

# Michael Tofias

Department of Political Science  
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee  
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## Education

PH.D., POLITICAL SCIENCE September 2006  
DUKE UNIVERSITY  
*Dissertation:* Destiny Unbound: Opportunity and Political Choices.  
*Committee:* John Aldrich (co-chair), Michael Munger (co-chair), Scott de Marchi, Georg Vanberg.

M.A., POLITICAL SCIENCE May 2003  
DUKE UNIVERSITY  
*Fields:* American Politics; Political Methodology.  
*Theme Field:* Political Economy.

B.A., GOVERNMENT (CUM LAUDE) AND ECONOMICS May 2000  
CORNELL UNIVERSITY  
*Thesis:* PACing Congress: A Vertical Quality Model for PAC Contributions.  
*Advisor:* Walter R. Mebane, Jr.

## Academic Appointments

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR Fall 2006–Present  
Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

GRADUATE INSTRUCTOR Fall 2005  
Department of Political Science, Duke University.

GRADUATE FELLOW 2004–2005  
Program for Advanced Research in the Social Sciences, Duke University.

TEACHING ASSISTANT 2001–2004  
Department of Political Science, Duke University.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT 2000–2004, 2005–2006  
Department of Political Science, Duke University.

## Awards

DIRKSEN CONGRESSIONAL RESEARCH AWARD 2007  
“Parties and Leaders in the Congressional Network: Positioning Within the Social Network of Member-to-Member Campaign Contributions” (with Brendan Nyhan, \$3,465).

UWM GRADUATE SCHOOL RESEARCH COMMITTEE AWARD 2007  
“Understanding Asymmetry in the Colonel Blotto Game” (\$9,958).

SUMMER RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP 2005  
Duke University Graduate School.

PARISS FELLOWSHIP 2004–2005  
Program for Advanced Research in the Social Sciences, Duke University.

## **Publications**

### ARTICLES

Winer, Stanley L., Michael W. Tofias, Bernard Grofman and John H. Aldrich. *Forthcoming 2008*. “Trending Economic Factors and the Structure of Congress in the Growth of Government, 1930–2002.” *Public Choice*.

Merolla, Jennifer, Michael Munger and Michael Tofias. 2005. “*In Play*: A Commentary on Strategies in the 2004 U.S. Presidential Election.” *Public Choice*. 123:19-37.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

Aldrich, John, Michael Brady, Scott de Marchi, Ian McDonald, Brendan Nyhan, David Rohde and Michael Tofias. *Forthcoming 2008*. “Party and Constituency in the U.S. Senate, 1933–2004.” in *Why Not Parties?: Party Effects in the United States Senate*. Nathan Monroe, Jason M. Roberts and David W. Rohde, editors. University of Chicago Press.

Aldrich, John H., David W. Rohde and Michael W. Tofias. 2007. “One D is Not Enough: Measuring Conditional Party Government in 1887–2002” in *Party, Process, and Political Change in Congress Volume 2: Further New Perspectives on the History of Congress*. David W. Brady and Mathew D. McCubbins, editors. Stanford University Press.

## **Research and Teaching Interests**

### AMERICAN POLITICS

Congress; Parties; Campaigns and Elections; The Presidency; Money and Politics; Federalism; Public Choice; New Institutionalism.

### POLITICAL METHODOLOGY

Statistical Methods; Game Theory; Computational Political Economy.

## **Selected Working and Conference Papers**

“Passing the Bucks: The Member-to-Member Contribution Network in Congress.” Prepared for delivery at the 2008 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (with Brendan Nyhan).

“Partisan Influence in Congress and Institutional Change.” Prepared for delivery at the 2008 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (with Michael Ensley and Scott de Marchi).

“Is This Heaven? No, It’s Iowa: Simulating Outcomes in the Iowa Caucuses.” Prepared for the conference on “Reforming the Presidential Nomination Process” at the University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa, January 4th, 2008 (with Tom Holbrook and Clayton Clouse).

“Electoral Selection and the Congressional Incumbency Advantage: An Assessment of District Complexity.” Prepared for delivery at the 2007 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (with Michael Ensley and Scott de Marchi).

“Popularity Contest: Strategy and Outcome Counterfactuals without the Electoral College.” Prepared for delivery at the 2007 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (with Jennifer Merolla and Michael Munger).

“Of Colonels and Generals: Understanding Asymmetry in the Colonel Blotto Game.” Prepared for delivery at the 2007 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois.

“Searching for the Second Dimension(s): The Structure of the National and Sub-National Political Spaces.” Prepared for delivery at the 2007 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (with Michael Ensley and Scott de Marchi).

“District Complexity and Congressional Incumbency Advantage.” Prepared for delivery at the 2007 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, Illinois (with Michael Ensley and Scott de Marchi).

“Progressive Ambition as a Process of Adaptation and Exaptation.” Prepared for delivery at the 2006 American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania.

“Lotto, Blotto, or Frontrunner: U.S. Presidential Elections and The Nature of ‘Mistakes’.” Prepared for delivery at the 2006 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania (with Michael Munger and Jennifer Merolla).

