

# Christopher D. DeSante

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## Academic Appointments

INDIANA UNIVERSITY — BLOOMINGTON, IN  
*Associate Professor of Political Science*  
*Assistant Professor of Political Science*

July 2020 – Present  
August 2013 – June 2020

OBERLIN COLLEGE — OBERLIN, OH  
*Visiting Assistant Professor of Politics*

August 2012 - June 2013

## Education

DUKE UNIVERSITY — DURHAM, NC  
*Ph.D.*, Political Science, 2012.  
*Certificate*, Advanced Statistical & Quantitative Methods, 2011

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY — NASHVILLE, TN  
*M.A.*, Social and Political Thought, 2007  
*M.A.*, Political Science, 2006

ALLEGHENY COLLEGE — MEADVILLE, PA  
*B.A.*, Philosophy and Political Science, 2005  
*Magna Cum Laude*, Honors in Political Science, College Cornerstone Award

## Published Work

### Books

1. Christopher D. DeSante **Boiling Point: How Global Warming Fuels Polarization in America**. *Under Review for an advanced contract with Cambridge University Press*, August 2024.  
**Summary:** Using 130 years of data from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA), I have tracked and computed the change in the mean monthly temperature of Congressional district polygons for U.S. Congressional Districts going back over forty years and five different redistricting cycles. Comparing the average change in temperature for each polygon using a robust variety of methods, I find compelling evidence that 1) citizens who live in districts that are warming more have a greater concern for climate change; 2) that members of Congress who represent those districts appear to be more pro-environment in their roll call votes, and 3) that districts represented by Democrats have experienced greater relative shifts in temperature as we measure it. I take this as strong evidence that Americans are paying attention to their local climate, that legislators are responding to district-level climate change, and that Democratic districts are warming more quickly due to their concentration inside urban areas.
2. Christopher D. DeSante **Learning Statistics: A Meta-Pedagogical Approach**. *Under Review at Pearson and Sage*, August 2024.  
**Summary:** An introduction to statistics textbook written with specific attention paid to the metacognition of students inside the college classroom. Using data and examples from not just political science and learning science research, the book includes data related to the mental health

outcomes of today's high school and college students with particular attention to "math anxiety," clinical depression and anxiety, and attitudes about education. The book covers an introduction to data science in R from basic summary statistics to multivariate regression and limited dependent variables estimated via maximum likelihood. The book is currently being printed at IU's printshop for use in my two semester undergraduate statistics sequence (Fall 2024, Spring 2025) while it is under review for publication.

3. Christopher D. DeSante and Candis W. Smith, **Racial Stasis: The Millennial Generation and the Stagnation of Racial Attitudes in American Politics**. *The University of Chicago Press*, 2020.

### Peer-Reviewed Articles

Andrew M. Bell, Christopher D. DeSante, Thomas Gift, and Candis Watts Smith, "Entering the 'Foxhole': Partisan media priming and the application of racial justice in America." *Research & Politics*, Vol. 9(4), pp. 1-9, October–December 2022.

Christopher D. DeSante and Candis W. Smith, "Less is More: A Cross-Generational Analysis of Racial Resentment." *The Journal of Politics*, Vol. 82(3), pp. 967–980, July 2020.

Christopher D. DeSante and Candis W. Smith, "Fear, Institutionalized Racism, and Empathy: The Underlying Dimensions of Whites' Racial Attitudes." *PS: Political Science & Politics*, Vol. 53(4), pp. 639-645, 2020. (Earlier draft awarded "Best Paper by an Emerging Scholar" from the 2017 MPSA meeting.)

Christopher D. DeSante, "They Chose to Go to the Moon: How Birth Cohorts Shape Opinions on Funding for Space Exploration." *Social Science Quarterly*, Vol. 98(4), December 2017.

Christopher D. DeSante and Brittany N. Perry, "Bridging the Gap: How Geographic Context Affects Political Knowledge among Citizen and Non-Citizen Latinos." *American Politics Research*, Vol. 44(3), May 2016.

Christopher D. DeSante, "Working Twice as Hard to Get Half as Far: Race, Work Ethic and America's Deserving Poor," *The American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 57(2), April 2013.

### Grants

*Social Science Research Commons*, Grant for Collaborative Research with Andrew Bell, Assistant Professor at the Hamilton Lugar School of Global and International Studies. (\$4,765, May 2019)

*O.V.P.R.* Collaborative Research and Creative Activity Funding Program (CRCAF), Indiana University, *Capturing the Structure of Modern Racism on Surveys* – May 2016. (\$19,655)

*Social Science Research Commons*, Grant for Collaborative Research with Graduate Students, June 2014. (\$3,000)

Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation, \$12,000, June 2011.

### University Teaching Awards:

*April 2019*: Indiana University **Trustee's Award for Excellence in Teaching**.

*April 2017*: Indiana University **Trustee's Award for Excellence in Teaching**.

*April 2015*: Indiana University **Provost's Award** for mentoring undergraduate research.

*April 2015*: Indiana University **Trustee's Award for Excellence in Teaching**.

## Professional, Departmental, and University Service (Last Three Years)

Reviewer for: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS)*, *Political Psychology*, *Public Choice*, *American Politics Research*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Journal of Black Studies*, *Politics and Religion*, *Research and Politics*.

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference Program Committee (2022, 2024).

Indiana Political Analytics Workshop (IPAW) – Associate Director 2022–Present

Department of Political Science Personal Committee (2022-24)

*Director* Departmental Honors Program (2023-24)

*Coordinator* Departmental Graduate Pedagogy Course (2023-24)

Political Science *Graduate Task Force* Co-Chair, and member (2022-24)

Indiana University, *Grand Challenges and Enduring Questions* (2021-23)

Indiana University General Education Committee (GEC) (2022-24)

Indiana University GEC, *Mathematical Modeling Subcommittee* (2022-24)

Indiana University, *Career Connections Fellowship* (2024)

### Doctoral Dissertation Committees:

- Nichole Bauer (2014, Indiana University)
- Laura Bucci (2017, Indiana University)
- Matthew Fowler (2017, Indiana University)
- Benjamin Toll (2015, Indiana University)
- Maryann Kwakwa (2019, Notre Dame Political Science)
- Khadijah Edwards (2019, IU AAADS)
- Elizabeth Zack (2019, IU Sociology)
- Eric Schmidt (2021, Indiana University)
- Colin Fisk (2021, Indiana University)
- Rita Nassar (2021, Indiana University)
- Vivian Ferillo (2021, Indiana University)

## Courses Taught

### Indiana University: Fall 2013 – Present

Y200: Politics & Comedy from Aristophanes to South Park

Y316: Public Opinion and Political Participation

Y395: Quantitative Political Analysis

Y401: Quantitative Political Analysis II

Y490: Senior Seminar in Political Psychology

Y575: Political Data Analysis I (Graduate Methods)

Y576: Political Data Analysis II (Graduate Methods)

Y661: American Politics Graduate Seminar

### Oberlin College: Fall 2012 – Spring 2013

The Political Psychology of Democratic Citizenship; Introduction to Political Inquiry; Parties, Partisanship & Ideology; Computational Statistics; Public Opinion in America.

## References

John H. Aldrich  
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UNC – Chapel Hill

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Professor of Political Science and Psychology  
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(612) 625 - 7271  
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University of Michigan

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