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Education

Ph.D., Political Science
University of Rochester, expected May 2018
Fields: International Relations, Comparative Politics, Methods

M.A., Political Science
University of Rochester, October 2009

B.A., *summa cum laude*, International Relations, Economics (double major)
New York University, May 2006

Dissertation

“Three Essays on Domestic Institutions and Foreign Direct Investment”
Committee: Professors Randall Stone (chair), Henk Goemans, and Kevin Clarke

- *“The Effects of Federalism and Decentralization on the Business Environment for Foreign Direct Investment”*: I argue that subnational autonomy deters foreign investors because it decreases the stability of the policy environment. Data analysis using World Bank Enterprise Surveys finds that in federal and decentralized countries, firms are less likely to report that government officials interpret laws and regulations in a predictable and consistent manner. Bilateral investment treaties (BITs) improve firm perceptions, but only in unitary and centralized countries, because only the national government is effectively constrained.
- *“Can Rational Choice Explain Bilateral Investment Treaties? How Lack of Legal Capacity Affects BIT Signing”*: I find that federal and decentralized countries are more likely to become embroiled in disputes with investors under the BITs that they have signed, but that only countries that have high levels of legal capacity adjust to this increased risk by signing fewer BITs.
- *“How Regime Type Conditions the Effects of Judicial Independence on Delegation to International Arbitration”*: This paper studies how developing countries with institutional disadvantages use domestic legal commitments to promote FDI, and how this differs by regime type. In democratic countries, a decrease in judicial independence level is associated with lower FDI inflows, and countries facing this problem respond by being more likely to adopt laws that provide investors with the option of international arbitration. These effects are not found in autocratic countries.

Teaching Experience

As Instructor (University of Rochester)
PSC 161: Introduction to International Politics (Summer 2012, Summer 2014)
IR 229: International Political Economy (Fall 2013)

As Teaching Assistant (University of Rochester)
PSC 104: Introduction to Political Philosophy (Fall 2008, Spring 2010)
PSC 106: Introduction to International Relations (Spring 2009)
PSC 101: Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2009)

Conference Presentations American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2009, 2016)
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (2010, 2012, 2016, 2017)
International Studies Association Annual Convention (2016)

Research Assistantships Professor Mark Kayser, University of Rochester (2008)
Professor Randall Stone, University of Rochester (2011-2012)

Fellowships University Fellowship, University of Rochester (2006-2012)
Charles E. Lanni Research Fellowship, University of Rochester (2008)
Second Year Paper Fellowship, University of Rochester (2008)

Professional Affiliations American Political Science Association (2009-)
Midwest Political Science Association (2010-)
International Studies Association (2016-)
Peter D. Watson Center for Conflict and Cooperation (2006-)

References

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