

July 2018

# Christopher F. Kulesza

Department of Political Science  
Purdue University  
West Lafayette, IN

Email: ckulesza@purdue.edu  
Office: 2233 Beering Hall  
Phone: (248) 990-4317

---

## Education

**Ph.D. Political Science-** Purdue University (Expected August 2018)

*Fields:* Major- American Politics, Minors: Public Policy, Social Psychology

*Dissertation:* The Effects of Campaign Finance Law on Donations  
to State Legislative Campaigns

*Committee:* Eric N. Waltenburg (Chair), Nadia E. Brown, Christopher Witko,  
and James A. McCann

Dissertation Abstract: Donors influence state policy development through campaign contributions to legislative candidates. To curb this influence, states rely on disclosure requirements, campaign contribution limits, and public finance laws to restrain campaign contributions in elections. I argue that donors do not share the same motivations in providing campaign contributions to state legislators. For example, business interest groups seek to build long-term relationships, while ideologically leaning groups hope to elect like-minded candidates. I examine the effectiveness of campaign finance laws to regulate donations to state legislative candidates. I find that the success of campaign contribution law is dependent upon the motivations of the group providing contributions. Using data on 65,928 legislative candidates from 1999-2014, I show that disclosure requirements, contribution limits, and public finance laws have very different effects on state legislative campaign contribution patterns based on their source. These findings have important policy implications as we seek out ways to reform campaign finance regulations.

**M.S. Psychology-** Purdue University, December 2014

**M.A. Political Science-** Purdue University, May 2012

**B.A. Economics-** Michigan State University, May 2010

**B.A. Political Science-** Michigan State University, May 2010

## Research Interests

---

*American Politics:* State Government, Local Government, Campaign Finance Law, Constitutional Law, Legislative Behavior, Higher Education Governance, Political Economy.

## Teaching Interests

---

Intro American Politics, Intro Public Policy, State and Local Politics, Judicial Politics, Congress, the U.S. Presidency, Campaigns and Elections, Political Parties, Political Psychology, Constitutional Law, Research Methods.

## Peer Reviewed Publications

---

Kulesza, Christopher, Christopher Witko, and Eric Waltenburg. 2016. "Reform Interrupted? State Innovation, Court Decisions and the Past and Future of Campaign Finance Reform in the States". *Election Law Journal: Rules, Politics, and Policy*. June, 15(2): 143-159.

Kulesza, Christopher F., Michael G. Miller, and Christopher Witko. 2017. "State Responses to U.S. Supreme Court Campaign Finance Decisions." *Publius*. Summer, 47(3): 467-490.

## Peer Reviewed Scholarship of Teaching and Learning

---

Katie Cahill-Rincón, Michael Brownstein, Amanda Burke, Christopher Kulesza, and James McCann. 2015. "Social Science Mechanics: A Graduate Training Module that 'Looks Under the Hood' at Innovative Research Designs". *PS: Political Science and Politics*, April 48(2): 373-377.

## Law Review Publications

---

Kulesza, Christopher and Clifford Fisher. 2018. "*Independence Institute v. Williams*, The Tenth Circuit Proper Ruling of Colorado's Disclosure Law and Increased Flexibility in State Disclosure Law." *Creighton Law Review* June 51(3): 487-512.

## In Preparation

---

Kulesza, Christopher. "Term Limits and Their Effects on Interest Group Campaign Contributions."

Kulesza, Christopher, Wu Kuan-Sheng, Walter Schostak, and Eric Waltenburg. "A Relational-Based Measure of State Legislator Consequence."

## Working Papers

---

Kulesza, Christopher. "The Courts and the Changing Nature of State Disclosure Requirements."

Kulesza, Christopher. "The Effects of Disclosure Law on Campaign Contributions in the States."

Kulesza, Christopher. "When Candidates Reject Donations. Why Campaign Contributions are Turned Down in State Legislative Races."

## Research Experience

---

Research Assistant- Dr. Bryce Reeder (September 2015-April 2016).

Research Assistant- Dr. Eric Waltenburg (June 2018-Present).

