

EDUCATIONAL HISTORY:

Ph.D. June 2004. University of California, Davis. Davis, CA. Political Science.
Fields: American Politics, Comparative Politics, Methodology.

B.A. December 1997. California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo. San
Obispo, CA. Political Science.

Dissertation Title

On Washington Time: The Allocation of Legislative Time in the House of Representatives
(Advisors: *Brian Sala, chair; James Spriggs; Benjamin Highton; Walter Stone*)

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY:

Assistant Professor. August 2005 – present. University of New Mexico, Department
Science, Albuquerque, NM.

Instructor. June 2004 – July 2005. University of California, Davis. Department of Political
Science, Davis, CA

PROFESSIONAL HONORS:

Western Political Science Association Best Paper Award on Latino/Latino Politics, 2008

Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award, Nominee, University of New Mexico, 2008

Gunter Starkey Teaching Award, Nominee, University of New Mexico, 2007

Mortar Board Faculty Appreciation Award, Nominee, University of New Mexico, 2007

Excellence in Teaching Award, Finalist, University of California, Davis 2005

Excellence in Teaching Award, Finalist, College of Letters and Sciences, UC Davis, 2005

Teaching Award for Outstanding Graduate Student, UC Davis, 2003

Marvin Zetterbaum Teaching Award, UC Davis Political Science Department, 2003

STATEMENTS OF RESEARCH, TEACHING AND SERVICE INTERESTS

Research Interests

My research is in the subfield of American Politics, with an emphasis on the United States Congress. More specifically, I focus on position taking in Congress. I address questions such as, who sponsors legislation and why? Who engages in floor debates and why? And what is the value of such activities? I have two publications in *Political Research Quarterly* which examine the determinants of “non-roll call” position taking in Congress and the value of such behavior. Another was published in *American Research Quarterly* (July, 2007) which addresses who participates in “non-legislative debate” and why. Furthermore, I use original data to examine legislators’ response to the Iraq War in 2003 in a paper co-authored with Professor Mark Peceny. I have also incorporated my interest in congressional position taking into a research program dealing with minority representation in Congress. I have published three articles – co-authored with Assistant Professor Gabriel Sanchez and others – which examine minorities’ voting and non-roll call behavior. Two have appeared in *Social Sciences Quarterly* and *American Politics Research*, respectively, and another is forthcoming in *Political Research Quarterly*. Two related papers have received R&Rs at *Political Research Quarterly* (on the mobility of minorities in Congress) and *Legislative Studies Quarterly* (on the legislative effectiveness of minorities in Congress). The former paper won the Western Political Science Association’s Best Paper Award on Latino/Latino Politics in 2008. I have a forthcoming work in *PS: Political Science and Politics* which investigates congressional voting on Darfur, have received an R&R at *Congress and the Presidency* for a paper investigating presidential support in Congress following 9/11, submitted a co-authored paper to *American Political Science Review* on campaigns effects and minorities and am finishing a Pew funded project examining New Mexico’s 2008 elections. Finally, I am putting the finishing touches on a co-authored paper investigating confirmation votes in the Senate, which I intend to submit to a first-tier journal this summer.

Teaching Interests:

Thus far I have taught four sections of American Presidency (PS 312), five sections of the Introduction to American Politics (PS 200), two sections of The Legislative Process (PS 311), and American Politics seminars at the graduate level (PS 510, 512) and undergraduate levels (PS 496). Enrollment levels in each of the courses are high, and I receive very strong evaluations from students in all of my classes. In each class I have been placed in the top ten percent of both the department and the campus-wide evaluation scores. My mean instructor global score for each class has been 5.9 out of 6. I also serve as faculty advisor to student clubs, have written student recommendations for a variety of internships, scholarships and graduate schools, facilitate a number of independent studies and have been a professor in the Fred Harris Congressional Internship Program since Fall semester of 2006. I have also been nominated for several teaching awards, including last year’s Outstanding Teacher of the Year Award.

Service Interests:

Since Fall of 2005, I have served as a liaison for the Political Science Department to the university library, served as the department’s undergraduate and executive committees and was recently named colloquium chair. I also serve on the organizational and selection committee for the Fred Harris Congressional Internship Program, I chair a Political Science graduate student’s dissertation committee (John Todsén), have reviewed articles for numerous journals including the *Journal of Politics*, *American Political Science Review* and *American Journal of Political Science* and chaired

panels at professional conferences. Finally, I continue to mentor a number of honors undergraduates and graduate students.

