

ERIC PLUTZER

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CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
219 Pond Laboratory
The Pennsylvania State University
University Park, PA 16802

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. 1987 Washington University (Sociology)
M.A. 1983 Washington University (Sociology)
A.B. 1980 Washington University (Urban Studies)

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public Opinion and Voting
Gender and Politics

Participation and Turnout
Policy Responsiveness and Education Policy

ADDITIONAL TEACHING INTERESTS

Political Socialization
Scope and Methods

Survey Research Methods
Statistics

EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

2005-present Professor of Political Science & Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University

Academic Director, Survey Research Center (2006 – present)
Senior Scholar in Residence, Survey Research Center (2005 – 2006)

1994-2005 Associate Professor of Political Science & Sociology, The Pennsylvania State University

Acting/Interim Department Head (January 1998-June 1999)
Director of Graduate Studies (August 1995-July 1999)
Graduate Placement Director (August 1995-December 1999)

Guest Professor, Institute for Social Science, Humboldt University (Spg. 2000)
Senior Fulbright Lecturer, University of Malaya (Spring/Summer 1995)

1989-1994 Assistant Professor of Political Science, Iowa State University (with courtesy appointments in Sociology and Women's Studies).

1987-1989 NIMH Post-Doctoral Fellow, Program in Measurement, Indiana University.

SELECTED COURSES TAUGHT

Graduate:	Political Analysis (Scope and Methods) Statistical Methods for Political Research (Statistics I) Political Behavior Analysis of Survey Data	
Undergraduate:	American Government Research Methods Political Opinion	Introduction to Sociology Social Problems/Social Issues Gender and Society

BOOKSScholarly Books

Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2010. *Evolution, Creationism, and the Battle to Control America's Classrooms*. Cambridge University Press.

Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2005. *Ten Thousand Democracies: Politics and Public Opinion in America's School Districts*. Georgetown University Press.

Textbook

Plutzer, Eric. 1994. *Your Research: Data Analysis for American Government and Politics*. St. Paul: West Publishing (149 pp.).

REFEREED ARTICLES

Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2011. "Local Autonomy vs. State Constraints: Balancing Evolution and Creationism in U.S. High Schools." *Publius* 41 (4): 610-35.

Berkman, Michael B., and Eric Plutzer. 2011. "Defeating Creationism in the courtroom, but not in the classroom." *Science* 331 (no. 6016): 404-405.
doi:10.1126/science.1198902

Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2009. "Scientific Expertise and the Culture War: Public Opinion and the Teaching of Evolution in the American States." *Perspectives on Politics* 7 (September): 485-499.

Plutzer, Eric and Michael B. Berkman. 2008. "Evolution, Creationism and the Teaching of Human Origins in Schools." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 72 (3): 540-553.

Pacheco, Julianna, and Eric Plutzer. 2008. "Political Participation and Cumulative Disadvantage: The Impact of Economic and Social Hardship on Young Citizens." *Journal of Social Issues* 64 (3): 571-593.

