

Alexander M. Tahk

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
University of Wisconsin–Madison
1050 Bascom Mall, 305 North Hall
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

T 608.263.2297
F 608.265.2663
atahk@wisc.edu
www.tahk.us

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN–MADISON
Assistant Professor of Political Science, August 2010–Present

Madison, Wisconsin

EDUCATION

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
Ph.D. in Political Science, 2010

Palo Alto, California

Fields: Methodology, American Politics
Committee: Simon Jackman (chair), Jon A. Krosnick, John Ferejohn, Kevin Quinn
Dissertation: “Essays on the statistical analysis of roll-call votes and judicial citations.”

STANFORD UNIVERSITY
M.S. in Statistics, 2006

Palo Alto, California

MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY
S.B. in Mathematics, 2002
S.B. in Political Science, 2002

Cambridge, Massachusetts

Award for outstanding undergraduate thesis in political science.

PUBLICATIONS

“What Can We Learn About the Ideology of the Newest Supreme Court Justices?” [with Stephen Jessee]. 2011. *PS: Political Science and Politics* 44 (3): 524–529.

“Specification Issues in Assessing the Moderating Role of Issue Importance: A Comment on Grynaviski and Corrigan (2006)” [with Neil Malhotra]. Forthcoming. *Political Analysis*.

“Determinants of Turnout and Candidate Choice in the 2008 U.S. Presidential Election: Illuminating the Impact of Racial Prejudice and Other Considerations” [with Josh Pasek, Yphtach Lelkes, Jon A. Krosnick, Keith Payne, Omair Akhtar, and Trevor Tompson]. 2009. *Public Opinion Quarterly* 73 (5): 943–994.

“Institutions and Equilibrium in the United States Supreme Court” [with Robert Anderson]. 2007. *American Political Science Review* 101 (4): 811–825.

“Reconsidering the Impact of Behavior Prediction Questions on Illegal Drug Use: The Importance of Using Proper Analytical Methods” [with Daniel Schneider and Jon A. Krosnick]. 2007. *Social Influence* 2 (3): 178–196.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“Improving the Analysis of Polling and Other Time-Series Data: A Continuous-Time, Latent-Variable Model with Application to the Agenda-Setting Hypothesis.” 2011. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology.

“Are Policy Makers Out of Step with Their Constituency When It Comes to Immigration?” [with Margaret Peters]. 2010. Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the International Political Economy Society.

“Issue Classification and Ideal Point Dimensionality using Judicial Citations.” 2010. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

“Do the News Media Shape How Americans Think About Politics?: New Statistical Procedures Cast New Light on an Old Hypothesis” [with Jon A. Krosnick, Dean Lacy, and Laura Lowe]. 2010. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

“Moderators of the Candidate Name-Order Effect: The 2004 Presidential Election in Ohio” [with Josh Pasek, Daniel Blocksom, Daniel Schneider, and Jon A. Krosnick]. 2010. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

“Properties of Ideal-Point Estimators.” 2010. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Society for Political Methodology.

“Estimating Judicial Ideology from Court Citation Data” [with Robert Anderson and Stephen Jessee]. 2008. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. Previous versions of this paper was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (2007) and the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (2006).

“Ballot Order Effects in California from 1976 to 2006” [with Daniel Schneider, Jon A. Krosnick, and Eyal Ophir]. 2007. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

“Comparing the Validity of Public Predictions of Changes in the Economy: RDD Telephone Data vs. Volunteer Samples Completing Paper and Pencil Questionnaires.” 2007. Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the American Association for Public Opinion Research.

“A New Approach to Optimal Classification.” 2006. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

“Structure and Equilibrium in the United States Supreme Court” [with Robert Anderson]. 2006. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

“The Signals in the Noise: A Cross-Validation Approach to Estimating the Dimensionality of Roll Call Voting.” 2005. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

“House Party: Party and Presidential Influence on Congressional Voting” [with Stephen Jessee]. 2005. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

WORKING PAPERS

“Moderators of the Candidate Name-Order Effect: The 2004 Presidential Election in Ohio” [with Daniel Blocksom, Daniel Schneider, and Jon A. Krosnick].

“Issue Classification and Ideal Point Dimensionality using Judicial Citations.”

“The Impact of Policy Change Threat on Financial Contributions to Interest Groups” [with Joanne M. Miller, Jon A. Krosnick, Allyson Holbrook, and Laura Lowe].

“The Optimal Length of Rating Scales to Maximize Reliability and Validity” [with Jon A. Krosnick].

“The Ghost of Europe Past: Nationalism, Regime Legitimacy, and Democracy in the Post-Communist World” [with Chappell Lawson].

OTHER RESEARCH

Supreme Court Ideology Project [with Stephen Jessee].
<http://sct.tahk.us/>

RESEARCH INTERESTS

POLITICAL METHODOLOGY: Statistical applications in political science, statistical analysis of roll call voting, Bayesian statistics, survival analysis, machine learning

AMERICAN POLITICS: Judicial politics, Congress, political behavior, public opinion

COMPARATIVE POLITICS: Baltic nations, former Soviet bloc, Korea, democratization