

Brendan Nyhan

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Employment

Assistant Professor of Government 2011–
Dartmouth College

Robert Wood Johnson Scholar in Health Policy Research 2009–2011
University of Michigan

Education

Ph.D., Political Science 2009
Duke University
Dissertation: Strategic Outrage: The Politics of Presidential Scandal

M.A., Political Science 2005
Duke University
Fields: American Politics; Political Methodology

B.A. with High Honors, Political Science 2000
Swarthmore College

Peer-reviewed publications

[“The Role of Social Networks in Influenza Vaccine Attitudes and Intentions Among College Students in the Southeastern United States.”](#) Forthcoming, *Journal of Adolescent Health*. (with Jason Reifler and Sean Richey)

[“Beliefs Don’t Always Persevere: How political figures are punished when positive information about them is discredited.”](#) Forthcoming, *Political Psychology*. (with Michael Cobb and Jason Reifler)

[“One Vote Out of Step? The Effects of Salient Roll Call Votes in the 2010 Election.”](#) Forthcoming, *American Politics Research*. (with Eric McGhee, John Sides, Seth Masket, and Steven Greene)

[“The Limited Effects of Testimony on Political Persuasion.”](#) 2011. *Public Choice* 148(3–4): 283–312.

[“The ‘Unfriending’ Problem: The Consequences of Homophily in Friendship Retention for Causal Estimates of Social Influence.”](#) 2011. *Social Networks* 33(3): 211–218. (with Hans Noel)

[“When Corrections Fail: The Persistence of Political Misperceptions.”](#) 2010. *Political Behavior* 32(2): 303–330. (with Jason Reifler)

“Bayesian Model Averaging: Theoretical Developments and Practical Applications.” 2010. *Political Analysis* 18(2): 245–270. (with Jacob Montgomery)

Other publications

Symposium on *Left Turn: How Liberal Media Bias Distorts the American Mind* by Tim Groseclose. Forthcoming. *Perspectives on Politics* 10(3).

“Misinformation and Fact-checking: Research Findings from Social Science.” 2012. New America Foundation Media Policy Initiative Research Paper. (with Jason Reifler)

“How Political Science Can Help Journalism (and Still Let Journalists Be Journalists).” 2011. *The Forum* 9(1). (with John Sides)

“Why the ‘Death Panel’ Myth Wouldn’t Die: Misinformation in the Health Care Reform Debate.” 2010. *The Forum* 8(1).

“Party and Constituency in the U.S. Senate, 1933–2004.” 2008. In *Why Not Parties?*, Nathan W. Monroe, Jason M. Roberts, and David Rohde, eds. Chicago: University of Chicago Press. (with John Aldrich, Michael Brady, Scott de Marchi, Ian McDonald, David Rohde, and Michael Tofias)

All the President’s Spin: George W. Bush, the Media and the Truth. 2004. New York: Touchstone. (with Ben Fritz and Bryan Keefer)

-*New York Times* bestseller, September 5, 2004

-One of the top ten political books of 2004, Amazon.com, November 10, 2004

Honors and awards

-Invited visitor, Young Scholars Forum (NC State University)	2010
-Bass Advanced Instructorship in the Arts & Sciences (Duke University)	2008–2009
-Summer Research Fellowship (Duke University)	2007
-Fellow, Program for Advanced Research in Social Science (Duke University)	2006–2007
-Fellow, Public Institutions and Political Choice Program (Duke University)	2005–2009
-James B. Duke Fellowship (Duke University)	2003–2007

Grants

Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (with Jason Reifler, survey time) “Race and the Obama Muslim Myth”	2012
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Nelson A. Rockefeller Center at Dartmouth College (\$7,360) “Political Influence on Public Corruption Prosecutions”	2012
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Dartmouth College Undergraduate Advising and Research (\$3,000) GOVT 83: Experiments in politics	2011
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University of Michigan RWJ Scholars Programs Small Grant Program (\$23,000) “Information processing about the MMR vaccine”	2011
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Duke Undergraduate Research Support (\$1,000) PS 199AS: Experimental analysis of the 2008 election	2008
Duke Interdisciplinary Initiative in Social Psychology (\$500) PS 199AS: Experimental analysis of the 2008 election	2008
Dirksen Congressional Center (with Michael Tofias, \$3,465) “Parties and Leaders in the Congressional Network”	2007
Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (survey time) “An Experimental Test of Verification Threats in Political Debate”	2005

Work in progress

“[Passing the Bucks: Partisan contribution networks and theories of congressional organization](#)” (with Michael Tofias) [R&R at *Social Networks*]

“[Scandal Potential: How political and media context affect the president’s vulnerability to allegations of misconduct](#)” [R&R at *American Journal of Political Science*]

The Hazards of Correcting Myths about Health Care Reform (with Jason Reifler and Peter Ubel) [under review]

“[The Effects of Semantics and Social Desirability in Correcting the Obama Muslim Myth](#)” (with Jason Reifler and the undergraduates from my PS 199AS class at Duke)

“[The Party Edge: Consultant-Candidate Networks in American Political Parties](#)” (with Jacob Montgomery)

“[Opening the Political Mind? The effects of self-affirmation and graphical information on factual misperceptions](#)” (with Jason Reifler)

Review and reference articles

“Bush, George W.” and “Miller, Warren.” 2008. *International Encyclopedia of the Social Sciences*. Ed. William A. Darity, Jr. Detroit: Macmillan Reference. Vol. 5 (2nd ed.): 180–181, 399–400.