SCHOLARLY ACHIEVEMENTS:

Articles in Refereed Journals:

Michael S. Rocca. "9/11 and Presidential Support in the 107th Congress." *Congress and the Presidency*. Final acceptance July 16, 2008. Probable publication date TBA.

Michael S. Rocca, Gabriel Sanchez and Joseph Uscinski. "Congressional Behavior and Darfur." *PS: Political Science and Politics*, 25 pages. Final acceptance October 1, 2008. Probable publication date TBA.

Michael S. Rocca and Stacy Gordon. "The Position Taking Value of Bill Sponsorship in Congress." *Political Research Quarterly*, 33 pages. Final acceptance July 11, 2008. Probable publication date Dec 2009.

Michael S. Rocca, Gabriel Sanchez and Rongal Nikora. "The Role of Personal Attributes in African-American Roll-Call Voting Behavior." *Political Research Quarterly* **62: 408-414. 2009.**

Michael S. Rocca and Gabriel Sanchez. "The Effect of Race and Ethnicity on Bill Sponsorship and Cosponsorship in Congress." *American Politics Research* 36: 130-152. 2008.

Michael S. Rocca, Gabriel Sanchez and Joseph Uscinski. "Personal Attributes and Latino Voting Behavior in Congress." *Social Sciences Quarterly* 89: 392-405. 2008.

Michael S. Rocca. "Non-Legislative Debate in the House of Representatives." *American Politics Research* 35: 489-505. 2007.

Michael S. Rocca and Benjamin Highton. "Beyond the Roll Call Arena: The Determinants of Position Taking in Congress." *Political Research Quarterly* 58: 303-316. 2005.

Michael S. Rocca. "Military Base Closures and the 1996 Congressional Elections." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 28: 529-550. 2003.

Book Chapters:

Michael S. Rocca, Lonna Rae Atkeson, Yann Kerevel and Lisa Bryant. "The 2008 New Mexico Elections." In *The Change Election: Money, Mobilization, and Persuasion in the 2008 Federal Elections*, ed. David B. Magleby. Provo, UT: Center for the Study of Elections and Democracy. 2009.

Other Writings:

"One-Minute Speeches," "Special Order Addresses," and "Debate and Oratory." In *Encyclopedia of the United States Congress*, Robert Dewhirst, editor. 2005. New York: Facts on File.

"The Electoral College." In *Encyclopedia of American Government and Civics*, Michael A.

Genovese and Lori C. Han, editors. 2008. New York: Facts on File.

Works in Progress:

Articles submitted for publication in refereed journals:

Michael S. Rocca, Gabriel Sanchez and Jason Morin. "The Institutional Mobility of Minorities in Congress." *Political Research Quarterly*, 40 pages. Received revise and resubmit October 21, 2008.

Michael S. Rocca and Gabriel Sanchez. "Legislative Effectiveness of Latinos in Congress." *Legislative Studies Quarterly*. 34 pages. Received revise and resubmit December 11, 2008.

Ryan L. Claassen and Michael S. Rocca. "Prime Time: Race, Ethnicity and the Structure of Vote Choice." *The Journal of Politics*, 42 pages. Submitted for publication August 8, 2008.

Articles in preparation:

Stephen Routh and Michael S. Rocca. "The Calculus of Confirmation: A Study of the Determinants of Senate Roll Call Voting on Presidential Appointments, 1977-1996." To be submitted to refereed journals Fall 2009.

Michael S. Rocca, Gabriel Sanchez and Angelina Gonzalez-Aller. "The Substantive Effect of Congressional Earmarks: The Case of Health Spending." To be submitted to refereed journals Spring 2010.

Michael S. Rocca and Stacy Gordon. "Campaign Contributions and Congressional Earmarks in the 110th Congress." To be submitted to refereed journals Spring 2010.

Michael S. Rocca and Mark Peceny. "Rally Killers? Congressional Response to Presidential Action During the Iraq War." To be submitted to refereed journals Spring 2009.

Books manuscripts in preparation

Michael Rocca and Gabriel R. Sanchez. *Explaining Latino Congressional Behavior*. Book proposal being prepared for submission to academic presses.

Presentations at Professional Meetings:

"The 2008 New Mexico Congressional and Presidential Races." Presentation the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2-5, 2009.

"The Calculus of Confirmation: A Study of the Determinants of Senate Roll Call Voting on Presidential Appointments, 1977-1996." Presentation the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 2-5, 2009.

