

CURRICULUM VITAE

Brian E. Adams

Department of Political Science
San Diego State University
5500 Campanile Drive
San Diego, CA 92182-4427
(619) 594-4289
badams@sdsu.edu

Positions Held

Professor, San Diego State University, 2012-present.

Visiting Scholar, The Center for California Studies, Sacramento State University, 2017-2018.

Visiting Professor of International Politics, Hopkins-Nanjing Center, Nanjing, China, 2011-2012.

Associate Professor, San Diego State University, 2008-2012.

Fulbright Scholar, Public Administration Department, Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea, July-December 2009.

Assistant Professor, San Diego State University, 2003-2008.

Pre-Doctoral Fellow, Kettering Foundation, September 2001-September 2002.

Education

Ph.D., Political Science. University of California, Irvine. May 2003.

M.A., Social Sciences. University of California, Irvine. March 1999.

B.A., Political Science. University of Southern California. December 1994.

Publications

Books

Activism, Majority Rule, and Local Democracy: Rethinking Public Influence. Temple University Press, 2026.

Campaign Finance in Local Elections: Buying the Grassroots. First Forum Press, a Division of Lynne-Rienner Publishers, 2010.

Citizen Lobbyists: Local Efforts to Influence Public Policy. Temple University Press, 2007.

Peer Reviewed Articles

“Tribal Politics or Discerning Voters? The Use of Cues in Local Elections.” *Urban Affairs Review*. 60, 6 (2024): 1871-97 (With Danielle Joesten Martin and Ted Lascher, Jr.).

“Community Acceptance of, and Opposition to, Homeless-Serving Facilities.” *International Journal on Homelessness* 3,2 (2023): 156-183 (With Megan Welsh Carroll and Nicolas Gutierrez III).

"Ballot Cues, Business Candidates, and Voter Choices in Local Elections" *American Politics Research* 49, 2 (2021): 186-197 (with Ted L. Lascher Jr. and Danielle Joesten Martin).

“Conceptualizing an Interdisciplinary Collective Impact Approach to Examine and Intervene in the Chronic Cycle of Homelessness” *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health* 18 (2021): 2020 (with Mounah Abdel-Samad, Jerel P. Calzo, Jennifer K. Felner, Lianne Urada, Matthew E. Verbyla, Hala Madanat, Thais Alves, Bruce Appleyard, Joshua Chanin, Shawn Flanigan, Hisham Foad, Maya Ginsberg, Matthew Higgins, Eunjeong Ko, Kristen Maher, Natalie Mladenov, Peggy Peattie, Megan Welsh, and David Sleet).

“Decentralization and Policy Experimentation in Education: the Consequences of Enhancing Local Autonomy in California.” *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 50, 1 (2020): 30-54.

“Campaigning in Lilliput: Money’s Influence in Small and Mid-Sized City Elections.” *California Journal of Politics and Policy* 10, 2 (2018): 1-17.

“Assessing the Merits of Decentralization: A Framework for Identifying the Causal Mechanisms Influencing Policy Outcomes.” *Politics & Policy* 44, 5 (2016): 820-849.

“Working Through Disagreement in Deliberative Forums.” *Social Science Journal*. 52, 2 (2015): 229-238.

“Reason-Giving in Deliberative Forums.” *Journal of Public Deliberation*. 10, 2 (2014): article 6.

“Citizens, Interest Groups, and Local Ballot Initiatives.” *Politics & Policy* 40, 1 (2012): 43-68.

“Gender, Campaign Finance, and Electoral Success in Municipal Elections.” *Journal of Urban Affairs* 33, 1 (2011): 83-97 (with Ronnee Schreiber).

“The Democratic Benefits of Devolution: A Comparison of South Korea and the United States.” *Korea Journal* 50, 2 (2010): 182-206.

“State Immigration Policy: Cooperation, Conflict, or Innovation?” *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 39, 3 (2009): 408-431 (with Lina Newton).

“Fund-raising Coalitions in School Board Elections.” *Education and Urban Society* 40, 4 (2008): 411-427.

“Fundraising Coalitions in Open-Seat Mayoral Elections.” *Journal of Urban Affairs* 29, 5 (2007): 481-499.