- Berkman, Michael B., Julianna Pacheco, and Eric Plutzer. 2008. "Evolution and Creationism in America's Classrooms: A National Portrait." *PLoS Biology* 6 (5), May 20, 2008.
- Pacheco, Julianna, and Eric Plutzer. 2007. "Stay in School, Don't Get Pregnant: The Impact of Teen Life Transitions on Voter Turnout." *American Politics Research* 35 (January): 32-56.
- Plutzer, Eric and Nancy Wiefek. 2006. "Family Transitions, Economic Status and Voter Turnout Among African American Inner-City Women." *Social Science Quarterly* 87 (September): 658-678.
- Sandell, Julianna and Eric Plutzer. 2005. "Families, Divorce and Voter Turnout in the US." *Political Behavior* 27 (June): 133-162.
- Plutzer, Eric and Michael Berkman. 2005. "The Graying of America and Support for Funding the Nation's Schools." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 69 (Spring): 66-86.
- Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2004. "Gray Peril or Loyal Support? The Effects of the Elderly on Educational Expenditures." *Social Science Quarterly* 85 (December): 1178-1192.
- Plutzer, Eric. 2002. "Becoming a Habitual Voter: Inertia, Resources, and Growth in Young Adulthood." *American Political Science Review* 96 (March): 41-56.
- Plutzer, Eric and John F. Zipp. 2001. "Class, Gender and the Family Unit: A Dynamic Model of Stratification and Class Politics." *Social Science Research* 30 (September): 426-448.
- Zipp, John F. and Eric Plutzer. 2000. "From Housework to Paid Work: The Implications of Women's Labor Force Experiences on Class Identity." *Social Science Quarterly* 81 (June): 538-554.
- Plutzer, Eric, Ardith Maney and Robert E. O'Connor. 1998. "Ideology and Elite's Perceptions of the Safety of New Technologies." *American Journal of Political Science* 42 (January): 190-209.
- Plutzer, Eric and John F. Zipp. 1996. "Identity Politics and Voting for Women Candidates." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 60 (Spring):30-57.
- Zipp, John F. and Eric Plutzer. 1996. "Wives and Husbands: Social Class, Gender, and Class Identification in the U.S." *Sociology* (May):235-252.
- Maney, Ardith and Eric Plutzer. 1996. "Scientific Information, Elite Attitudes, and the Public Debate Over Food Safety." *Policy Studies Journal* 24 (Spring):42-56.

Huckfeldt, Robert, Eric Plutzer, and John Sprague. 1993. "The Alternative Contexts of Political Behavior: Churches, Neighborhoods, and Individuals." *Journal of Politics* 55 (May):365-81.

Expanded version included in Huckfeldt and Sprague. 1995. *Citizens, Politics, and Social Communication*. Cambridge University Press.

Banaszak, Lee Ann and Eric Plutzer. 1993. "Contextual Determinants of Feminist Attitudes: National and Subnational Influences in Western Europe." *American Political Science Review* 87 (March):147-57.

Banaszak, Lee Ann and Eric Plutzer. 1993. "The Social Bases of Feminism in the European Community." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 57 (Spring):29-53.

Plutzer, Eric. 1991. "Preferences in Family Politics: Women's Consciousness or Family Context?" *Political Geography Quarterly* 10 (April):162-173.

Plutzer, Eric and Michael McBurnett. 1991. "Family Life and American Politics: The 'Marriage Gap' Reconsidered." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 55 (Spring):113-127.

Plutzer, Eric. 1991. "The Protestant Ethic and the Spirit of Academia: An Essay on Graduate Education." *Teaching Sociology* 19 (July):302-307.

Ryan, Barbara and Eric Plutzer. 1989. "When Married Women Have Abortions: Spousal Notification and Marital Interaction." *Journal of Marriage and the Family* 50 (February):41-50.

(cited in *Casey v. Planned Parenthood*).

Plutzer, Eric. 1988. "Work Life, Family Life, and Women's Support of Feminism." *American Sociological Review* 53 (August):640-649.

Plutzer, Eric. 1987. "Determinants of Leftist Radical Belief in the U.S.: A Test of Competing Theories." *Social Forces* 65 (June):1002-1019.

Plutzer, Eric and Barbara E. Ryan. 1987. "Telling Husbands About an Abortion: An Empirical Look at Constitutional and Policy Dilemmas." *Sociology and Social Research* 71 (April):183-189.

Plutzer, Eric. 1986. "Fertility and Agricultural Structure: Rural America in 1930." *Rural Sociology* 51 (Summer):156-168.

Zipp, John F. and Eric Plutzer. 1985. "Gender Differences in Voting for Female Candidates: Evidence From the 1982 Election." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 79 (Summer):179-197.

CHAPTERS

- Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2012. "Education Policy and Politics." Chapter 12 (pp. 375-404) in *Politics in the American States* 10th Edition. Russell L. Hanson, Virginia Gray, and Thad Kousser, eds. Congressional Quarterly Press.
- Plutzer, Eric. 2004. "Are Moral Voices Gendered? Care, Rights, and Autonomy in Reproductive Decision Making." Chapter 5 in *Gender and Contemporary American Politics: Women, Men and the Political Process*, 2nd Edition. Edited by Sue Tolleson-Rinehart and Jyl J. Josephson. Armonk: M. E. Sharpe.
[This appeared as Chapter 2 in the 1st edition of the volume (2000)]
- Plutzer, Eric. 1998. "Family Structure and the Political Participation of African American Women." Chapter 8 (pp. 187-203) in Anne Colby, Jacqueline James, and Daniel Hart (Eds), *The Development of Character and Competence Through Life*. University of Chicago Press.