## Conference Papers

---

Kulesza, Christopher, Wu Kuan-Sheng, Walter Schostak, and Eric Waltenburg. 2018 “A Relational-Based Measure of State Legislator Consequence.” *Southern Political Science Association Conference*.

Kulesza, Christopher, Clifford Fisher, and Sut Sakchut. 2017. “*Independence Institute v. Williams*, The Tenth Circuit Proper Ruling of Colorado’s Disclosure Law and Increased Flexibility in State Disclosure Law. A Case Note and Commentary.” *Loyola Constitutional Law Colloquium*.

Kulesza, Christopher. 2016. “Campaign Finance Law Stringency and Contributions in the American State Legislatures.” *Midwest Political Science Association Conference*.

Kulesza, Christopher. 2015. “The Case Against Specialization at Purdue University and Indiana University.” *Midwest Political Science Association Conference*.

Kulesza, Christopher and Matt Dabros. 2015. “The Changing Nature of Special Interest Contributions in Term Limited State Legislatures.” *Midwest Political Science Association Conference*.

Kulesza, Christopher, Christopher Witko and Eric N. Waltenburg. 2015. “Reform Interrupted? State Innovation, Court Decisions and the Past and Future of Campaign Finance Reform in the States.” *State Politics and Policy Conference*.

Kulesza, Christopher. 2014. “Political Trust and Divided Government.” *Midwest Political Science Association Conference*.

Kulesza, Christopher and Matt Dabros. 2014. “When Experience Doesn’t Pay: Term Limits, Campaign Contributions, and Productivity in the American State Legislatures.” *Midwest Political Science Association Conference*.

Brownstein, Michael, Amanda Burke, Katie Cahill, Christopher Kulesza, Jay McCann (Alphabetical Order). 2013. Social Science Mechanics: A Graduate Training Module that “Looks under the Hood” at Innovative Research Designs.” *APSA Teaching and Learning Conference*.

Kulesza, Christopher. 2013. “Land Grant Gone Wrong: The Problem with Higher Education Specialization.” *Indiana Political Science Association Conference*.

Wiest, Sara, Eric N. Waltenburg, and Christopher Kulesza. 2012. "If Justice Is for Sale, Who's Buying?" *Midwest Political Science Association Conference*.

Wiest, Sara, Christopher Kulesza and Eric N. Waltenburg. 2011. "Where Does the Money Come From? An Exploration of the Nature of Contributors to State Judicial Elections." *Midwest Political Science Association Conference*.

## **Teaching Experience**

---

Adjunct Faculty "POLS Y103: Introduction to American Government", Department of Political Science, Indiana University-Purdue University Indianapolis (Fall 2017, Spring 2018).

Instructor of Record "POL 372 Y: Indiana State Politics, Online", Department of Political Science, Purdue University (Summer 2014, Summer 2015).

Instructor of Record "POL 120 Y: Introduction to Public Policy, Online", Department of Political Science, Purdue University (Fall 2013, Spring 2014, Fall 2014, Spring 2015, Summer 2016, Summer 2017).

Instructor of Record "POL 120: Introduction to Public Policy", Department of Political Science, Purdue University (Fall 2012, Spring 2013, Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017).

Instructor of Record "POL 101: Introduction to American Politics", Department of Political Science, Purdue University (Summer 2012).

Teaching Assistant "POL 237: Modern Weapons and International Relations", Professor Keith Shimko, Department of Political Science, Purdue University (Fall 2011).

Teaching Assistant "POL 101: Introduction to American Politics", Professor Glenn Parker, Department of Political Science, Purdue University (Spring 2012).

Purdue Intercollegiate Athletics- Tutor for Student Athletes in Comparative Politics and Public Policy (August 2015-August 2016).

## **Other Presentations**

---

Kulesza, Christopher. 2013. "Demographic Shifts and Political Change in Wisconsin and Michigan." PIRCAT, Purdue Political Science Department.

Kulesza, Christopher. 2013. "Using Feedback, Discussion and 'Guest Lecturers' in Distance Learning." Purdue Political Science Department.