“Suburban Money in Municipal Elections: The Geographic Distribution of Campaign Contributions.” (research note) *Urban Affairs Review* 42, 2 (2006): 267-280.

“Asian Americans and Campaign Finance in Municipal Elections.” *Social Science Journal* 43 (2006): 597-615 (With Ping Ren).

“Public Meetings and the Democratic Process” *Public Administration Review* 64, 1 (January- February 2004).

Public Scholarship

“Local elections are less partisan because voters will cross party lines when issues hit close to home.” *The Conversation* August 15th, 2024 (With Edward L. Lascher Jr. and Danielle Martin).

“The ‘Money in Politics’ Debate and Effective Ways to Improve Local Democracy in America.” Scholars Strategy Network Key Findings Brief, 2018.

“A Limited Capacity to Govern” *San Diego Union-Tribune* (Commentary). December 23rd, 2004.

Other Publications

“Community Perceptions of Affordable Housing in San Diego.” A report prepared for the Lucky Duck Foundation, December 2020 (with Mounah Abdel-Samad, Mike Williams, and Kate DeConinck).

Review of *Subsidizing Democracy: How Public Funding Changes Elections and How It Can Work in the Future* by Michael G. Miller (Cornell University Press, 2013). *Political Science Quarterly* 129, 4 (2014): 733-735.

Review of *The Influence of Campaign Contributions in State Legislatures* by Lynda Powell (University of Michigan Press, 2012). *Perspectives on Politics* 12, 1 (2014): 243-245.

“美国联邦制下的地方政府自治” (“Local Government Autonomy in the American Federal System”). *Journal of Nanjing University (Philosophy, Humanities and Social Sciences)* 2 (2012): 15-27 (translated by Juan-Juan Wang and Rong Xia).

“Financing Local Elections: The Impact of Institutions on Electoral Outcomes and Democratic Representation” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44, 1 (2011): 111-112.

“State and Local Campaign Finance.” Entry in *Encyclopedia of American Government and Civics*. (Lori Cox Han and Michael Genovese, eds.). Facts on File, 2008.

“Social Networks.” Entry in the *Encyclopedia of Public Administration and Public Policy* (2nd ed.). (Evan M. Berman and Jack Rabin, eds.). CRC Press, 2008.

“Big Fish, Fried.” *San Diego Union-Tribune* (Book Review). June 3rd, 2007.

“Social Networks and Public Politics.” Report prepared for the Kettering Foundation, November 2003.

Grants and Fellowships

Scholars Strategy Network, Election Protection & Enhancement Program. Co-lead for San Diego projects (with Thad Kousser). \$20,000.

Faculty-Led Curricular Redesign for Student Achievement, San Diego State University (2021-22). \$7,500.

Lucky Duck Foundation, “Housing Affordability and NIMBYism.” Co-principal investigator (with Mounah Abdel-Samad, Mike Williams, and Kate DeConinck). \$50,000.

Social And Economic Vulnerabilities Initiatives (SEVI) Faculty Fellow, San Diego State University (Spring 2020).

American Political Science Association Peer to Peer Pedagogical Partnerships (P4) grant. “Strengthening the Network of 2-year and 4-year Political Science Faculty in the San Diego-Imperial County Region of California.” Co-principal investigator (with J. Franco, M. Feeley, L. Gause, M. Abrajano, M. Rodriguez, and S. Cauchon). \$40,000.

University Grants Program, San Diego State University (Spring 2011). \$4,800

College of Arts and Letters Micro-grant, San Diego State University (Summer 2006). \$400.

Faculty Development Program, San Diego State University (Spring 2005). 50% release time.

College of Arts and Letters Micro-grant, San Diego State University (Summer 2004). \$500.

Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity Grant, San Diego State University (Summer 2004). Summer Salary.

Cooperative Agreement, Kettering Foundation (Sep 2002-Nov. 2003). \$20,000.

Regents Dissertation Writing Grant, University of California, Irvine (Fall 2002). \$4,200.

Dissertation Research Grant, University of California, Irvine (June 2001). \$1,800.

