

## Darrian Stacy

United States Naval Academy  
Department of Political Science  
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### Academic Appointments

#### **The United States Naval Academy, Annapolis, MD**

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, July 2021 - current

### Education

#### **Vanderbilt University, Nashville, TN**

Ph.D., Political Science, 2021

M.A., Political Science, 2021

*Certificate in College Teaching*; Vanderbilt University Center for Teaching, 2020

#### **The University of Georgia, Athens, GA**

B.A. Political Science, School of Public & Int'l Affairs, 2016 (*Magna Cum Laude*)

B.A. Philosophy, Franklin College of Arts & Sciences, 2016 (*Magna Cum Laude*)

### Dissertation: *Wealth and Political Inequality within the U.S. Congress*

**Committee:** Joshua Clinton (co-chair), Alan Wiseman (co-chair),  
Larry Bartels, Nicholas Carnes, Sharece Thrower

**Summary:** How does the wealth of members of Congress affect electoral politics and governance, and what are the implications of wealth inequality among elites for their behavior and opportunities for influence? By expanding and supplementing existing data, my dissertation begins by characterizing the patterns of wealth and economic inequality among members who are elected to the U.S. House of Representatives between 1980 and 2014. I show that, contrary to conventional wisdom, members of Congress are not always drawn from the highest economic strata, and members in the bottom quintile are far more similar to the average citizen (in terms of wealth) than they are to the average Representative. I then show the consequences of this inequality in terms of electoral strategies, legislative activities, and representation. Throughout the dissertation I show how personal resources and institutional arrangements help empower the wealthiest legislators at the expense of their less-wealthy peers. Specifically, I empirically demonstrate that, all else equal, the wealthiest members of the House seem more likely to be able to: raise more money for reelection, deter quality challengers, and be more effective in their lawmaking activities, relative to their less-wealthy peers. The relationships my dissertation uncovers provide insights into how the historical overrepresentation of the highest economic strata in government continues to shape political inequality in contemporary congresses, and why concerns about the consequences of economic inequality apply to elites, as well as the mass public.

## Research and Teaching Interests

American politics; political institutions; legislative politics; social class and economic inequality; bureaucracy; presidency; quantitative methods; causal inference; formal models and empirical testing

## Working Papers and Ongoing Projects

- “Wealth and Policymaking in the U.S. House of Representatives”
- “The Electoral Effects of Incumbent Wealth Revisited”
- “Try to See it My Way: The Process and Perils of ‘Coming Around’” (with Dan Alexander)
- “The Importance of Committee Assignments for Legislative Effectiveness” (with Craig Volden and Alan Wiseman)
- “Selling the Affordable Care Act: The Effects of Presidential Appeals on Public Compliance in the Digital Age” (with Spencer Hall)

## Grants & Awards

2020. J. Leiper Freeman Memorial Award

An award designated to support scholars studying American bureaucracy and legislatures.

2019, 2020. Vanderbilt University Graduate School Conference Travel Grant

2015. Center for Undergraduate Research Opportunities at the University of Georgia Grant

## Invited Talks & Conference Presentations

“Wealth and Policymaking in the U.S. House of Representatives.”

- Paper presented at:
  - The New Perspectives and New Questions in Legislative Studies Conference at American University, April 2021.
  - The Emerging Issues in Political Science Speaker Series at the University of Georgia, October 2020.
  - The 2020 APSA Conference, September 2020.

“Try to See it My Way: The Process and Perils of ‘Coming Around’.”

Paper presented at:

- The 2021 MPSA Conference, April 2021.
- The 2021 SPSA Conference, January 2021.
- The Society of Institutional and Organizational Economics Conference, June 2020.

“The Importance of Committee Assignments for Legislative Effectiveness.” Paper presented at the 2019 MPSA Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2020.

- Also a discussant for the Party Power, Representation, and Competition session

## Teaching Experience

- 2021. U.S. Government and Constitutional Development (Instructor)
- 2021. Public Administration, Prof. David E. Lewis (TA)
- 2019. Statistics III: Causal Inference, Prof. Bradley Smith (TA)
- 2018. Introduction to American Law, Prof. Carrie Russell (TA)
- 2017. Mass Media and American Politics, Prof. Suzanne Globetti (TA)
- 2016. U.S. Elections, Profs. Bruce Oppenheimer, Joshua Clinton, Jon Meacham, John Geer (TA)

## Research Assistantships

### Vanderbilt University

- Fall 2017- 2021. Sharece Thrower
- Spring 2020. Joshua Clinton
- Summer 2017. Alan Wiseman and the Center for Effective Lawmaking

### The University of Georgia

- 2015-2016. Michael Lynch and the UGA Congress Project
- 2014-2015. Anthony Madonna and the UGA Congress Project

## Professional Service

- 2021-2023. *Faculty Affiliate*; Center for Effective Lawmaking
- 2020-2021. *Graduate Fellow*; Scholars Strategy Network, Tennessee chapter
- 2020-2021. *Mentor*; TN Achieves, Tennessee College Scholarship and Mentorship
- 2018-2019. *Graduate Advisor*; TN Intercollegiate State Legislature, Vanderbilt University
- 2018-2019. *Program Co-chair*; Project Development Forum for Graduate Students
- 2017-2018. *Executive Secretary*; Vanderbilt Political Science Graduate Student Association
- 2017-2021. *Graduate Affiliate*; Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions
- 2017-2021. *Graduate Affiliate*; Center for Effective Lawmaking

## Professional Memberships

- American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association