

# Marc Meredith

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## Education

Ph.D. in Political Economics, Stanford GSB, June 2008 (expected)  
Reading Committee: Dan Kessler, B. Douglas Bernheim, Keith Krehbiel  
M.A. in Political Science, Stanford University, June 2006  
M.A. in Economics, Northwestern University, June 2002  
B.A. in Economics and Mathematical Methods in Social Science (w/ honors),  
Northwestern University, June 2002

## Teaching Experience

Lecturer, Political Economics (undergrad), Spring 2007  
Teaching Assistant, Economic Analysis of Political Institution (grad), Winter 2007  
Teaching Assistant, MBA Quantitative Pre-Enrollment Program, Fall 2006, 2005  
Teaching Assistant, Negotiations (MBA), Spring 2006  
Grader, Strategy in the Non-Market Environment (MBA), Spring 2007, 2006, 2005  
Teaching Assistant, Econometric Methods II (grad), Winter 2005

## Teaching Interests

Empirical/Formal Methods, Political Economics, American Politics, Business and Politics

## Research Experience

Research Assistant for Dan Kessler, Stanford University, 2004 - 2007  
Research Assistant for Ken Shotts, Stanford University, 2006 - 2007  
Research Associate, San Francisco Federal Reserve Bank, 2002 - 2003  
Research Associate, Sandia National Laboratories, 2000  
Research Assistant for Mark Witte, Northwestern University, 1999 - 2000

## Awards and Fellowships

Stanford Law School John M. Olin Law and Economics Fellowship, 2007  
Stanford Behavioral Lab Research Grant (\$1000), 2006  
Stanford GSB Ph.D. Fellowship, 2003 - 2008  
NSF Graduate School Fellowship, Honorable Mention, 2003  
Two/Ten International Footwear Foundation Fellowship, 2000 - 2001

## Publications

“Why Do Universities Compete in the Rankings Game? An Empirical Analysis of the Effects of the US News and World Report College Rankings.” *Research in Higher Education*, 2004, 45(5), pp. 443-461.

## Working Papers

### **“Persistence in Political Participation”**

Abstract: This paper uses discontinuities imposed by voting-age restrictions to identify the effect of past eligibility on subsequent participation decisions and partisan identification. It compares participation decisions and partisan affiliations of individuals who turned eighteen just before past elections with those who turned eighteen just after. It presents three main findings. First, eligibility to vote in the 2000 presidential election increases the probability of 2004 election participation by 3.0 to 4.5 percent. Second, 2000 eligibility increases the probability of registering as a Democrat, while significantly reducing the probability of registering as an Independent. Third, voting-age restrictions continue to affect future participation and partisan identification for several election cycles after a voter first becomes eligible.

### **“The Causes and Consequence of Ballot Order-Effects”**

Joint with Yuval Salant

Previous version published as SIEPR Discussion Paper No. 06-29

Abstract: To better understand the effects of list ordering on decision making, we explore how the ordering of candidates on ballots influences election outcomes. We find that a candidate listed first on a ballot is 9.8 percent more likely to win office than expected absent order-effects in our dataset of California multi-winner local elections. This first candidate advantage comes at the expense of candidates listed in the middle of the ballot. Using multi-winner elections allows us to isolate the mechanisms causing order-effects in a way unavailable in single-winner elections. The performance of a candidate is both position- and history-dependent: candidates perform better in certain positions and when listed immediately after lower quality candidates. Our results suggest that policy makers should use more sophisticated rotation schemes to mitigate order-effects in elections.

### **“Can Where People Vote Influence How They Vote?”**

#### **The Influence of Polling Location Type on Voting Behavior”**

Joint with Jonah Berger and S. Christian Wheeler

Previous version published as Stanford GSB Research Paper No. 1926

Abstract: Research has found that priming can influence voting behavior, but almost all this work has focused on media agenda-setting. Building on psychological research on behavioral priming, we suggest a broader set of contextual primes can influence vote choice. Specifically, we examine whether the type of polling place in which people vote (e.g. church or school) can influence vote choice. Using data from Arizona’s 2000 general election, we found that voters were more likely to favor raising the state sales tax to support education if they voted in schools, as opposed to other types of polling locations. This effect persisted even when controlling for voters’ political views, demographics, and unobservable characteristics of individuals living near schools. We extended these findings with a voting experiment in which people were randomly assigned to different environmental primes. Our results suggest that greater attention should be given to subtle environmental influences on voting.

## **“The Strategic Timing of Direct Democracy: Evidence from Wisconsin School Referenda”**

Abstract: This paper focuses on the ability of agenda-setters in direct democracy to gain favorable outcomes by strategically timing elections. Because the composition of the remainder of the ballot induces different subsets of the electorate to vote, scheduling initiatives or referenda for different elections will produce different median voters. Agenda-setters will thus schedule initiatives and referenda for elections that generate their most preferred outcome. Consistent with the theory, it is demonstrated that the use of special elections for Wisconsin school referenda from 1990 - 2006 are related to differences in the revealed preferences of school districts’ electorates in low and high turnout elections.

### **Works in Progress**

- “Contested Congressional Elections and Marginal Voters”
- “Untangling Economic Voting (winning proposal for 2006 ANES Pilot Study)”  
Joint with Stephen Ansolabehere, Erik Snowberg, and Jim Snyder
- “Social Effects in Voting”  
Joint with Alan Gerber and Dan Kessler

### **Conferences and Invited Presentations**

- “The Causes and Consequence of Ballot Order-Effects”  
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, September 2007  
Stanford Political Psychology Workshop, April 2007  
Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2007
- “Persistence in Political Participation”  
Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2007
- “The Strategic Timing of Direct Democracy:  
Evidence from Wisconsin School Referenda”  
Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2005  
Stanford Workshop in Statistical Modeling, January 2005

### **References**

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| Dan Kessler<br>Professor of Economics, Law, and Policy<br>Stanford GSB<br>(650) 723-4492<br>fkessler@stanford.edu | Ken Shotts<br>Associate Professor of Political Economics<br>Stanford GSB<br>(650) 725-4510<br>kshotts@stanford.edu |
| Keith Krehbiel<br>Edward B. Rust Professor<br>Stanford GSB<br>(650) 723-2855<br>krehbiel@stanford.edu             | B. Douglas Bernheim<br>Professor of Economics<br>Princeton University<br>(609) 258-1349<br>bernheim@princeton.edu  |