Justin de Benedictis-Kessner

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Employment

Boston University

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2019-

Faculty Affiliate, Initiative on Cities, 2020-

Boston Area Research Initiative, Harvard University and Northeastern University.

Postdoctoral Research Associate, 2017–2019.

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D. in Political Science, June 2017.

Dissertation: "Local Accountability: The Role of Attribution, Institutions, and Communication"

Committee: Adam Berinsky, Andrea Campbell, Ryan Enos, Christopher Warshaw

College of William & Mary, B.A. in Government and Psychology (summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa), 2011.

Research and Teaching Interests

American Politics, Local Politics & Policy, Media & Political Communication, Surveys & Public Opinion, Quantitative & Experimental Methods.

Publications

- 12. "Accountability for the Economy at All Levels of Government in United States Elections." Forthcoming, American Political Science Review. (with Christopher Warshaw)
- 11. "The Effect of Associative Racial Cues in Elections." Forthcoming, *Political Communication*. (with Adam Berinsky, Michele Margolis, and Megan Goldberg)
- 10. "Politics in Forgotten Governments: The Partisan Composition of County Legislatures and County Fiscal Policies." Forthcoming, *Journal of Politics*. (with Christopher Warshaw)
- 9. "Concentrated Burdens: How Self-Interest and Partisanship Shape Opinion on Opioid Treatment Policy." *American Political Science Review* 113(4): 1078-1084. November 2019. (with Michael Hankinson)
- 8. "Persuading the Enemy: Estimating the Persuasive Effects of Partisan Media with the Preference-Incorporating Choice and Assignment Design." *American Political Science Review* 113(4): 902-916. November 2019. (with Adam Berinsky, Matthew Baum, and Teppei Yamamoto)
- 7. "Polarization and Media Usage: Disentangling Causality." In Oxford Handbook of Electoral Persuasion, forthcoming. Bernard Grofman, Liz Suhay, and Alex Treschel, eds. (with Matthew Baum and Adam Berinsky)
- 6. "How Attribution Inhibits Accountability: Evidence from Train Delays." *Journal of Politics* 80(4): 1417-1422. October 2018.
- 5. "Off-Cycle and Out of Office: Election Timing and the Incumbency Advantage." *Journal of Politics* 80(1): 119-132. January 2018.

- 4. "Mayoral Partisanship and Municipal Fiscal Policy," *Journal of Politics* 78(4): 1124-1138. October 2016. (with Christopher Warshaw)
- 3. "Evidence in Voting Rights Act Litigation: Producing Accurate Estimates of Racial Voting Patterns," *Election Law Journal* 14(4): 361-381. December 2015.
- 2. "Vote-Seeking Third Parties in the Twentieth Century," in *Guide to U.S. Political Parties*, ed. Marjorie Hershey, CQ Press, 2014. (with Ron Rapoport)
- 1. "A balancing act: Physical balance, through arousal, influences size perception," *Attention, Perception, & Psychophysics* 72(7): 1890-1902. October 2010. (with Michael Geuss, Jeanine Stefanucci, and Nicholas Stevens)

Working Papers

"How Group Identity Shapes Opioid Treatment Policy Opinion" (with Michael Hankinson).

"Strategic Government Communication about Performance."

"Where the Sidewalk Ends: How Participation Contributes to Inequity in Government Service Provision."

"Dynamic Persuasion: Decay and Accumulation of the Persuasive Effects of Partisan Media" (with Adam Berinsky, Matthew Baum, Zach Markovich, and Teppei Yamamoto).

In Progress

"Interest Group Financial Influence in US Local Politics."

"Inequalities in Participation, Voting, and Representation in Local Governments" (with Christopher Warshaw and John Sides).

"Racial Inequality in Local Campaign Finance" (with Jake Grumbach and Abhay Aneja).

"Estimating the Persuasive Effects of Partisan Media with Behavioral Data" (with Adam Berinsky, Matthew Baum, Chloe Wittenberg, and Teppei Yamamoto).

"Field Experimental Evidence on Smart City Technology and Voter Registration" (with Melissa Sands).

"Municipal Priorities: Evidence from Official Government Communication."

"Realistic Image Primes in Experimental Research" (with Tess Wise).