Podlich Fellowship, University of California, Irvine (Sep. 1996 – Apr. 1997). \$7,000.

Honors and Awards

Most Influential Faculty, Social Science, 2023 (Student: Maria Shoka)

California Elections Data Archive Research Award, for "Citizens, Interest Groups, and Local Ballot Initiatives" (*Politics & Policy* 40: 1, 2012). Presented by California State University, Sacramento's Center for California Studies at the State Politics and Policy Conference, Sacramento, California May 28-30, 2015.

Faculty-Student Mentoring Program Honoree, College of Professional Studies and Fine Arts, 2006 (Student: Carla Lopez).

Other Research Experience

Elite Opinion Survey, Loyola Marymount University, January-March 2000. Part of a research team that conducted interviews with city council members in Southern California. The survey asked about various public policy issues facing the region, with an emphasis on infrastructure and urban growth.

Research Analyst, L.A. City Ethics Commission, June 1993 to June 1996. Conducted a policy analysis of the City's public matching funds program, designed and managed a database containing campaign activities of City candidates, and assisted with audits of campaign funds of City candidates.

Conference Papers

“The Politics of Density: Activism and Democratic Responsiveness.” Presented at the 2026 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA.

“Community Building or Neighborhood Food Fights? Political Discourse on Nextdoor.com.” Presented at the 2023 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Los Angeles, CA

“Tribal Politics or Discerning Voters? The Use of Cues in Local Elections” Presented at the 2023 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Los Angeles, CA (With Danielle Joesten Martin and Ted Lascher, Jr.).

“Local Civic Engagement, Participatory Opportunities, and Inequality.” Presented at the 2022 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Montreal, Canada.

“The Use of Cues in Low-Information Elections.” Presented at the 2022 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Portland OR (With Edward Lascher and Danielle Joesten-Martin).

“Community Perspectives on Homelessness and Homeless-Serving Facilities” Presented at the 2021 annual meeting of the Society for the Study of Social Problems. Virtual (With Megan Welsh and Nicolas Gutierrez III).

“Experimental Evidence about Occupational Designations in Local Elections.” Presented at the 2019 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Diego (With Edward Lascher and Danielle Joesten-Martin).

“Deeper into the Impact of Occupational Designations on Local Elections.” Presented at the 2018 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Francisco (presented by my co-author, Edward Lascher).

“‘I Voted for the Businessperson:’ Candidate Occupation and Vote Choice in Local Elections.” Presented at the 2017 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, Canada (with Edward Lascher).

“Determinants of Aggregate Campaign Fundraising in State Legislative Elections.” Presented at the 2014 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC.

“Working Through Disagreement in Deliberative Forums.” Presented at the 2013 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Hollywood, CA.

“What is a ‘Local Issue’? Defining a Sphere of Local Influence in an Interdependent World.” Presented at the 2011 Urban Affairs Association annual conference, New Orleans, Louisiana.

“The Democratic Benefits of Devolution: A Comparison of South Korea and the United States.” Presented at the 23rd annual Center for Local Autonomy/Friedrich Naumann Foundation International Conference, October 22, 2009, Seoul, South Korea.

“State Laws Related to Immigration and Immigrants: Symbolism or Substance?” Presented at the 2008 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA (with Lina Newton).

“Local Elections, the “Political Pipeline,” and Women’s Underrepresentation in Elective Office.” Presented at the 2008 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA (with Ronnee Schreiber).

“The Impact of Public Financing Programs in Municipal Elections: Evidence from New York and Los Angeles.” Presented at the 2007 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago II.

“Fundraising Coalitions in Open Seat Mayoral Elections.” Presented at the 2006 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.

“Suburban Money in Municipal Elections: The Geographic Distribution of Campaign Contributions.” Presented at the 2006 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Albuquerque, NM.

“Campaign Finance in Municipal Elections: Evidence From Three Cities.” Presented at the 2004 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (with Renee B. Van Vechten).

“Obstructionism or Civic Participation? The Causes of the NIMBY Syndrome.” Presented at the 2004 annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, Washington DC.

“Citizen Participation and the Limits of Local Democracy.” Presented at the 2004 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR.