- “Presidential Support in Congress Following 9/11.” Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA August 27-31, 2008.
- “The Position Taking Value of Bill Sponsorship in Congress” (with Stacy Gordon). Presented at the Western Political Science Association Meeting, San Diego, CA March 19-22, 2008.
- “Rally Killers? Congressional Response to Presidential Action during the Iraq War” (with Mark Peceny). Presented at the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL August 30 – September 2, 2007.
- “The Institutional Mobility of Minorities in Congress” (with Gabriel Sanchez and Jason Morin). Presented at the Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, Nevada March 8-10, 2007.
- “Legislative Effectiveness of Latinos in Congress” (with Gabriel Sanchez). Presented at the Southwestern Political Science Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico March 15-17, 2007.
- “Descriptive Attributes and Black Legislators’ Voting in Congress” (with Gabriel Sanchez and Ron Nikora). Presented at the Southwestern Political Science Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico March 15-17, 2006.
- “Descriptive Attributes and Latino Voting Behavior in Congress” (with Gabriel Sanchez and Joe Uscinski). Presented at the Western Political Science Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico March 16-18, 2006.
- “Protecting Your Base: Congressional Parties and Military Base Closures.” Presented at the Western Political Science Association, Albuquerque, New Mexico March 16-18, 2006.
- “The Value of Position Taking in Congress.” Presented at the Western Political Science Association, Oakland, CA March 17-19, 2005.
- “Critics’ Corner: Going Negative During Non-Legislative Debate in the House of Representatives.” Presented at the Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR March 11-13, 2004.
- “Showtime: Policy Oriented Non-Legislative Debate in the House of Representatives.” Presented at the American Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA August 28-31, 2003.
- “Wicked Messengers: Floor Debate in the House of Representatives.” Presented with Brian Sala and David Greenwald at the Western Political Science Association Conference, Denver, CO March 27-31, 2003.
- “Instant Messages: Non-Legislative Debate in the House of Representatives.” Presented at the American Political Science Association Conference, Boston, MA August 29 – September 1, 2002.

“Military Base Closures and the 1996 Congressional Elections.” Presented at the American Political Science Association Conference, San Francisco, CA August 30 – Sept 1, 2001.

RESEARCH FUNDING:

Faculty Consultant, 2008 Federal Elections, Pew Charitable Trusts Research Allocation Grant

University of New Mexico 2005-2006

TEACHING:

Doctoral Advisement:

Chair, John Todsén, Ph.D. expected Fall 2008.

Graduate Student Mentoring:

Yann Kerevel, Fall 2008 – present. Co-authorship of chapter manuscript.

Ron Nikora, Spring 2007 – present. Co-authorship of article manuscript.

Jason Morin, Fall 2006 – present. Co-authorship of article manuscript.

Ron Nikora, Lisa Bryant and Jason Morin, Directed Reading, Fall 2007. American Political Parties

Bachelor's Honors Advisement:

Joseph Dworak, 2008-2009. Seniors Honors Thesis on 2008 Presidential Election.

Lisa Sanchez, 2008-2009. Senior Honors Thesis on Religion in Congress.

Angelina Gonzalez-Aller, Spring 2008. Senior Honors Thesis on Health Policy in Congress.

Dee Baker, Spring 2008. Senior Honors Thesis on Race and Congressional Voting.

Shannon Kindilien, Spring 2007. Senior Honors Thesis on Presidential Rally Effects.

Christopher Atencio, Spring 2007. Senior Honors Thesis on Redistricting and Elections in NM.

Undergraduate Student Mentoring:

Zoe Riebli, Fall 2009. Independent Study on the Legislative Process.

Awesta Sarkash, Fall 2009. Independent Study on Scandal in American Politics.

Alex Eubanks, Fall 2009. Independent Study on Polarization in America.

Lisa Sanchez, Spring 2008. McNair Research Thesis on Religion in Congress.

Angelina Gonzalez-Aller, Spring 2008. McNair Research Thesis on Health Policy in Congress.

Dee Baker, Spring 2008. McNair Research Thesis on Race and Congressional Voting.

Brian Plauche, Spring 2008. Independent Study on the Congressional Appropriations Process.

Ryan Woodard, Fall 2007. Independent Study on Elections and Scandals in Congress.

Dina Gilio, Fall 2007. Independent Study on Native American Representation in Congress

Dustin Taylor, Spring 2007. Independent Study on Congress and the Electoral Connection.

Idalia Lechuga-Tena, Fall 2006. Independent Study on Latino Politics and Immigration Reform.

Angelina Lee Gonzalez-Aller, Fall 2006. Independent Study on the Politics of Energy Policy.

