

K. AMBER CURTIS

Ph.D. Candidate, Instructor

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. University of Colorado at Boulder, Political Science, expected May 2012

- Fields: Comparative Politics & Political Methodology

M.A. University of Colorado at Boulder, Political Science, 2009

B.A. University of Colorado at Boulder, International Affairs, Political Science, and Italian, 2005
Thesis: "Exploring the Effect of European Integration on Italian Identity" (*Summa cum Laude*)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Identity, immigration, and minority politics; political psychology and behavior; comparative and international political economy; economic voting; methodology; European integration; ethnic conflict; international law

DISSERTATION

"The Superordinate Personality: Explaining Variation In Identification"

- Committee: Jennifer Fitzgerald, Joseph Jupille, Jennifer Wolak
- Citizens today have more choices for political-territorial identification than ever. So why are some individuals more likely than others to adopt a superordinate identity, encompassing 'us' and 'them' under the umbrella of 'we'? I argue that personality is an important, underexplored determinant of one's identity configuration. After developing a generalizable typology of identification based on an individual's degree of attachment to both the sub- and superordinate group, I use the 'Big Five' dimensions of personality to outline a series of expectations regarding which traits should operate for each identity category. Part I tests these hypotheses using original survey data from multiple European countries, as European Union (EU) integration has increased the salience and feasibility of the superordinate 'European' identity option in addition to preexisting subordinate national ones. Part II offers an enhanced comparative perspective by extending the analysis to racial versus 'American' identity in the United States. Part III underscores the importance of studying the determinants of superordinate identity by demonstrating its effect on outgroup attitudes under a variety of contextual conditions. Given an overarching, cohesive identity's ability to ease intergroup tension and bolster support for the political system, it is crucial that scholars isolate the dispositional, situational, and contextual factors that promote or hinder its emergence.

PUBLICATIONS

Fitzgerald, Jennifer, and K. Amber Curtis. 2012. "Partisan Discord in the Family and Political Engagement: A Comparative Behavioral Analysis." *The Journal of Politics* 74(1): 129-141.

Fitzgerald, Jennifer, K. Amber Curtis, and Catherine L. Corliss. 2012. "Anxious Publics: Worries about Crime and Immigration." *Comparative Political Studies* 45(4): 477-506.

Curtis, K. Amber, and Joseph Jupille. 2010. "The European Union." In *The Encyclopedia of Political Science*, eds. George Thomas Kurian, James E. Alt, Simone Chambers, Geoffrey Garrett, Margaret Levi, and Paula D. McClain. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press.

CONFERENCE ATTENDANCE AND WORKING PAPERS

"Home and Abroad: Identity After Emigration." (Accepted for poster presentation at the 108th Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, New Orleans, August – September, 2012)

"Inclusive v. Exclusive: A Cross-National Comparison of the Effects of Subnational, National, and Supranational Identity." (Presented at the 7th Annual Graduate Student Conference on the European Union at the University of Pittsburgh, March 2012 and the 70th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2012)

"Isolating Institutional Effects on Identity: Does the EU Make Citizens Feel More European?" *Under review*. (Presented at the Southwestern Political Science Association, Denver, April 2009 and the 2nd Western U.S. Graduate Student Research Workshop on the European Union, University of Washington, Seattle, May 2010)

"Politicized Regions: Exclusive Regional Identity's Effect on EU Support." *Under review*.

"Reevaluating Economic Effects: An Analysis of Icelandic Support for EU Membership." *Under review*. (Presented at the 12th Biennial Conference of the EU Studies Association, Boston, March 2011 and the 69th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, March – April, 2011)

"I Save For Icesave: Self-Interest and Sovereign Debt Resettlement," with Joseph Jupille and David Leblang. *Under review*.

"In Times of Crisis: The Causes, Conditions, and Consequences of Pocketbook Voting." (Presented at the 107th Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, September 2011)

"The Determinants of Inclusive Identity Choice." (Presented at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, March – April, 2011)

"Identity Interplay: A Typology of Citizens' Attachments"

"Concentric Contexts: The Effects of Political Disagreement on Citizen Engagement in Three Countries," with Jennifer Fitzgerald. (Presented at the 69th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, March – April, 2011)

"The Mass Political Economy of International Public Debt Settlement," with David Leblang and Joseph Jupille. (Presented at the Political Economy of International Finance (PEIF) meeting at the

Hertie School of Governance, Berlin, Germany, February 2011 and the 69th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, March – April, 2011)

European Election Studies Final User Community Conference of PIREDEU (Providing an Infrastructure for Research on Electoral Democracy in the European Union), Brussels, Belgium, November 2010

“Anxious Publics: Worries Over Crime and Immigration,” with Jennifer Fitzgerald and Catherine L. Corliss. (Presented at the International Society of Political Psychology, Dublin, Ireland, July 2009 and the International Studies Association, New Orleans, February 2010)

HONORS AND AWARDS

Research

- Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Office of the Dean of the Graduate School, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$9,500), 2012-2013
- Colorado European Union Center of Excellence (CEUCE) Graduate Fellowship (\$13,760), 2011
- Ogilvy Graduate Travel Fellowship, Center for British and Irish Studies, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$4,500), 2011
- Graduate Fellows Award, Center to Advance Teaching and Research in the Social Sciences (CARTSS) (\$1,000), 2011
- Safran/Scarritt Dissertation Fieldwork Award (\$750), 2011
- Graduate Research Opportunity Grant for research in the UK and Ireland, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$2,300), 2011-2012
- Colorado European Union Center of Excellence (CEUCE) Graduate Research Grant for research in Brussels, Belgium (\$2,700), 2010
- Graduate Research Opportunity Grant for research in Brussels, Belgium; Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$2,000), 2010
- Graduate Research Opportunity Grant for research in Dublin, Ireland; Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$2,000), 2009
- Graduate Research Opportunity Grant to attend ICPSR seminar; Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$2,000), 2008