METHODS CONTRIBUTIONS (not refereed)

- Plutzer, Eric. 2002. "First Things First (whatever "first" happens to mean): Syllabus Choices for Statistics I." *The Political Methodologist* 10 (Spring): 4-6.
- Plutzer, Eric. 1994. "Consensus, Idiosyncrasy, and Why Your R² Seems Low." *The Political Methodologist* 5 (Spring-Summer):28-31.

OP-ED & COMMENTARY (not refereed)

- Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2012. "An Evolving Controversy: The Struggle to Teach Science in Science Class." *American Educator* 36 (Summer): 12-17, 20-23, 40.
- Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2011. "Casualties in the New Science Wars: The Nation's Children." Op-Ed appearing along with podcast interview on www.scienceprogress.org, Center for American Progress.
- Plutzer, Eric. 2009. "Gastkommentar: Staat, Schule, Glaube - eine persönliche Sicht." *Die Welt* June 16, 2009. [online at: <http://www.welt.de/die-welt/article3932725/Religion-paradox.html>]
- English version published as "A German paradox: Religion and the public schools: A personal perspective." *WZB-Mitteilungen* Heft 124 Juni 2009: 70-71. [online at: www.wzb.eu/publikation/pdf/wm124/70-71.pdf]
- Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2004. "How People Get What They Want: Long Islanders Rejection of School Budgets." *Newsday* May 30, 2004. [online at: <http://www.newsday.com/opinion/long-islanders-record-rejection-of-school-budgets-this-spring-raises-some-basic-questions-how-wise-is-it-for-voters-to->

[decide-directly-on-school-policy-and-how-much-does-the-public-really-care-about-children-and-schools-1.504110](#)]

RESEARCH REPORT

Plutzer, Eric and Barbara E. Ryan. 1985. *The Hope Clinic Study: Individual Reasons and Social Influences on Women's Decision to Tell or Not Tell the Co-conceiver About a Pregnancy*. Granite City, IL (114 pp).

BOOK REVIEWS

Jennifer Lawless and Richard L. Fox. *It Takes a Candidate: Why Women Don't Run for Office*. Reviewed in *Politics & Gender* II (September 2006).

Marcus, Neuman, and MacKuen's *Affective Intelligence and Political Judgment*. Reviewed in *Public Opinion Quarterly* 66 (Fall 2002): 455-458.

John Zaller's *The Nature and Origins of Mass Opinion*. Reviewed in *Social Forces* 73 (September, 1994): 345-46.

Zastrow & Bowker's *Social Problems*. Reviewed in *Mid-American Review of Sociology* 9 (Winter, 1984):125-27.

AWARDS

2012 Don K. Price Award for the best book on science, technology, and politics published in the past three years (American Political Science Association STEP section).

College of the Liberal Arts Distinction in Social Sciences Award, 2011.

State Politics and Policy Quarterly Best Paper Award (best paper on the states presented at any conference in 2010).

Ethan Alan Shepley Award. Washington University's highest award to graduating seniors. Recognizes outstanding contributions in community service, leadership and scholarship (1980).

RESEARCH GRANTS

National Science Foundation, "Multi-Level Policy Responsiveness to Public Opinion" (\$291,210, with Michael Berkman and James Honaker; SES-1059723: 2011-2013)

National Science Foundation, "Doctoral Dissertation Research in Political Science: Dynamic Policy Responsiveness in the US States" (\$3,236, with Julianna Pacheco; SES-0918280)

John F. Templeton Foundation, “Evolution and Creationism in America’s Classrooms” (\$66,847, with Michael Berkman: 2008 – 2009; JFT #13241).

Spencer Foundation, “Evolution and Creationism in America’s Classrooms” (\$39,725, with Michael Berkman: 2008 – 2009).

