Benjamin Schneer

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Academic Employment

Harvard Kennedy School

Associate Professor of Public Policy, 2025–Present.

Assistant Professor of Public Policy, 2018–2025.

Florida State University

Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2016–2018.

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, Harvard University, 2016.

Committee: Gary King, Daniel Carpenter, Stephen Ansolabehere

M.A. Political Science, Harvard University, 2012.

M.A. Economics, Stanford University, 2010.

B.A. Economics & History, *Summa Cum Laude*, Columbia University, 2005.

Research Interests

Political Representation, Legislative Politics, Elections, Redistricting, Politics and History

Publications

"Policy Consequences of Civil Society: Evidence from German-American Counter-Mobilization to Prohibition" (with Tobias Resch). 2026. *Journal of Historical Political Economy*. Ahead of Print.

"Durable Majority Gerrymanders: Where Partisan Gerrymandering Can Displace Democracy" (with Maxwell Palmer). 2026. *American Journal of Political Science*. Early View.

"A Drag on the Ticket? Estimating Top-of-the-Ticket Effects on Down-Ballot Races" (with Kevin DeLuca and Daniel J. Moskowitz). 2026. *American Journal of Political Science* 70 (4): 1621–1637.

"'Descended from Immigrants and Revolutionists': How Family History Shapes Immigration Policymaking" (with James Feigenbaum and Maxwell Palmer). 2025. *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 140 (3): 2381–2457.

"A Partisan Solution to Partisan Gerrymandering: The Define–Combine Procedure" (with Maxwell Palmer and Kevin DeLuca). 2024. *Political Analysis* 32 (3): 295–310.

"The Popular Origins of Legislative Jurisdictions: Petitions and Standing Committee Formation in Colonial Virginia and the Early US House" (with Tobias Resch, Maggie Blackhawk, and Daniel Carpenter). 2022. *Journal of Politics* 84 (3): 1727–1745.

"Partisan Alignment Increases Voter Turnout: Evidence from Redistricting" (with Bernard L. Fraga and Daniel J. Moskowitz). 2022. *Political Behavior* 44 (4): 1883–1910.

"Congressional Representation by Petition: Assessing the Voices of the Voteless in a Comprehensive New Database, 1789–1949" (with Maggie Blackhawk, Daniel Carpenter, and Tobias Resch). 2021. *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 46 (3): 817–849.

"From the Halls of Congress to K Street: Government Experience and Its Value for Lobbying" (with Pamela Ban and Maxwell Palmer). 2019. *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 44 (4): 713–752.

"Reevaluating Competition and Turnout in U.S. House Elections" (with Daniel J. Moskowitz). 2019. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 14 (2): 191–223.

"Postpolitical Careers: How Politicians Capitalize on Public Office" (with Maxwell Palmer). 2019. *Journal of Politics* 81 (2): 670–675.

"Suffrage Petitioning as Formative Practice: American Women Presage and Prepare for the Vote, 1840–1940" (with Daniel Carpenter, Zachary Popp, Tobias Resch, and Nicole Topich). 2018. *Studies in American Political Development* 32 (1): 24–48.

"Paths of Recruitment: Rational Social Prospecting in Petition Canvassing" (with Clayton Nall and Daniel Carpenter). 2018. *American Journal of Political Science* 62 (1): 192–209.

"Divided Government and Significant Legislation: A History of Congress from 1789 to 2010" (with Stephen Ansolabehere and Maxwell Palmer). 2018. *Social Science History* 42 (1): 81–108.

"How the News Media Activate Public Expression and Influence National Agendas" (with Gary King and Ariel White). 2017. *Science* 358 (6364): 776–780.

"Capitol Gains: The Returns to Elected Office from Corporate Board Directorships" (with Maxwell Palmer). 2016. *Journal of Politics* 78 (1): 181–196.

"Party Formation Through Petitions: The Whigs and the Bank War of 1832–1834" (with Daniel Carpenter). 2015. *Studies in American Political Development* 29 (2): 213–234.

Working Papers

"Adaptive Representation in the U.S. Congress" (with Jaclyn Kaslovsky and Daniel J. Moskowitz). HKS Working Paper No. RWP26-002. *Under Review*.

"Paywalls" (with Desmond Ang, Avinash Moorthy, and Stephen Pettigrew). *Under Review*.

"From Petitioners to Voters: Assessing the Effect of Electoral Reform on Citizen Engagement and Agenda Setting."

"Extreme Leaders as Negotiation Anchors" (with David C. King and Richard Zeckhauser). HKS Working Paper No. RWP20-015.

Chapters in Edited Volumes, Reports, and Other Publications

"Racially Polarized Voting Analysis for the Virginia Redistricting Commission" (with Maxwell Palmer). August 31, 2021.

"Review of Evaluating Media Bias, by Adam J. Schiffer." 2020. *American Review of Politics* 37 (1): 106–8.