Teaching

- Graduate Student Teaching Excellence Award, Office of the Dean of the Graduate School, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$500), 2012
- Best Should Teach Award, Graduate Teacher Program, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2011

Conference Travel

- Graduate Travel Award, United Government of Graduate Students, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$300), 2012
- Graduate Travel Award, Office of the Dean of the Graduate School, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$300), 2012

- Graduate Travel Award, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$250), 2012
- Graduate Travel Award, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$250), 2011
- Graduate Travel Award, Office of the Dean of the Graduate School, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$125), 2011
- Graduate Travel Award, Office of the Dean of the Graduate School, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$300), 2010
- Graduate Travel Award, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$250), 2010
- Graduate Travel Award, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$125), 2009

Other

- Graduate Student Fees Grant, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$1,000), 2009-2010

Undergraduate

- Undergraduate Research Opportunity Grant for research in Italy; Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder (\$4,000), 2005
- Phi Beta Kappa, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2005
- Jacob Van Ek Award, College of Arts & Sciences, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2004

SPECIAL TRAINING

Population Center Short Course, Institute of Behavioral Science (IBS), University of Colorado
 Course: Longitudinal Data Analysis: Hazard Models, Summer 2009

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan
 Course: Panel Data Analysis Using Stata, Summer 2008

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Fieldwork

- Ireland, Portugal, Spain, & the UK, Summer 2012
- Belgium, November 2010
- Ireland, July 2009
- Italy, Summers 2003 & 2005

Research Assistant

- Professor Jennifer Fitzgerald, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2008-2010
- Professor Joseph Jupille, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2010
- Professor Scott Wolford, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2009

TEACHING TRAINING AND PEDAGOGICAL RESEARCH

Graduate Teacher Program, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2007-2012

- Certificate in College Teaching, expected May 2012

Principal Investigator, “Investigating the Use of Current Events in the Classroom,” 2011-2012

- A collaborative, multidisciplinary project on whether, why, and how university teachers incorporate current events
- Focus group interview with CU graduate teachers, November 2011
- Online survey of all CU teaching faculty, adjunct instructors, and graduate teachers, February-March 2012

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2010 – present

- PSCI 4302 European Union Politics, Spring 2012
- PSCI 4183 International Law, Summer 2010, Summer 2011, Fall 2011
- PSCI 4002 West European Politics, Spring 2011

Teaching Assistant, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2007 – 2010

- PSCI 2012, Introduction to Comparative Politics
 - Professor Andy Baker, Fall 2008, Spring 2008, Fall 2010
 - Professor David S. Brown, Fall 2007
 - Professor Joseph Jupille, Spring 2009
- PSCI 4183, International Law
 - Instructor Anita Halvorssen, Fall 2009, Spring 2010

Grader, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2007 – 2008

- PSCI 4183, International Law
 - Instructor Anita Halvorssen, Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008
- IAFS 1000, Global Issues and International Affairs
 - Professor Joseph Jupille, Summer 2008

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

Curtis, Amber, Laura Davidson, Liesl Erb, Judy Strathearn, and Mackenzie Miller. 2012.

“Investigating the Use of Current Events in College Classrooms.” Lead Graduate Teacher Network Spring Capstone Poster Event. (Awarded ‘Best Research Poster of the Year’.)

Curtis, Amber. 2012. “Collecting and Using Student Evaluations to Enhance Teaching Performance,” Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder.

Curtis, Amber. 2011. “101 Tips for Top-Notch Teaching,” Graduate Teacher Program, University of Colorado at Boulder.

COURSES PREPARED TO TEACH

Comparative Political Economy
Current World Problems
European Union Politics
Global Development
International Law
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Minority Politics & Political Identities
Political Psychology
Public Opinion & Political Behavior
Quantitative Research Methods
Racial/Ethnic Politics
Symbolic Politics
Western European Politics

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Graduate Committee Representative, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2012-2013

Lead Graduate Teacher for Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2011-2012

- PSCI Grad Teachers Survey, August-September 2011

Mentors of Political Science (MOPS) Representative, Department of Political Science, University of Colorado at Boulder, 2008-2009

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES AND ACTIVITIES

Member, American Political Science Association, 2011 – Present
Member, European Union Studies Association, 2011 – Present
Member, Midwest Political Science Association, 2011 – Present
Reviewer, *European Union Politics*, 2011 – Present
Reviewer, *Political Behavior*, 2011 – Present
Associate, Future Citizenship Project, 2009-Present
Member, International Studies Association, 2009-2010

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Proficient in Italian and Spanish

Experienced in HTML, D2L, Blackboard, iClickers

Highly experienced in survey design, administration, and analysis

- Irish Pre-Lisbon Treaty Referendum Public Opinion Survey, October 2009
- Iceland Surveys after Icesave Referenda, March 2010, April 2011 (with Joseph Jupille and David Leblang)
- Ireland Survey after EU Bailout, November 2010 (with Joseph Jupille and David Leblang)

REFERENCES

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