

Douglas R. Hess, Ph.D.
Assistant Professor of Political Science
Email: hessdoug@grinnell.edu
Telephone: 641-269-4383

Department of Political Science
Grinnell College
1210 Park Street
Grinnell, Iowa 50112

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Public Policy, George Washington University, 2012.

Dissertation: “Governing national programs in a federal system: Household food security and Food and Nutrition Service programs.”

M.A., Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 1999.

M.A. Thesis: “Community organizing, building and developing: Their relationship to comprehensive community initiatives.”

B.A., Psychology, Grinnell College, 1991.

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Grinnell College, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science. Fall 2013 - current
Courses taught:

- Introduction to Political Science
- Introduction to Statistics
- Politics of Congress
- Foundations of Policy Analysis
- Applied Policy Analysis
- Advanced Policy Research
- Seminar Special Topic: Voting Rights and Election Policy

Smith College, Adjunct Professor, Department of Government. Fall 2012. Courses taught for Smith College’s Jean Picker Semester-in-Washington Program:

- Seminar in American Government.
- Art and Craft of Political Science Research.

Grinnell College, Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science. Fall 2008 to Fall 2011. Course taught (for the Grinnell-in-Washington Program):

- Policy Making in Context.

George Washington University, Lecturer, Trachtenberg School of Public Policy and Public Administration. Summer 2008. Course taught:

- Policy Analysis. (Core graduate course for MPP/MPA students.)

George Washington University, Lecturer, Department of Political Science. Various Semesters between the Fall 2005 and Fall 2011. Courses taught:

- State and Urban Politics.
- Introduction to American Politics
- State and Urban Policy Problems.
- American Politics and Welfare Policy.

ACADEMIC AWARDS AND RESEARCH GRANTS

- Grant for \$50,000 for voting rights research from Carnegie Corporation of New York, 2013.
- Inducted into the National Honor Society for Public Affairs and Administration, 2012.
- Selective Excellence Fellowship, George Washington University, 2003 – 2006.
- Fellowship, Institute for Policy Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 1997 – 1999.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Hess, Douglas R., Michael J. Hamer, & David W. Nickerson. (2016). “Encouraging local compliance with federal civil rights laws: Field experiments with the National Voter Registration Act.” *Public Administration Review*, 76(1): 165-174. DOI: 10.1111/puar.12473

Hess, Douglas R. (2004). “Food and anti-hunger charities” in *Philanthropy in America: A comprehensive historical encyclopedia*, edited by Dwight F. Burlingame. Volume 1: 155-158. ABC-CLIO: Santa Barbara.

Hess, Douglas R. (2003). “Review of Civic Innovation in America: Community empowerment, public policy and the movement for civic renewal by Carmen Sirianni and Lewis Friedland.” *Journal of Community Practice*, 11(1): 126-128.

ACADEMIC PAPERS IN PROGRESS

Hess, Douglas R. (and various Grinnell College students). “Re-evaluating the National Voter Registration Act: The role of compliance.”

Hess, Douglas R. (and various Grinnell College students). “Neighborhood residents’ subjective rating of their community and proximity to stores in the American Housing Survey.”

RECENT POLICY TESTIMONY AND ADVISING

Advising in 2015-2016 on the National Voter Registration Act for the following: Voting Rights Section of the Department of Justice, Offices of the Iowa Security of State and Attorney General; Food Research and Action Center; Project Vote; Disability Rights Iowa; Iowa ACLU.

Mellor, Brian and Hess, Douglas R. (March 19, 2009). “Improving voter registration performance in public assistance agencies through modernizing data transfer systems.” Testimony for the Committee on State Voter Registration Databases of the National Research Council.

Slater, Michael and Hess, Douglas R. (April 1, 2008). “The National Voter Registration Act: The challenges public agencies face.” Testimony for a hearing before the Subcommittee on Elections of the Committee on House Administration, U.S. House of Representatives.

RECENT MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

Hess, Douglas R. (July 4, 105). "States are ignoring federal law about voter registration. Here's why." *Monkey Cage/The Washington Post*.

Hess, Douglas R. (March 5, 2015). "Iowa misses chance to improve students' health, education." *The Des Moines Register*.

RECENT APPLIED RESEARCH PUBLICATIONS

Hess, Douglas R. and Lowry, Lisa. (2014). "Toward an end to hunger in Alexandria, VA." Partnership for a Healthier Alexandria: Alexandria, VA.

Hess, Douglas R. and Herman, Jody. (2009). "Representational bias in the 2008 electorate." Project Vote: Washington, DC.

Herman, Jody, Hess, Douglas R., and Groarke. (2009). "A review of academic literature on the effectiveness of the National Voter Registration Act." Project Vote: Washington, DC.

Hess, Douglas R. and Novakowski, Scott. (2008). "Unequal access: Neglecting the National Voter Registration Act, 1995 – 2007." Project Vote: Washington, DC.

Hess, Douglas R. (2007). "Representational bias in the 2006 electorate." Project Vote: Washington, DC.

CONFERENCE AND OTHER PRESENTATIONS

"The Dynamics of Voting Rights Implementation in a Federal System: Case Studies on Compliance with the National Voter Registration Act in Two States." (September 2015). Presented at the 2015 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA.

"Food Security." (September 2013). Panel and gallery talk at Faulconer Gallery, Grinnell College.

Hess, Douglas R. (November 29, 2012). "The Bully Pulpit of the 'Other President': Harry Hopkins' Defense of the New Deal." Presentation at Grinnell College and panel discussion on the centennial of Harry Hopkins' graduation from Grinnell College.