"Local Democracy and the Political Value of Social Networks." Presented at the 2002 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA.

"Citizen Participation in Urban Politics: Implications for Regime Theory and Local Democracy." Presented at the 2002 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

"Quality of Life and Public Policy: Are Local Officials Fixated on Economic Growth?" Presented at the 2002 annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (with Kim DeFronzo).

"Patterns of Participation in Local Politics: Experience, Interests and the NIMBY Syndrome." Presented at the 2002 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Long Beach, CA.

“Local Newspapers and Citizen Participation: Is There a Relationship?” Presented at the 2001 annual meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA.

"Urban Blight and Revitalization Efforts in South Central, Los Angeles." Presented at the 1998 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Los Angeles, CA.

Teaching Experience

San Diego State University. Fall 2003 - present

- Political Science 102 (Intro. to American and California Government and Politics)
- Political Science 320 (American Institutions)
- Political Science 321 (State Politics)
- Political Science 335 (Public Policy)

- Political Science 390W (Writing About Politics)
- Political Science 422 (Urban Politics)
- Political Science 533 (Democracy in America)
- Political Science 601 (Scope and Methods)
- Political Science 603 (Public Policy Seminar)
- Political Science 630 (Seminar on Politics)

Visiting Professor of International Politics, Hopkins-Nanjing Center, Nanjing, China, August 2011-August 2012.

- “Democracy and Its Critics”
- “American Political Institutions”
- “American Public Policy”
- “Subnational Politics”

Visiting Professor, Hanyang University, Seoul, South Korea, Fall 2009

- “Democracy in America” (graduate course)
- “Democratic Politics in the United States” (undergraduate course)

Instructor, University of California, Irvine.

- Current Issues and Controversies (Spring 2003)
- The U.S. Congress (Summer 2001)

Director, Public Affairs Internship Program, University of California, Irvine. March 2000-June 2001.

- Duties include assisting students in finding and arranging internships, maintaining internship listings, organizing seminars, and grading student research papers

Teaching Assistant, University of California, Irvine, for the following courses:

- Intro. to American Government (Winter 1998)
- Intro. to Law (Winter 2000)
- Intro. to Political Analysis (Fall 1997)
- Law and the Millennium (Spring 2000)
- Social Science Honors Core (Fall 1999 and Fall 1998)
- The U.S. Supreme Court (Winter 1999)
- Political Sociology (Spring 1997)

University and Professional Service

Co-director, San Diego Chapter of the Scholars Strategy Network, 2018-present.

Member, editorial board, *California Journal of Politics and Policy*. 2020-present.

External reviewer, Behavioral Science program, California State University, Dominguez Hills, Spring 2020.

Consulted on an *amici curiae* brief for the U.S. Supreme court case *Town of Greece v. Galloway* 134 U.S. 1811 (2014).

Fulbright service

- Korean-American Educational Commission, PY2010-2011 Fulbright Graduate Study Award Selection Interview Panel member, September 2009.
- 2011/12 Japan/Korea Regional Peer Review Committee member, Faculty Fulbright Program, Fall 2010.
- 2015/16 China/Japan/Korea Regional Peer Review Committee member, Faculty Fulbright Program, Fall 2014.
- Student Fulbright campus committee interviewer, various years

San Diego State University service

- University Senate, 2018-2024
- Elected Senator at Large to the Senate Executive Committee, 2019-20, 2021-22
- Faculty Honors and Awards Committee, 2022-24
- GE Area Task Force (Area B), Fall 2018
- University Senate Instruction and Information Technology Committee, 2018-2021
- Single Subject Admissions Committee, College of Education, Spring 2019-2022

College of Arts of Letters service:

- Director, Social Science Program, Spring 2018-2024
- Advisor, Social Science Program, Spring 2018-Fall 2023
- Curriculum Committee member, 2010-11, 2012-13 (co-chair), 2013-14 (chair), Fall 2021, and Fall 2022-2024.
- Retention, Promotion and Tenure Committee, 2013-14

Political Science Department service:

