

SCOTT LACOMBE

(816)210-0621 ◊ slacombe@smith.edu ◊ www.scottlacombe.com
Departments of Government and Statistical and Data Sciences
Smith College 201 Wright Hall, Northampton, MA 01063

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Smith College *2020-present*
Department of Government and Department of Statistical and Data Sciences

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, University of Iowa *2020*

Dissertation: Institutional Design and Policy Responsiveness in US States
Committee: Frederick Boehmke (chair), Caroline Tolbert, Rene Rocha, Julie Pacheco, and Joyee Ghosh

MA, Political Science, University of Iowa *2017*

BA, Political Science and Spanish, Missouri State University *2015*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

1. **American Politics** - State and Local Politics, Public Policy, Direct Democracy, Legislatures, Policy Diffusion, Public Opinion and Institutions, Parties
2. **Political Methodology** - Bayesian Statistics, Network Analysis, Latent Variable Analysis, Duration Analysis, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Multi-level Modeling, Spatial Analysis, Computational Methods

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

1. Tolbert, C & Mossberger, K & **LaCombe, S. J.** (Forthcoming). A New Measure of Digital Activity and its Impact on Economic Opportunity. *Telecommunications Policy*
2. **LaCombe, S. J.** (Forthcoming). Measuring Institutional Design in US States *Social Science Quarterly*
3. **LaCombe, S. J.** & Tolbert, C & Mossberger, K (Forthcoming) The Effect of the Digital Revolution on State Policy Innovation. *Political Research Quarterly*
4. **LaCombe, S. J.** & Boehmke, F.(2021) The Initiative Process and Policy Innovation in the American States. *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*
5. Bricker, C & **LaCombe, S. J.** (2020). The Ties that Bind Us: The Influence of Perceived State Similarity on Policy Diffusion, *Political Research Quarterly*
6. Boehmke, F. J., Brockway, M., Desmarais, B. A., Harden, J. J., **LaCombe, S. J.**, Linder, F., Wallach, H (2020). A New Database for Inferring Public Policy Innovativeness and Diffusion Networks, *Policy Studies Journal*
7. **LaCombe, S. J.** & Juelich, C (2019). Salient Ballot Measures and Millennial Turnout, *Politics and Governance*

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

1. Mossberger, K & Tolbert, C & **LaCombe, S.** (2021) *Choosing the Future: Technology and Opportunity in Communities*, [Forthcoming at Oxford University Press]

BOOK CHAPTER

1. **LaCombe, S.** & Boehmke, F (2020). Chapter 20: Evaluating Approaches for Modeling Learning within Diffusion Episodes, in *Sage Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*

PAPERS UNDER REVIEW

1. **LaCombe, S. J.** Institutional Design and Policy Responsiveness in US States. [Under Review]
2. Boehmke, F & Wallace, D & Brockway, M & Desmarais, B & Harden, J & **LaCombe, S.**, & Linder, F and Wallach, H. (2019) Influencers, Innovators, and Ideology: How Policy Leadership Varies for Partisan Policies. [Under Review]
3. Pacheco, **LaCombe, S.** (2021) The Link between Democratic Institutions and Population Health in the American States. [Under Review]
4. Harden, J & Brockway, M & Boehmke, F & Desmarais, B & **LaCombe, S.** & Linder, F (2021) A Diffusion Network Event History Estimator. [Under review at the Journal of Politics]
5. **LaCombe, S.** & Bricker, C. (2021). States of A Feather Flock Together: Using Latent Space Models to Understand Perceived State Similarity [Under Review at Politics and Society]

WORKING PAPERS

1. Pacheco, J, **LaCombe, S.**, and Micatka, N. State Institutional Responses to the COVID Crisis.
2. **LaCombe, S.** Institutional Design and Policy Volatility” Minnesota Political Methodology Graduate Student Conference
3. **LaCombe, S.** Measuring the Stability of Responsiveness in US States. Midwest Political Science Association Conference
4. **LaCombe, S.**, Boehmke, F, Brockway, M, Desmarais, B; Harden, J, Linder, F, & Wallach, H.. Network Dependence in the Diffusion of Public Policies. The Society for Political Methodology Conference

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- State Politics and Policy Conference, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020*, 2021 (Speaker Series)
- Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting, 2019, 2018
- Minnesota Political Methodology Graduate Student Conference, 2019
- Midwest Political Science Association Conference, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020*
- American Political Science Association Conference, August 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021
- Joint Statistical Meeting. American Statistical Association (2021) (Attendee)
- Anxieties of Democracy Conference 2017, 2018
- *Indicates paper was accepted but conference cancelled due to COVID