Classroom Teaching:

Fall 2009, *PS 496: Seminar in American Politics*, 5 undergraduate DC interns.

Fall 2009, *PS 510: Seminar in American Politics*, 20 undergraduate and graduate students.

Fall 2009, *PS 200: American Politics*, 65 undergraduate students.

Spring 2009, *PS 200: American Politics*, 120 undergraduate students.

Spring 2009, *PS 312: American Presidency*, 45 undergraduate students.

Spring 2009, *PS 496: Seminar in American Politics*, 5 undergraduate DC interns.

Spring 2008, *PS 312: American Presidency*, 50 undergraduate students.

Spring 2008, *PS 512: Seminar in the Legislative Process*, 10 graduate students.

Spring 2008, *PS 496: Seminar in American Politics*, 5 undergraduate DC interns.

Fall 2007, *PS 496: Seminar in American Politics*, 4 undergraduate DC interns.

Fall 2007, *PS 311: The Legislative Process*, 50 undergraduate students.

Fall 2007, *PS 200: American Politics*, 120 undergraduate students.

Spring 2007, *PS 496: Seminar in American Politics*, 5 undergraduate DC interns.

Spring 2007, *PS 200: American Politics*, 85 undergraduate students.

Spring 2007, *PS 311: The Legislative Process*, 48 undergraduate students.

Fall 2006, *PS 496: Seminar in American Politics*, 5 undergraduate DC interns.

Fall 2006, *PS 510: Seminar in American Politics*, 26 undergraduate and graduate students.

Fall 2006, *PS 200: American Politics*, 60 undergraduate students.

Spring 2006, *PS 312: American Presidency*, 58 undergraduate students.

Fall 2005, *PS 312: American Presidency*, 62 undergraduate students.

Fall 2005, *PS 200: American Politics*, 40 undergraduate students.

SERVICE:

Committees:

Executive Committee, Department of Political Science, 2007-2008

Undergraduate Committee, Department of Political Science, Spring 2008 –

Working Group for Institute of Public Policy, Department of Political Science, Summer 2006

Steering Committee for Institute of Public Policy, Department of Political Science, 2006 –

Member, Organizational and Selection Committee, Fred Harris Congressional Internship Program, 2005 –

Other:

Colloquium Chair, Department of Political Science, 2008-2010.

UNM Library Liaison, Department of Political Science, 2005 –

Faculty Advisor for UNM student group, The National Society of Collegiate Scholars, Spring 2007 –

Faculty Advisor for UNM student group, Students for Bill and Diane, Fall 2005 – Spring 2006

Faculty Advisor for UNM student group, Students for Madrid, Spring 2006 – Summer 2007

Faculty Advisor for UNM student group, Students for Ron Paul, Fall 2007 –

Faculty Advisor for UNM student group, Lobo Conservatives, Fall 2007 –

Faculty Advisor for UNM student group, Students for Barack Obama, Fall 2007 –

Faculty Advisor for UNM student group, Planning for College Success, Fall 2007 –

Conferences:

Chair, “Legislative Deliberation and Debate” panel at the American Political Science Association annual meeting, Boston, MA September 27-31, 2008.

Chair, “Comparative Legislative Politics” panel at the Western Political Science Association annual meeting, San Diego, CA March 19 – March 22, 2008.

Chair, “Polarization, Realignment and Partisan Change” panel at the American Political Science Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL, August 30 – September 2, 2007.

Journal Reviews:

Congress and the Presidency, 2009

Politics and Policy, 2008

American Journal of Political Science, 2008

American Political Science Review, 2007

Journal of Politics, 2007, 2008, 2009

Political Research Quarterly, 2007

Legislative Studies Quarterly, 2008

American Politics Research, 2006, 2008, 2009

Social Sciences Quarterly, 2008

Invited Presentations and Media Appearances:

Presenter, “The Change Election” press event, Washington, DC June 2009.

Presenter, “The Electoral College” press briefing for Foreign Press, November 2008.

Panelist, “Politics, Press and the Crisis” for UNM Law School’s “What Caused the Financial Crisis” Teach-In, October 2008.

Panelist, “The Youth Vote and Racial Dynamics” for the UNM Civil Rights Symposium, September 2008.

Panelist, “The November Elections, The New Congress and Iraq” campus-wide panel sponsored by Office for Policy, Security and Technology and Institution for Public Policy, January 2006

KNME “The Line,” Presidential race analysis, June 2007

KNME “The Line,” Live election night analysis, November 2006

KNME “In Focus,” 2006 Election analysis, November 2006