

## Bethany Lee Albertson

Department of Political Science  
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### EMPLOYMENT

Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Washington. (2006-present)

Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, Princeton University. (2005-2006)

Visiting Instructor, University of Notre Dame. (2004-2005)

### EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Chicago, IL

2006 Ph.D., Political Science

2006 Certificate of Graduate Study, Social Psychology

Dissertation: *Mysterious Ways: The Mechanisms of Religious Persuasion in American Politics*  
Committee: John Brehm (chair), Melissa Harris Lacewell, Penny Visser

This research examines the ways that politicians use religious language, and how these persuasive messages affect political attitudes and choices in the United States. Specifically, this project explores the conditions under which religious rhetoric is persuasive, and whether it complicates or simplifies political choices. This project combines survey data with a series of original experiments to evaluate the ways that Americans with different religious beliefs process these messages, and how religious considerations interact with competing predispositions. The specific focus on religion is used to contribute to more general theories of coded communication, implicit processes, and ambivalence.

2001 M.A., Social Science.

M.A. Thesis: *Victorian Courtship: The Restrained Relationship between Social Science and the Court*

Loyola Marymount University, Los Angeles, CA

1999 B.A., Political Science

### RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Psychology, Public Opinion, Political Participation, Religion and Race in US Politics, Quantitative Methods.

## HONORS & GRANTS

- 2008 University of Washington, Royalty Research Fund. "Family Values in Political Campaigns." (\$34,825)
- 2007 National Science Foundation, Time Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences. "Fear and Learning: How Do Anxious Voters Get Their News? (with Shana Kushner Gadarian).
- 2007 Institute for Ethnic Studies in the United States, University of Washington. "Fear and Learning in the Immigration Debate: How Do Anxious Citizens Get Their News?" (with Shana Kushner Gadarian). (\$4,600)
- 2005 National Science Foundation, Dissertation Improvement Grant. (\$12,000)
- 2005 Visiting Scholar, Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, Princeton University.
- 2005 Honorable Mention, Seymour Sudman Student Paper Competition, AAPOR. (with Adria Lawrence).
- 2003 APSA Political Psychology Section Scholarship, Summer Institute in Political Psychology.
- 2002 Earl S. Johnson Prize for best M.A. paper, University of Chicago.

## PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

Albertson, Bethany, John Brehm and Michael Alvarez. 2005. Ambivalence as Internal Conflict. *Ambivalence and the Structure of Public Opinion*. Stephen Craig and Michael Martinez, eds. New York: Palgrave.

Harris-Lacewell, Melissa and Bethany Albertson. 2005. Good Times? Understanding African Americans' Misperceptions of Racial Economic Fortunes. *Journal of Black Studies*. 35:5.

Albertson, Bethany and John Brehm. 2003. Comments: Social Neuroscience in Political Psychology. *Political Psychology*. 24: 4.

Albertson, Bethany and Adria Lawrence. After the Credits Roll: Evaluating the Long Term Effects of Educational Television. Revise and Resubmit at *American Politics Research*.

Dog Whistle Politics, Coded Communication, and Religious Appeals. Under review.

Implicit Attitudes and Religious Appeals. Working paper.

Gadarian, Shana Kushner and Bethany Albertson. Fear and Learning in the Immigration Debate: How do anxious citizens get their news? Working paper.

Albertson, Bethany and Jeff Grynviski. Interpersonal Ambivalence and Partisanship. Working paper.

## PRESENTATIONS

“Fear and Learning in the Immigration Debate: How do anxious citizens get their news?” 2007. American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association and International Society of Political Psychology. (with Shana Kushner Gadarian).

“Mysterious Ways: The Mechanisms of Religious Persuasion in American Politics.” 2006. Social Psychology Brown Bag, University of Washington.

“Dog Whistle Politics, Coded Communication, and Religious Appeals.” 2006. American Political Science Association and International Society of Political Psychology.

“Interpersonal Ambivalence and Partisanship,” 2006. American Political Science Association. (with Jeff Grynawski).

“Religious Appeals and Implicit Attitudes.” 2006. Midwest Political Science Association.

“How Does Television Change Us? An Analysis of Three Field Experiments.” 2005. American Association of Public Opinion Research. (with Adria Lawrence).

“Coded Communication and Candidate Appeals.” 2005. Midwest Political Science Association and Political Psychology Workshop, University of Chicago.

“How Presidential Debates are Like Football Games: Selective Perception, Cognitive Consistency, and Political Attitudes.” 2004. Invited talk, Carroll Hall, Notre Dame.

“God on Their Side? Understanding the Effect of Religious Cues on Political Attitudes.” 2004. American Political Science Association.

“The Effect of Religion and Ideology on Abortion and Welfare Attitudes: Is Religiosity Complicating or Simplifying Political Choices?” 2004. Midwest Political Science Association.

“Emotions and Political Attitudes in the Aftermath of the September 11<sup>th</sup> Terrorist Attacks.” 2004. Depression: What is it Good For? Conference at the University of Chicago.

“The 9/11 Terrorist Attacks: Ethnic Differences in Emotional Response and Recovery.” 2003. Midwest Political Science Association and Political Psychology Workshop, University of Chicago. (with Kenneth Rasinski, Alicia Matthews, Tom Smith, and Jennifer Berktold).

“Good Times? Understanding African American Misperceptions of Racial Economic Fortunes.” 2003. Midwest Political Science Association. (with Melissa Harris Lacewell).

“Victorian Courtship: The Restrained Relationship between Social Science and the Court.” 2002. American Politics Workshop, University of Chicago.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Washington, Assistant Professor

Undergraduate Level:

American Elections and Voting (Fall 2006)

Introduction to American Politics (Winter 2007, Winter 2008)

Graduate Level:

Political Psychology (Winter 2007)

Survey Research and Experimental Methods (Winter 2008)

Notre Dame, Visiting Instructor

American Politics (Fall 2004, Spring 2005)

Senior Writing Seminar (Fall 2004)

Political Participation (Spring 2005)

University of Chicago, Teaching Assistant

Undergraduate Level:

Introduction to American Government (Spring 2004)

Political Psychology (Winter 2004)

Constitutional Law (Winter 2002)

Graduate Level:

Data Analysis (Fall 2002, Fall 2003)

Statistics (Winter 2004)

Linear Models (Spring 2003)

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

2003 Summer Institute in Political Psychology, Ohio State University

2002 ICPSR, University of Michigan (Regression Analysis, Maximum Likelihood Estimation)

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Reviewer for *American Politics Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Psychology*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Public Choice*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*

American Political Science Association Member (2001 to present)

International Society for Political Psychology (2003 to present)

Midwest Political Science Association Member (2001 to present)