- Undergraduate Advisor, 2007-2015 (except for Fall 2009, Fall 2011 and Spring 2012)
- Chair, Scholarship Committee, 2019-2020, 2020-21, and 2023-24
- Chair, American Politics search committee, 2020-21
- Member, 2014-5 external review committee
- Member, 2023-4 external review committee
- Washington Center Internship liaison, Spring 2011
- Chair, Sabbaticals Committee, Fall 2010
- Chair, Lecturers' Evaluation Committee, Spring 2010 and Spring 2019
- Chair, Tenure and Promotion Committee, 2014-15 and 2015-16
- Chair, Performance Review Committee, 2020-21
- Chair, Periodic Evaluation Committee, 2025-26
- Faculty advisor, Pi Sigma Alpha (political science honors society), Fall 2006-Spring 2009.
- Assessment Coordinator, Spring 2008 and Spring 2016
- Member, Political Science Undergraduate Committee, 2004-6, 2020-present
- Member, Political Theory search committee, Fall 2004
- Member, Public Law search committee, Fall 2006, Fall 2007, and Fall 2013
- Chair, American Politics search Committee, Fall 2021
- Member, Environmental Politics search committee, Fall 2022
- Department Secretary, Political Science Department, 2003-4

Peer reviewer for the following journals: *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *Public Administration Review*, *Polity*, *Social Science Journal*, *Journal of Urban Affairs*, *State and Local Government Review*, *American Politics Research*, *Publius*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *California*

Journal of Politics and Policy, and *Social Science Quarterly*. Also peer reviewer for the National Science Foundation and textbook reviewer for Pearson Longman.

Conference participation (other than paper presentations):

- Panel chair and discussant at the 2026 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA.
- Panel chair and discussant at the 2023 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Los Angeles, CA.
- Panel discussant at “Asian Cultural and Media Imagination Conference.” Seoul, South Korea, November 9th, 2009.
- Panel discussant at the 2004 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Portland, OR.
- Panel chair at the 2011 annual meeting of the Urban Affairs Association, New Orleans, LA.
- Panel discussant at the 2013 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Hollywood, CA.
- Panel chair and discussant at the 2016 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA.
- Panel chair at the 2017 annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, Canada.

Guest Lectures and Presentations

Guest speaker, Coronado Democratic Club, April 11th, 2026. Discussed partisanship and voting behavior in local elections.

Guest, Scholar Strategy Network’s “No Jargon” podcast. November 4, 2025.

Panelist, “San Diego County: Money in Politics.” League of Women Voters, San Diego County, August 16th, 2025.

Panelist, “Money in Politics: Current Issues, Possible Solutions.” League of Women Voters, San Diego County, April 11th, 2024.

Invited public lecture, “Buying the Grassroots: Voters and Money in Local Politics.” Center for California Studies, June 21st, 2018.

Moderator, “Building Bridges, Not Barriers.” La Mesa-Foothills Democratic Club. October 5th, 2016.

Panelist, “When Voters are the Decision-Makers: Land Use by Ballot.” Urban Land Institute San Diego-Tijuana, September 13th, 2016

Guest speaker, Coronado Democratic Club, November 15th, 2014. Discussed the 2014 midterm elections.

Guest lecture, University of the Third Age at the University of San Diego, January 21, 2009. Discussed the California state budget crisis.

Presentation to the San Diego Ethics Commission, December 13, 2007. Discussed research on local campaign finance reform.

Presentation at “Clean Money, Clean Cities: The Impact of Local Campaign Finance Reform,” sponsored by California Common Cause. March 15th (Pasadena, CA) and March 23rd (San Jose, CA), 2007.

Media Appearances

Various taped and live interviews on state and local politics for the following stations:

- KPBS (both television and radio)
- KFMB (San Diego CBS affiliate)
- KUSI (San Diego)
- KGTV (San Diego ABC affiliate)
- KNSD (San Diego, NBC affiliate)
- KSWBTV (San Diego, WB affiliate)
- XETV (San Diego, Fox affiliate)

Various phone interviews with print media outlets, including Associated Press, *Christian Science Monitor*, *Voice of San Diego*, *North County Times*, *San Diego Union-Tribune*, and *City Beat*