“The Dynamics of Partisan Behavior: CPG in the House and in the Districts 1982–2000. Paper prepared for the 2006 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Atlanta, Georgia (with John Aldrich, Michael Brady, Scott de Marchi, Ian McDonald, Brendan Nyhan and David Rohde).

“Progressive Ambition: House to Senate 1992–2002.” Presented at the 2006 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association and poster sessions at the 2005 Meetings of the American and Midwest Political Science Associations, under previous title.

“Examining Congress with a Two-Dimensional Political Space.” Prepared for delivery at the 2004 American Political Science Association Annual Conference, Chicago, Illinois (with John Aldrich and David Rohde).

“Assessing the Impact of State Legislative Term Limits on the US Congressional Elections.” Paper presented at the 2002 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (with Michael Ensley).

“Legislative Context, Legislator Quality and Campaign Contributions” Paper presented at the 2001 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois (with Walter Mebane and Marc Ratkovic).

### Teaching Experience

GRADUATE SEMINAR IN THE LEGISLATIVE PROCESS Spring 2008  
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

GRADUATE SEMINAR IN POSITIVE POLITICAL THEORY Fall 2007  
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

PARTY POLITICS IN AMERICA Fall 2006 and 2007  
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

CONGRESSIONAL POLITICS Fall 2006, Spring 2007 and 2008  
University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee.

DEVELOPMENT OF CONGRESS AS AN INSTITUTION Fall 2005  
Graduate Instructor at Duke University.

INTERMEDIATE STATISTICAL ANALYSIS Spring 2003 and 2004  
Teaching Assistant at Duke University with Christopher Gelpi.

INTRODUCTION TO STATISTICAL ANALYSIS Fall 2003  
Teaching Assistant at Duke University and UNC–Chapel Hill with Marco Steenbergen.

INTRODUCTION TO INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS Fall 2002  
Teaching Assistant at Duke University with Peter Feaver.

INTRODUCTION TO AMERICAN POLITICS Fall 2001  
Teaching Assistant at Duke University with Holly Brasher.

### Research Assistantships

#### GRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

John Aldrich	2003–2004, 2005–2006	Scott de Marchi	Summer 2006
Michael Munger	Summer 2003	Peter Fish	Fall 2002–Spring 2003
David Paletz	Fall 2001–Spring 2002	James Hamilton	Fall 2000–Summer 2001

#### UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH ASSISTANTSHIPS

Walter Mebane (Cornell University)	Summer 2000
Federal Trade Commission (Bureau of Economics)	Summer 1999
Consumer Project on Technology (with James Love and Ralph Nader)	Summer 1998

#### Professional Activities

##### EMPIRICAL IMPLICATIONS OF THEORETICAL MODELS SUMMER INSTITUTE

Duke University (head teaching assistant)	Summer 2004
University of Michigan (participant)	Summer 2003

##### GRADUATE STUDENT COLLOQUIUM

Duke University Department of Political Science (co-organizer)	2003–2005
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##### PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2001–2008
Reforming the Presidential Nomination Process Conference (University of Iowa)	January 2008
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2002, 2004–2007
Politics Through the Lens of Parties (in memoriam of Leon Epstein, UW–Madison)	April 2007
The Wolf by the Ear Symposium (Liberty Fund and Utah State University)	June 2006
Conference on Party Effects in the United States Senate (Duke)	April 2006
Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Milwaukee	January 2006
Department of Government, CUNY John Jay College of Criminal Justice	November 2005
American Politics Research Group, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill	September 2005
Public Choice Society Annual Meeting	2005
Micro-Foundations of Federal Institutional Stability Conference (Duke)	May 2004
History of Congress Conference (UCSD)	December 2003
Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2002

##### PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association; Midwest Political Science Association; Public Choice Society; The Society for Political Methodology

##### REFeree

*Journal of Politics*; Longman Publishers; *Public Choice*.

#### Departmental Service

##### COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Strategic Planning Committee	2006–2007
Undergraduate Advising Committee	2007–2008

##### DISSERTATION COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP

Jennifer Luse	<i>expected</i> 2008
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##### RESEARCH ASSISTANT SUPERVISION

Clayton Clouse	Summer 2007
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INTERNSHIP SUPERVISION

Patrick Gahagan (with the office of Senator Russ Feingold)

Fall 2006

SENIOR CAPSTONE PAPER SUPERVISION

Patrick McMenimen

Thomas Keeley

Spring 2007

Fall 2006

**References**

John H. Aldrich

Pfizer-Pratt University Professor of Political Science, Duke University.

email: aldrich@duke.edu. tel: 919-660-4346.

Michael C. Munger

Professor of Political Science, Duke University.

email: munger@duke.edu. tel: 919-660-4301.

Scott de Marchi

Associate Professor of Political Science, Duke University.

email: demarchi@duke.edu. tel: 919-660-4342.

David W. Rohde

Professor of Political Science, Duke University.

email: rohde@duke.edu. tel: 919-660-7053.

Updated on January 25, 2008.