PUBLIC OUTREACH/ARTICLES

- "Measuring Digital Entrepreneurship at the Grassroots: What Role Will it Play in Community Resilience." Provided for: Big Data Directions in Entrepreneurship: Researcher Viewpoints. The Kauffman Foundation
- "Venture Forward." GoDaddy <https://www.godaddy.com/ventureforward/>

- "Tiny Digital Businesses Play Key Role in Local Economies, Study Says." *New York Times*. 7 April 2020
- "The Ballot Initiative Returns to its Progressive, Populist Roots." Bloomberg City Lab. 26, November 2018

CONSULTATIONS AND GRANT WORK

1. 2018–present Statistical Consultant, Project Haystack, GoDaddy.com
Collaboration with Professor Caroline Tolbert (University of Iowa) and Professor Karen Mossberger (Arizona State University), and GoDaddy.com to evaluate the role of the density of domain name websites (at the county and zip code level) on local prosperity and opportunity using a dataset of 26 million GoDaddy customers in the US
2. 2016–2020 Research Assistant, Political Science, University of Iowa
Collaborative Research Grant, U.S. National Science Foundation (SES-1637082). DAPPR: Diffusion Analytics for Public Policy Research. \$808,128 total; (2016–2019, with Frederick J. Boehmke, Bruce A. Desmarais, William W. Franko, Robert J. McGrath, Yu-Ru Lin, and Jason H. Windett)
3. 2018–May 2020 Statistical Consultant, Iowa Social Science Research Center, University of Iowa

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Introduction to Probability and Statistics (approximately 50 students)
- Introduction to American Politics (approximately 30 students)
- Seminar in the Politics of US States (8 student senior seminar)
- Methods Workshops
 - Introduction to Stata
 - Data Visualization in Stata
 - Introduction to Network Analysis
 - Introduction to R
 - Advanced Network Analysis
 - Multi-level Modeling
 - Data Visualization in R
 - Introduction to Probability Theory

GUEST LECTURES

- Invited Research Talk- State Politics and Policy Junior Scholar Speaker Series. April 2021
- "Introduction to Policy Diffusion." October 2020. Warren Wilson College, Swannanoa, North Carolina. Undergraduate Public Policy course.
- "Introduction to Probability Theory" August 2019. University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. Graduate level methods seminar.
- "Data Management and Tidy Data" December 2019. University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. Graduate level methods seminar.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

1. American Political Science Association

2. State Politics and Policy Section of APSA
3. American Statistical Association
4. Midwest Political Science Association
5. Society for Political Methodology
6. Political Networks Section of APSA
7. Institute for Humane Studies

HONORS AND GRANTS

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| 2021 | Christopher Z. Mooney Best Dissertation Prize in State Politics and Policy Section of APSA |
| 2021 | William Anderson Award for Best Doctoral Dissertation in Field of Federalism or Intergovernmental Relations and State and Local Politics |
| 2021 | Committee on Faculty Compensation and Development Summer Research Grant, Smith College |
| 2020 | Ballard and Seashore Dissertation Fellowship, University of Iowa |
| 2019 | Post Comprehensive Exam Fellowship, University of Iowa |
| 2019 | Research Grant, University of Iowa |
| 2019 | Travel Grant, University of Iowa |
| 2018 | Democracy Fellow, Social Science Research Council, University of Bamberg |
| 2016-19 | Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies |
| 2018 | Best Paper Award, University of Iowa Department of Political Science |
| 2017 | Teaching Assistant of the Year, University of Iowa (One of 30 University-wide) |

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

1. Manuscript Reviewer, *American Journal of Political Science*
2. Manuscript Reviewer, *Political Research Quarterly*
3. Manuscript Reviewer, *Journal of Public Policy*
4. Manuscript Reviewer, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*
5. Manuscript Reviewer, *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*
6. Manuscript Reviewer, *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*

DEPARTMENT SERVICE

1. President, Graduate Association of Political Science Students, University of Iowa 2018-2019
2. Instructor, Math Camp, University of Iowa 2018, 2019
3. Supervisor, University of Iowa Hawkeye Poll, Fall 2018, 2019

REFERENCES

Frederick J Boehmke
Professor of Political Science
University of Iowa
341 Schaeffer Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242
(319) 335-2342
frederick-boehmke@uiowa.edu

Rene Rocha
Professor of Political Science
University of Iowa
341 Schaeffer Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242
(319) 335-2528
rene-rocha@uiowa.edu

Caroline Tolbert
Professor of Political Science
University of Iowa
341 Schaeffer Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242
(319) 335-2471
caroline-tolbert@uiowa.edu

Julliana Pacheco
Associate Professor of Political Science
University of Iowa
341 Schaeffer Hall
Iowa City, Iowa 52242
(319) 335-2341
julianna-pacheco@uiowa.edu