"The Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission: One State's Model for Gerrymandering Reform" (with Colleen Mathis and Daniel J. Moskowitz). *Ash Center Policy Brief*, 2019.

"What Has Congress Done?" (with Stephen Ansolabehere and Maxwell Palmer). 2016. In *Governing in a Polarized Age: Elections, Parties, and Political Representation in America*, eds. Alan S. Gerber and Eric Schickler. New York: Cambridge University Press.

"An Analysis of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission Congressional District Map" (with Gary King). *Submitted to Department of Justice*, 2012.

"An Analysis of the Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission Legislative District Map" (with Gary King). *Submitted to Department of Justice*, 2012.

Selected Media

"Mid-Decade Redistricting: How These Conditional Bets Paid Out" (with Bruce Cain). *Election Law Blog*, November 10, 2026.

"Midterms, Texas Politics, Voting and Gerrymandering: HKS Political Scientists Weigh In." (Faculty Lounge conversation with Justin de Benedictis-Kessner). *Harvard Kennedy School*, October 30, 2026.

"America's Gerrymandering Arms Race." *Currently (BBC Radio 4)*, October 4, 2026.

"Trump's Redistricting Effort: A Smart Bet or Not?" (with Bruce Cain). *Election Law Blog*, August 10, 2026.

Reflection in *Self-Evident Truths: The 250-Year Pursuit of Human Rights in the United States of America*, ed. Mathias Risse. Carr-Ryan Center for Human Rights, July 4, 2026.

"The Election Will Dominate the National Conversation." In "What to Watch in 2026: Essays from 10 Harvard Experts." *Harvard Business School BiGS*, December 29, 2025.

"How to Fix America's Gerrymandering Problem" (with Maxwell Palmer). *TIME*, August 14, 2025.

"Republicans are Seeking to Create a Durable Gerrymander in Texas" (with Maxwell Palmer and Tyler Simko). *San Antonio Express-News*, August 8, 2025.

"Feeling Unheard by Congress? Here's What You Need to Know." *Top of Mind (Sirius XM)*, August 4, 2025.

"Legislators who descend from immigrants historically supported more permissive immigration policies" (with James Feigenbaum and Maxwell Palmer). *LSE USAPP Blog*, June 12, 2025.

"How Politicians can Draw Fairer Election Districts – the Same Way Parents Make Kids Fairly Split a Piece of Cake" (with Kevin DeLuca and Maxwell Palmer). *The Conversation*, February 20, 2024. Republished in *San Francisco Chronicle* and *Fast Company*.

"Drawing a Line." *Harvard Kennedy School Magazine*. Winter 2020.

"Drawing the Line on Gerrymandering." *HKS PolicyCast (Podcast)*, December 10, 2019.

"Are Divided Governments the Cause of Delays and Shutdowns?" *The Science of Politics (Podcast)*, January 2, 2019.

"Canvassers Tend to Seek Out Supporters Who Are Like Themselves, and That's Not Good for Political Participation" (with Clayton Nall and Daniel Carpenter). *LSE USAPP Blog*, November 1, 2017.

"How and Why Retired Politicians Get Lucrative Appointments on Corporate Boards" (with Maxwell Palmer). *The Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*, February 1, 2015.

Conferences & Presentations

2026: MPSA, UC-San Diego, USC (HPE and the United States), Notre Dame (Keeping the Republic), Notre Dame (Chambers of Democracy), Oxford, APSA, USC (Third Annual Historical Political Economy Conference)

2025: Stony Brook (EPOVB), Emory (PolMeth), University of Wisconsin, Boston University

2024: FSU (EPOVB), Yale, MPSA, APSA, USC (First Annual Historical Political Economy Conference), HKS (Faculty Seminar)

2023: FSU (EPOVB), MPSA, HKS PPol Faculty-Student Lunch

2022: Georgia State (Economics), Chicago Harris School (CEG American Politics), APSA, HKS Faculty Seminar

2021: Radcliffe Institute (Redistricting Algorithms, Law, and Policy), Metro Cities Council of the American Chamber of Commerce Executives, APSA

2020: HKS Faculty Seminar

2019: MPSA, Congress & History

2018: FSU (Colloquium), Congress & History, APSA, HKS

2017: Congress & History

2016: PolNet, APSA

2015: The Media Consortium, Boston University (Emerging Media Studies), MPSA, Iowa State, APSA, Harvard (Grad PE, APRW), Essex, Ohio State, Oberlin, NYU-Abu Dhabi, McGill, UC-Davis, USC, FSU

2014: Texas A&M, The Media Consortium, Radcliffe Institute (The Petition in North America), SPSA, MPSA, Harvard (APRW x2, Grad PE, PE), NYU (Alexander Hamilton Center for Political Economy), PolMeth (Poster Session), APSA, Tobin Project, UC-San Diego GPS, Cornell, Rochester

2013: Harvard (Grad PE), MPSA, The Media Consortium

2012: Harvard (APRW)

2011: Harvard (APRW)

Teaching

DPI 610: Data Science for Politics, Harvard Kennedy School, Spring 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2025, & Spring 2026.