"Words Don't Fit The Picture: Using Computer Vision to Measure Speaker Sentiment in Videos and How it Sways Voters" (with Dean Knox and Christopher Lucas).

Invited Talks

Aarhus University, 2020.

University of Copenhagen, 2020.

Brown University, Political Behavior Workshop, 2019.

Boston University, Initiative on Cities, 2018.

College of William & Mary, Government Department Research Colloquium, 2017.

Yale University, Institute for Social and Policy Studies Experiments Workshop, 2016.

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Conference Presentations

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference: 2011, 2013, 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020 (planned).

Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2017, 2020.

MetroLab Network Annual Summit, 2019.

American Political Science Association Annual Conference: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019.

Boston Area Research Initiative Conference, 2017.

NYU-CESS Experimental Political Science Conference Poster Session, 2016.

Research Methods in the Psychological Sciences Conference, 2009.

Grants & Awards

Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS), for "How Group Identity Shapes Opioid Treatment Policy Opinion" (with Michael Hankinson), 2019.

Massachusetts Department of Transportation, for "Translating Data Generated by the Transit App into Insights on Transportation Use in Greater Boston" (with Dan O'Brien and Ryan Qi Wang), 2018. \$299,920

Time-sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS) Short Studies Program, for "Burden Sharing and Collective Action: A Study of Opinion on Opioid Treatment Funding" (with Michael Hankinson), 2018.

APSA Travel Grant, 2016.

Boston Area Research Initiative Grant (with Ryan Enos, Michael Hankinson, and Melissa Sands), 2015. \$7,400

Norton Long Young Scholar Award, Urban Politics Section, APSA, 2015.

Institute for Quantitative Social Science Research Grant (with Tess Wise), 2014. \$1,000

Phi Beta Kappa, College of William & Mary, 2011.

Monroe Research Grant, College of William & Mary, 2010. \$3,000

Teaching Experience

Course Instructor

Introduction to Public Policy, Boston University, Spring 2020.

Urban Public Policy Lab, Boston University, Fall 2019.

Political Science Scope & Methods, MIT, Fall 2018.

Methodological Workshop Instructor

Research Design for Policymakers, Office of Councilor Michelle Wu, City of Boston, 2019.

Webscraping for Data Collection, Social Sciences Research Methods Workshop, College of William & Mary, 2017.

Geographic Visualization & Analysis, Political Geography Lab, Harvard University, 2017.

Geographic Visualization & Analysis, Political Science Methods Workshop, MIT, 2014 & 2017

Teaching Assistant

American Public Policy for Washington Interns, MIT, Fall 2016 & Spring 2017.

Introduction to the American Political Process, MIT, Spring 2016.

Randomized Controlled Trials Executive Education Course, Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), MIT, 2015.

Making Public Policy, MIT, Fall 2013.

Research Methods in Government, College of William & Mary, Spring 2011.

Grading Assistant

US Social Policy, MIT, Spring 2017.

Electoral Politics, Public Opinion & Democracy, MIT, Fall 2016.

Service

Committee on the Status of Gender and Sexual Minorities in Political Science, MPSA (2019-).

Executive Committee, Urban and Local Politics Section, APSA (2019-2021).

Reviewer: American Journal of Political Science, American Politics Research, American Political Science Review, Journal of Policy Analysis and Management, Journal of Politics, Electoral Studies, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Political Analysis, Political Psychology, Political Science Research & Methods, Quarterly Journal of Political Science.

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Discussant: Local Political Economy Pre-Conference at American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2017, 2019); American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2016, 2019); Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (2018, 2019).

American Politics Faculty Search Committee, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2014.

Program Assistant, MIT Summer Research Program. Mentored undergraduates from underrepresented backgrounds in university-wide summer research program, May-August 2012.

Publishing Editor, Pi Sigma Alpha Undergraduate Journal of Politics, August 2010-May 2011.

Computing

Author of MBTAr: R package to access data from the Massachusetts Bay Transit Authority (MBTA) performance API.

Author of seeclickfixr: R package wrapper for the SeeClickFix web API to access data on urban citizen service requests.

Proficient in R, Stata, ArcGIS, LATEX, PASW Statistics (SPSS); knowledgeable in Javascript and Python.