Hess, Douglas R., Hanmer, Michael and Nickerson, David. (2011). "Encouraging bureaucratic compliance with civil rights law: A field experiment with county agencies in two states." Paper presented at the 2011 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association: Chicago, IL.

Hess, Douglas R. and Herman, Jody. (2008). "Evaluating the NVRA with state and county-level data and indicators of compliance: A multi-level analysis." Paper presented at the 2008 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA.

Hess, Douglas R. (2007). "Food security measurement at the metropolitan and county level: Useful as an outcome indicator?" Poster presented at the 2007 annual meeting of the Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management, Washington, DC.

Hess, Douglas R., Blumenthal, Pamela and Salas, Meghan. (2007). "Urban leadership and partnerships: A framework for future research." Paper presented at the 2007 annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Seattle, WA.

Young, Garry, Wolman, Hal and Hess, Douglas R. (2006). "Can old dogs learn new tricks? The impact of changed constituencies on representative behavior." Paper presented at the 2006 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.

Invited Paper Discussant. (2002, 2003, 2004). USDA's Food Assistance and Nutrition Research Innovation and Development Grants in Economics Program Conference.

Hess, Douglas R. (1999). "Community organizing, building and developing: Their relationship to comprehensive community initiatives." Paper presented digitally for COMM-ORG: The On-Line Conference on Community Organizing and Development: <http://comm-org.utoledo.edu/papers99/hess.html>

POLICY WORK EXPERIENCE

Self-Employed Research and Strategy Consultant. Freelance consulting at a senior level for the following organizations:

Rockefeller Family Fund, August 2012 – December 2012.

- Assisting the Fund president with an exploratory project examining how states use the money received from a multi-billion dollar bank settlement regarding the mortgage crisis.

ACT for Alexandria, August 2012 – August 2013.

- Won a contract to conduct an assessment of food access among vulnerable populations in Alexandria, Virginia for community foundations, public officials, and local leaders.

Food Research and Action Center, May 2012 – August 2013.

- Reviewing published research, examining program evaluations, and conducting interviews for a white paper on food access and demand in low-income communities.
- Conducted an original analysis of the association between household characteristics and access to grocery stores using more than 40,000 household records in the Census Bureau's American Housing Survey. This was the first time this survey had been analyzed for this purpose.

Consultant, Wellspring Advisors, June 2011 – August 2011.

- Reviewed strategic opportunities for enhancing civic engagement projects in 2012 and used Census data to create demographic projections of state populations.

Research Consultant, Project Vote, May 2007 – August 2010.

- Provided civil rights organizations with detailed research and advice for a complex national campaign to improve how states implement the National Voter Registration Act. This project has helped well over one million people to register to vote or update their registrations.
- Co-authored reports on policy compliance using data from the US Election Assistance Commission, Census Bureau, USDA, state election officials, and local investigations.
- Co-authored testimony presented before Congress and the National Research Council.
- Designed investigative techniques for testing compliance with federal law by local agencies.
- Initiated or assisted with meetings and correspondence between federal officials and coalition partners over several years resulting in renewed federal action on enforcement.
- Developed detailed technical assistance and performance monitoring plans that established best practices. These plans were adopted by several states voluntarily and serve as the basis for legal settlements in this area of law.
- Created databases in Excel, SAS, and Stata for reports and evaluations using state and county demographics, litigation-related data, and election statistics.
- Hired and supervised a research consultant.

Senior Policy Analyst, Food Research and Action Center, January 2000 – August 2003.

- Analyzed a complex, national household survey conducted by the Census Bureau and produced a report on state food insecurity rates.
- Designed and analyzed surveys of state officials for a series of reports I co-authored on food assistance programs. These reports received significant media attention, and served as a resource for advocates, government officials, and other researchers.

Research Director, Congress Watch, May 1999 – December 1999.

- Analyzed campaign finance and lobbying data for reports that received major news coverage.
- Supervised a full-time research assistant.

Graduate Research Assistant, Comparative Nonprofit Sector Project, Johns Hopkins University, August 1997 – May 1999.

- Reviewed and summarized academic literature on civil society in various nations for two of the leading scholars in nonprofit studies (Lester Salamon and Helmut Anheier).

Southern Regional Organizer, Human Rights Campaign, September 1996 – August 1997.

- Mobilized state LGBT rights organizations and membership to achieve the electoral and legislative goals of the organization and its political action committee.

Director of the National Voter Registration Act Implementation Project, Project Vote, January 1994 – September 1996.

- Hired and supervised a team of research assistants, collected data, designed and conducted original analyses, and wrote reports on state implementation of the NVRA.
- Developed successful plans for performance monitoring and remediation of voting rights violations that remain components of current litigation and advocacy in this area.

- Organized plaintiffs and pro bono attorneys for successful and ground-breaking litigation in several states regarding the NVRA.

Researcher, International Brotherhood of the Teamsters, July 1993 – December 1993.

- Investigated corporate SEC filings and co-authored a report on the trucking industry for Offices of Corporate Affairs and Community Campaigns at the union's headquarters in Washington, DC.
- Assisted an organizing drive in Miami with textile workers' union; used my Haitian Creole language skills to communicate with workers and design print material.

Assistant to Executive Director, Washington Office on Haiti, November 1992 – May 1993.

- Created a national coalition of human rights delegations traveling to Haiti and edited a report which received national media coverage. Leader for a delegation of human rights observers, immigration attorneys, and journalists to Haiti.
- Created and co-managed the first-ever National Lobby Day for Haitian Americans.

Field Organizer, Association of Community Organizations for Reform Now, September 1991 – November 1992.

- Developed community chapters and campaigns in St. Louis, MO and in Little Rock, AR.
- Served as one of the first organizers for the New Party to organize progressives in states with fusion ballot laws.