## **Professional Membership**

---

American Political Science Association  
Midwest Political Science Association  
Southern Political Science Association

## **Professional Development**

---

Purdue University Center for Instructional Excellence Graduate Teaching Certificate Program (September 2017).  
Collaborative IRB Training Initiative Certification (November 2010).  
Graduate School Academic Integrity Workshop- Purdue University (October 2010).

## **Reviewer Experience**

---

Politics, Groups and Identities, (Western Political Science Association, publisher Taylor & Francis).

## **Select Purdue University and Community Service**

---

President- West Lafayette Historic Preservation Commission (August 2015-Present).  
Commissioner- West Lafayette Historic Preservation Commission (March 2013-Present).  
President- Purdue Graduate Student Government (April 2012-April 2013, March 2014-March 2015).  
Vice President for External Affairs- Purdue Graduate Student Government (March 2013-March 2014, March 2016-April 2017).  
Chair- PGSG Grant Review and Allocations Committee (April 2015-March 2016).  
Vice President- West Lafayette Historic Preservation Commission (January 2014-August 2015).  
Member- Purdue University Graduate Council (April 2012-April 2013, April 2014-April 2015).  
Member- Purdue University Senate (April 2012-December 2012, April 2013-December 2013, April 2014-Present).  
Commissioner- East Lansing Historic District Commission (February 2008- August 2010).  
Vice Chair- East Lansing Historic District Commission (January 2010-August 2010).  
Co-President- Purdue Political Science Graduate Student Association (August 2010-April 2011).  
Member- Social Science Mechanics Workshop Committee (October 2011-April 2012).  
Member- Greater Lafayette Holocaust Remembrance Committee (April 2016-Present).

## **Honors, Awards, and Recognitions**

---

Purdue University Bilsland Dissertation Fellowship- A competitive fellowship that provides support to outstanding Ph.D. candidates in their final year of degree completion (2017).

Purdue University Political Science Department Outstanding Independent Instructor Award- Given by Political Science faculty to one graduate student per academic year for demonstrating excellence in classroom instruction (2016).

Purdue University Political Science Summer Dissertation Fellowship- Competitive fellowship provided by Political Science faculty to graduate students to conduct work on dissertation during the summer semester (2016).

Ross Fellowship- Four-year fellowship for the recruitment of outstanding, Ph.D.-track students to graduate programs (2010).

Purdue College of Liberal Arts PROMISE Travel Grant- \$750 (2017).

Purdue College of Liberal Arts PROMISE Travel Grant- \$270 (2015).

Purdue Graduate Student Government Conference Travel Grant- \$994 (2015).

Purdue Graduate Student Government Professional Grant- \$100 (2014).

Purdue Graduate Student Government Student Organization Grant- \$1000, With Katie Cahill Rincón, (2012).

Social Science Mechanics Seminar Recognition (SSM)- Purdue Political Science Department- Given to graduate students who organized SSM. Our research on learning outcomes from SSM resulted in a publication in *PS: Political Science and Politics* (2012).

Member- Pi Sigma Alpha, Political Science Honor Society (April 2010).

Michigan Legislature Outstanding Intern Rosenthal Award Nominee (April 2008).

TippyConnect Top 10 Professionals Under 40 Nominee (June 2018).

## References

---

Dr. Eric N. Waltenburg  
Professor  
Purdue University  
Department of Political  
Science 100 N University St.  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
ewaltenb@purdue.edu (765) 494-6309

Dr. Christopher Witko  
Associate Professor  
University of South Carolina  
Department of Political Science  
817 Henderson St.  
Columbia, SC 20208  
WitkoC@mailbox.sc.edu (803) 777-4547

Dr. James A. McCann  
Professor  
Purdue University  
Department of Political  
Science 100 N University St.  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
mccannj@purdue.edu (765) 494-0738

Dr. Nadia E. Brown  
Associate Professor  
Purdue University  
Department of Political  
Science 100 N University St.  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
Brown957@purdue.edu (765) 494-0460

Dr. Thomas W. Atkinson  
Associate Dean of the Graduate School  
Purdue University  
Graduate School  
155 S. Grant Street  
West Lafayette, IN 47907  
tatkinson@purdue.edu (765) 494-2600