric features of both quantum mechanical and classical probabilities.

“Measuring Political Knowledge in Surveys.” 2020. With Bradley Dickerson. We develop an IRT model that accounts for respondents’ guessing and show that its predicative capacity is better than summated rating scales, factor analysis predictions, and educational attainment.

### *Research Awards*

Brooks-Cole Award, Southern Political Science Association (1990).

American Judicature Society Award (2005).

## Teaching

### *Undergraduate Courses*

Introduction to U.S. Government. A survey (freshman-level) course on politics in the United States.

Political Methodology. A survey (sophomore-level) course on research methods in the social sciences.

Judicial Process. An upper-level course on the operation and politics of the American judiciary.

Judicial Behavior. An upper-level course on judicial decision-making with a focus on the Supreme Court.

Public Opinion. An upper-level course on measuring and modeling public opinion in the U.S.

Senior Seminar in American Government. Topics vary.

### *Graduate Courses*

Political Methodology I. Research design, introduction to probability and statistics, and inference.

Political Methodology II. Linear models and observational (frequentist) causal inference.

Political Methodology III. Generalized linear models (frequentist and Bayesian) causal inference.

Judicial Process. The operation and politics of the American judiciary.

Judicial Behavior. Models of judicial decision-making.

## Service Experience

### *Department Level*

Pi Sigma Alpha Faculty Advisor

Search Committee Chair, Political Methodology

Search Committee Chair, Judicial Politics

Graduate Studies Committee

Undergraduate Studies Committee

### *College Level*

Advisory Committee on Teaching Excellence

Committee on Technology Enhancement

### *University Level*

Advisory Committee on Research

Committee on Faculty Technology Enhancement

Academic Grade Appeal Committee

Retirement and Insurance Committee

University Assessment Committee

Tenure and Promotion Review Committee (Chair, 2014).

### *Disciplinary Level*

Editorial Board: *American Journal of Political Science*.

Section Head: Political Methodology (SPSA).

Nominating Committee: Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting (APSA).

Short-Course Instructor (APSA).

Editorial Consultant: National Science Foundation, *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*.

## Coding Competence

R, Stan, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Mathematica, CSS, YAML.

## References

Gregory A. Caldeira  
Distinguished University Professor  
Department of Political Science  
Ohio State University  
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Christopher Zorn  
Liberal Arts Research Professor  
Department of Political Science  
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John M. Bruce  
Chair  
Department of Political Science  
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