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RESEARCH INTERESTS [Click here for C.V.](#)

Legislative institutions, agenda setting, and policy variations in legislative politics.

In [Congress and the Politics of Problem Solving](#) (with E. Scott Adler, Cambridge 2012), we argue that the issue agenda of Congress is primarily problem driven and that internal and external shocks, such as expiring laws and salient events are key predictors of policy change in Congress. This perspective highlights the importance of problem-solving considerations that transcends partisan politics, and calls for more attention to issue agenda setting in Congress and the problem-solving activities of congressional committees.

Prior work experience. Newspaper delivery boy, grocery store bagger; farm worker; woodstove installer, retail sales; welder, metal fabricator; roofer; convenience store clerk; campaign researcher; teaching assistant; research assistant.

Computational and big data approaches to analyzing political text.

I have been using supervised machine learning methods to label events for topic since 2006, have coordinated a number of workshops over the years, and currently teach as Text as Data graduate level class at the UW.

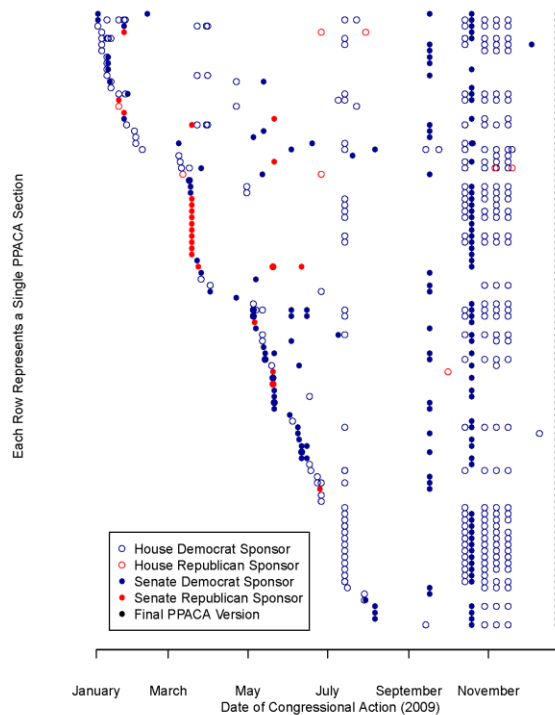
Policy Ideas Project. A current project investigates text reuse methods (e.g. plagiarism detection) as a means for tracing policy ideas as distinct from bills as they move through the legislative process.

Congress
 And The
 Politics of
 Problem Solving



E. Scott Adler
 John D. Wilkerson

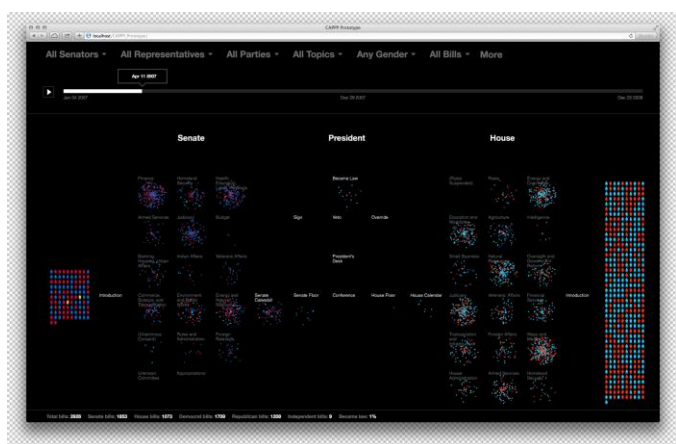
CAMBRIDGE



[PoliInformatics Research Coordination Network](#) brings scholars from different disciplines together to collaborate in the government data research domain.



[Legislative Explorer](#) is a data-driven visualization of congressional lawmaking that visualizes the progress of more than 250,000 bills and resolutions introduced since 1973, and is updated nightly.



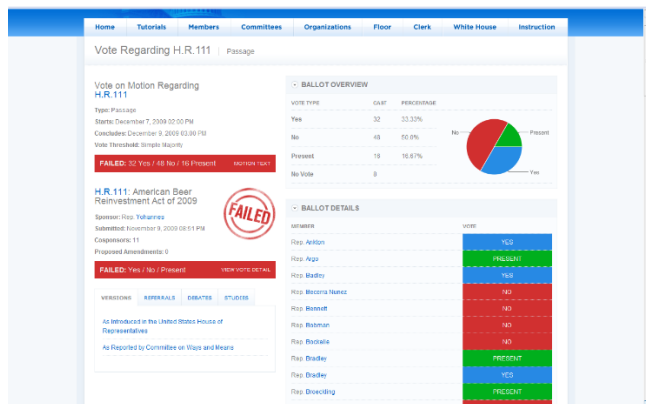
[Congressional Bills Project](#) A database of more than 400,000 public bill titles (1947-near present) linked to extensive information about the bill's progress, sponsor and topic. The CBP is the only digital resource for information about congressional bills introduced

[Policy Agendas Project](#) The Policy Agendas project labels about 750,000 U.S. policymaking events since the Second World War for topic (19) and subtopic (225). It is designed to provide a reliable approach to tracing changing issue attention over time and across decision-making venues.

[Comparative Agendas Project](#) The Comparative Agendas Project is a stimulating extension of the Policy Agendas Project. It currently includes research teams in 12 countries who are applying the same topic system to political events in other nations. CAP researchers meet annually to share their findings. Ultimately the CAP will offer opportunities for systematic cross-national comparisons of changing issue attention and its policy and political consequences.

TEACHING INTERESTS

[LegSim](#) is a web-based virtual legislature that I started to develop in 2001. It is used by students across the nation at the college and high school levels.



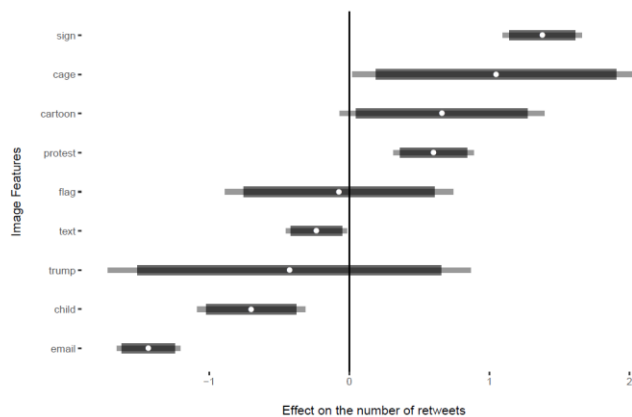
Undergraduate: U.S. Congress (Simulation), State Politics and Policy, the [CAPPP Undergraduate Research Fellows Program](#), and the [Washington State Legislative Internship Program](#).

Graduate: American Political Institutions, [Text as Data](#), Game Theory for Political Scientists, Agenda Setting.

Computer Vision

Our (Nora Webb-Williams, Andreu Casas, Kevin Aslett) most recent project examines the power of images as a tool for political mobilization. To do this we are collecting and labeling the content of images shared in politically oriented social media posts before asking whether certain types of images are associated with more sharing.

Because millions of images are being shared, we are using automated computer vision methods. Because we are interested in content that is not part of current image label repositories (e.g. ImageNet), we are employing transfer learning techniques. Our first product from this project is a Cambridge Elements book, *Data for Social Science Research: An Introduction to Convolutional Neural Nets for Image Classification*.



OUTSIDE INTERESTS

Two kids, one dog, one cat and six five two! chickens. I commute by bike from Bainbridge Island and completed [Ironman France](#) (11:50) in 2012 (been there, done that).