API 202M/203M: Empirical Methods II, Harvard Kennedy School, Spring 2024, Spring 2025 & Spring 2026.

API 202M: Empirical Methods II, Harvard Kennedy School, Spring 2023.

API 202: Empirical Methods II, Harvard Kennedy School, Spring 2022.

DPI 308: Translating Public Opinion into Policy Action, Harvard Kennedy School, Spring 2019, Fall 2020 & Spring 2021.

Forecasting Elections in 2020 (Summer Engagement Session), Harvard Kennedy School, Summer 2020.

POS 3263: Political Elites and Representation, Florida State University, Spring 2018.

POS 4424: Legislative Systems, Florida State University, Spring 2017, Fall 2017 & Spring 2018.

POS 5427: Legislative Politics, Florida State University, Spring 2017.

POS 5045: National Government (American Politics Core), Florida State University, Fall 2017.

Gov 30: American Government, Professor Paul E. Peterson, Harvard University, Fall 2013 (TF).

Gov 1300: The Politics of Congress, Professor Stephen Ansolabehere, Harvard University, Spring 2013 (TF).

Gov 1359: The Road to the White House, Carlos Diaz Rosillo, Harvard University, Fall 2012 (TF).

Econ 101: Economic Policy Analysis, Anamaria Pieschacon, Stanford University, Fall 2009 & Winter 2010 (TA).

Past Employment

Research Assistant, Professor Gary King, Harvard University, 2011–2016.

Research Assistant, Professor Daniel Carpenter, Harvard University, 2011–2014.

Research Assistant, Professor Gavin Wright, Stanford University, 2008–2009.

Research Analyst, LECG LLC, 2006–2007.

Research Fellow, Professor Alison Morantz, Stanford Law School, 2005–2006, 2010.

Fellowships & Awards

Political Analysis SPM Miller Prize for the best work appearing in Political Analysis for "A Partisan Solution to Partisan Gerrymandering: The Define–Combine Procedure" (for papers published in 2024).

Political Behavior Best Paper Award for "Partisan Alignment Increases Voter Turnout: Evidence from Redistricting" (for papers published in 2022).

American Journal of Political Science Best Paper Award (co-winner) for "Paths of Recruitment: Rational Social Prospecting in Petition Canvassing" (for papers published in 2018).

Summer Institute, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences, 2017.

First Year Assistant Professor Grant, Florida State University, 2017.

Richard J. Herrnstein Prize, awarded by the Harvard Graduate School of Arts and Sciences for "a dissertation that exhibits excellent scholarship, originality and breadth of thought, and a commitment to intellectual independence," 2016.

GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University, 2015–2016.

Term Time Merit Fellowship, Graduate Society, Harvard University, 2014–2015.

Dissertation Research Fellowship for Study of the American Republic, Center for American Political Studies, Harvard University, 2014–2015.

Jeanne Humphrey Block Dissertation Award, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University, 2014–2015.

Graduate Research Grant, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University, 2014–2015.

Fellow, Democracy & Markets, Tobin Project, 2014–2015.

Graduate Fellowship, Harvard University, 2010–2016.

NSF Travel Grant, Annual Conference of the Society for Political Methodology, 2014.

Travel Grant, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University, 2013, 2014, 2015.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant, Stanford University, 2009–2010.

Phi Beta Kappa, 2005.

Dean's List, Columbia University, 2001–2005.

Other

Affiliations

Taubman Center for State and Local Government, Harvard Kennedy School

Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, Harvard Kennedy School

Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, Harvard Kennedy School

Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University

Center for American Political Studies (CAPS), Harvard University

Multidisciplinary Program in Inequality and Social Policy, Harvard University

Political Analysis Track, Ph.D. Program in Health Policy, Harvard University

Service

Track Leader, Politics and Institutions Track of Public Policy PhD, Harvard Kennedy School, 2024–Present

Co-Organizer, American Politics Speaker Series, Harvard Kennedy School, 2019–Present

PhD Admissions Committee, Politics and Institutions Track, Harvard Kennedy School, 2021–Present

DPI Junior American Politics Search Committee, Harvard Kennedy School, 2019–2020

Host, Faculty Research Seminar, Harvard Kennedy School, 2019, 2021

MPP Admissions Committee, Harvard Kennedy School, 2018–2019

Selected Consulting/Expert Witness

Georgia State Conference of the NAACP v. State of Georgia

Virginia Redistricting Commission (Voter Polarization Analysis, 2020s Redistricting Cycle)

Arizona Independent Redistricting Commission (2010s Redistricting Cycle)

New York Civil Liberties Union (*Hurrell-Harring et al. v. the State of New York*)

Other Projects/Cases: Illinois State Legislature (Redistricting), Texas (Voter ID)

Software Packages

R, Stata, SAS, Python, ArcGIS, LaTeX

References

Available upon request

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