[Review](#) of Thráinn Eggertsson, *Imperfect Institutions: Possibilities & Limits of Reform* (Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press, 2005). 2006. *Public Choice* 129: 239–241.

Media interviews and citations

Research on political misperceptions and scandal featured in the *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Time*, *Washington Monthly*, and many other publications. Conducted on-air interviews about findings with outlets including NPR’s “[All Things Considered](#),” “[Morning Edition](#),” and “[On the Media](#).” Also conducted numerous radio, TV, and print interviews on political communication, elections, and public opinion (2003–2012). Articles for Spinsanity were widely cited in leading outlets including *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, and *CNN* (2001–2004).

Political writing

Featured blogger at brendan-nyhan.com (cross-posted at [HuffPost](http://HuffPost.com) [Pollster](#) and [Washington Monthly](http://WashingtonMonthly.com)) and [New Hampshire campaign correspondent](#) for *Columbia Journalism Review*. Published [New York Times](#) op-ed on health care reform on March 25, 2010 and [Boston Review](#) article on 2010 election with Eric McGhee and John Sides on Nov. 11, 2010.

Co-editor of [Spinsanity](#), a non-partisan watchdog of political spin (2001–2004), and co-featured columnist, [Salon.com](#) (2002) and *Philadelphia Inquirer* (2004). (with Ben Fritz and Bryan Keefer)

Received Award of Distinction from the Center on Media and Public Affairs in the 2003 Paul Mongerson Prize for Investigative Reporting on News Coverage competition.

Invited speaker

Selected presentations and panels:

- “Truthiness in Digital Media,” Berkman Center for Internet and Society and MIT Center for Civic Media, Harvard University, March 6, 2012.
- “Vaccines, Vaccine Policy, and Public Distrust,” The Dartmouth Center for Health Care Delivery Science seminar, January 25, 2012.
- “Misinformation and Corrections: Research findings from social science,” New America Foundation, December 14, 2011.
- “[The Challenge of Political Misperceptions](#),” University of Minnesota, December 8, 2011.
- “Scandal Potential: How political and media context affect the president’s vulnerability to allegations of misconduct,” Washington University in St. Louis, December 3, 2011.
- “The Challenge of Political Misperceptions,” AARP Michigan Thought Leader Forum, Jackson, MI, March 29, 2011.
- “Opening the Political Mind? The effects of self-affirmation and graphical information on factual misperceptions,” Michigan State University, March 25, 2011.
- “Scandal Potential: How political and media context affect the president’s vulnerability to allegations of misconduct,” Université de Montréal, March 9, 2011.
- “[Who Decides? Democracy and Divide](#),” Illinois Humanities Council, January 27, 2011.
- “[Misperceptions About Politics and Health Care: Can they be corrected?](#),” Center for Ethics and Humanities in the Life Sciences, Michigan State University, December 8, 2010.
- “Beliefs Don’t Always Persevere: How political figures are punished when positive information about them is discredited,” North Carolina State University, November 19, 2010.
- “Barack Obama and the 2010 Election: What Political Science Can Teach Us,” North Carolina State University, November 16, 2010.
- “The Challenge of Political Misperceptions,” Dartmouth College, October 15, 2010.
- “Correcting Misperceptions About Health Care Reform,” Patient Decision Making Group, Center for Behavioral and Decision Sciences in Medicine, University of Michigan, February 1, 2010.
- “Two Degrees of Bob Dornan: The scandal allegation network in Congress,” Triangle Political Methodology Group, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, March 5, 2009.
- “The 2008 Election and the Muslim Vote,” Duke University, October 17, 2008.
- “[Mas s Communication for the Masses](#),” Dartmouth College, April 19, 2007. -“Why Are Misperceptions About Iraq So Persistent?,” American Politics Research Group, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, January 20, 2006. -“Re-establishing Trust in the Media,” Coach K/Fuqua School of Business Conference on Leadership, Duke University, October 20, 2004. Broadcast on WUNC Public Radio.

Professional activities

Conference presentations:

- Society for Personality and Social Psychology (2012)
- American Political Science Association (2005, 2007–2011)
- Midwest Political Science Association (2006–2008, 2010–2011)
- Political Networks Conference (2010)
- RWJ Scholars in Health Policy Research (2010–2011)
- Society for Political Methodology (2007–2008, 2010)
- Southern Political Science Association (2006)

Disciplinary service:

- Co-section head, Political Networks, Midwest Political Science Association (2011)
- Referee for *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Politics Research*, *Communication Quarterly*, *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*, *International Journal of Press/Politics*, *Journal of Communication*, *Journal of Politics*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Political Behavior*, *Politics & Policy*, *Political Communication*, *Political Psychology*, *Psychological Science in the Public Interest*, *Public Choice*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Southern Economic Journal*, *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*, *Statistics in Medicine*, and Time-Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences

Dartmouth College service:

- Writing in the Disciplines Fellow (2012)

Teaching experience

[Experiments in Politics](#) (Dartmouth College, Duke University)

[The Presidency](#) (Dartmouth College, Duke University)

[Quantitative Political Analysis](#) (Dartmouth College)

Previous experience

Marketing and fundraising consultant, [The Benetech Initiative](#) (2001–2003)

Deputy Communications Director, Bernstein for US Senate, Nevada (2000)