

Curriculum Vitae

Joshua L. Mitchell
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Education

2004 - Present. Southern Illinois University, Carbondale, Illinois
PhD Candidate, Political Science.

2003-2004. Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky
Master of Public Administration.

1999-2002. Murray State University, Murray, Kentucky
B.S. in Sociology.

Dissertation

"Foundations for Innovations: An Exploration of Policy Diffusion in U.S. Counties."

Is policy adoption in counties geographically related? Do county policies diffuse similarly or differently than state policies? What county characteristics influence policy initiation and transmission? Researchers theorize that there is a spatial dimension to policy adoption, but there is little agreement as to why. Furthermore, most diffusion studies have been confined to state level analyses. Unfortunately, little work has examined policy diffusion among counties. Using GIS, I examine three county policies over time to determine what processes drives county policy diffusion. By undersanding the mechanism that drives county diffusion, a greater understanding of policy initiation, transmission, and adoption is possible.

Membership

Midwest Political Science Association.

Sigma Alpha Lambda national leadership and honors organization.

Public Administration Student Organization.

Honors

Invited to join the Pi Sigma Alpha National Political Science Honors Society.

Invited and presented at the annual meeting of the sociologists and anthropologists of Kentucky.

Invited to and participated in Scholars Week at Murray State University.

Research Interests

Congressional campaigns and legislative behavior, spatial diffusion, development and transmission of policy innovations, policy analysis, political geography, and geographic information systems and spatial statistics.

Publications

Contributing writer for "Direct Democracy", the "Whig Party", and the "Patronage System." Encyclopedia of Campaigns, Elections and Electoral Behavior. Forthcoming: 2008. Sage Publications.

Papers and Presentations

"Policy Contagiousness and Social Immunity: Using GIS to Examine Micro Policy Diffusion." A Paper to be Presented to at the 2008 Midwest Political Science Association National Conference at Chicago, IL.

"Does One Limit Lead to Another? The Diffusion of State Term Limits Across Time and Space." A Paper to be Presented at the 2008 Midwest Political Science Association National Conference at Chicago, IL (with Brendan Toner).

"Reexamining Policy Diffusion: The Case of State Lotteries." A Paper to be Presented to at the 2007 Midwest Political Science Association National Conference at Chicago, IL.

"Party or Personality in the Present: Reassessing Senate Election Outcomes." Poster to be presented at the 2007 Midwest Political Science Association National Conference at Chicago, IL (with Brendan Toner and Kami Whitehurst).

"Understanding the Application of Precedent Using Geographic Information System Analysis." Paper presented at the 2007 annual meeting of the Southern Political Science Association. New Orleans, LA (with Scott Comparato).

"Spatial Dependence and the Diffusion of Precedent." A Paper Presented to 2006 Midwest Political Science Association National Conference at Chicago, IL (with Scott Comparato).

Experience

Teaching Assistant

The Legislative Process Spring, 2005

Introduction to Legal Process Fall, 2005

Criminal Justice and Court Management Fall, 2005

Law in American Society Fall, 2005

Ethnicity and Nationalism Summer, 2006

Politics and the Media Fall, 2006

Introduction to American Government Spring, 2007; Spring, 2008

Graduate Research Assistant

Professor Tobin Grant Fall 2004 - Spring 2005; Fall 2006-Spring 2007

Professor Scott Comparato Spring 2005-Summer-2005; Spring 2006-Summer 2006

Professor Philip Habel Fall 2006-Fall 2007

Other

College of Liberal Arts Travel Grant, Southern Illinois University, 2008

High Pass, American Politics Preliminary Exam Oral Defense, 2007

College of Liberal Arts Travel Grant, Southern Illinois University, 2007

College of Liberal Arts Travel Grant, Southern Illinois University, 2006
Best Poster Award, Political Science Departmental Poster Forum, 2005

References

Available upon request.