National Science Foundation, “Public Opinion and Policy Responsiveness in Small Electorates: Institutions and Spending in American School Districts” (\$224,638, with Michael Berkman: 2004 – 2007; SES- 0350541).

Seeded by: Pennsylvania State University, Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant (awarded Feb 2001 -- \$7,500)

Russell Sage Foundation, “Economic Hardship, Family Life and Voter Turnout in Developmental Perspective: Longitudinal Research on High School Class of 1992” (\$37,945: 2004 -- 2006).

National Poverty Center, “Civic and Political Engagement: The Role of Poverty in the Context of Race, Ethnicity and Neighborhood” (with Julianna Pacheco. Awarded April 2005 -- \$3,420 plus support for NPC conference participation -- through May 31, 2006).

Radcliffe Research Support Program “Economic Hardship, Family Life and Voter Turnout in Developmental Perspective.” (awarded January 1998 -- \$3,714)

Above three grants seeded by: Pennsylvania State University, Liberal Arts Faculty Research Grant (awarded May 1997 -- \$5,500), and by:

Henry A. Murray Research Center, Radcliffe College (awarded Sept. 1993 -- \$3,000)

Center for Global and Regional Environmental Research, “Attitudes Toward Environmental Risk and Technological Safety.” (awarded Dec. 1991 -- \$8,323)

USDA Food Safety Research Consortium. “Attitudes Toward Environmental Risk and Technological Safety.” (with Ardith Maney; awarded Dec. 1991 -- \$23,178)

Spencer Foundation small grant. “The Religious Factor in Political Socialization.” (awarded August 1990 -- \$1,953)

American Political Science Association Small Grants Program, “The Religious Factor in Political Socialization.” (awarded May 1989 - \$1,260)

Selected Conference Papers and Invited Lectures (Since 2005)

Plutzer, Eric. 2012. "The Racial Gap in Confidence in Science: Explanations and Implications." Paper delivered at the annual meetings of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, May 17-20, in Orlando.

Plutzer, Eric. 2012. "Do highly exclusive social welfare programs increase political inequality?" Paper delivered at the annual State Politics and Policy Meetings, February 17-18, in Houston.

Plutzer, Eric. 2010. "Multi-level policy responsiveness to public opinion: From statehouse to street-level." Paper delivered at the annual meetings of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, May 13-16, in Chicago.

Plutzer, Eric. 2010. "Multi-level policy responsiveness to public opinion: From statehouse to street-level." Paper delivered at the annual meetings of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, May 13-16, in Chicago.

Versions also presented at:

Indiana University, Political Science colloquium series (April 2010)

Temple University, Campaigns and Elections colloquium series (October 2010)

Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2010. "State Standards as Local Constraints: Evolution and Creationism in the High School Classroom." Invited paper presented at the seminar on *States as Facilitators or Obstructionists of Local Governments*, sponsored by the DeVoe Moore Center and the LeRoy Collins Institute at Florida State University. February 25-26, 2010.

Berkman, Michael and Eric Plutzer. 2009. "Evolution, Creationism and the Battle for America's Classrooms." Invited lectures given at:

Penn State Department of Anthropology colloquium series, October 16, 2009.

University of Cincinnati Symposium on "*Darwinism, Science, Religion and Society*," October 30-31, 2009.

Penn State Department of Education Policy colloquium series, November 19, 2009.

Plutzer, Eric. 2009. Invited to speak for the negative in "Resolved: That Major Media Polls Today Impair Democracy in the United States (a Debate)." Special session at the annual meetings of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, May 14-17, in Miami.

Plutzer, Eric, Michael Berkman, and Julianna S. Pacheco. 2008. "One in eight teachers endorses creationism in the classroom." Annual Meetings of the American Association for Public Opinion Research, in New Orleans.

Pacheco, Julianna, and Eric Plutzer. 2008. "Political Participation and Cumulative Disadvantage: The Impact of Economic and Social Hardship on Young Citizens." Annual Meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association, in Chicago.

Plutzer, Eric and Michael Berkman. 2007. "Do Street Level Bureaucrats Enhance Policy Responsiveness? Classroom-Level Implementation of State Standards for Teaching Evolution."

Annual Meetings of the American Political Science Association, in Chicago.

Plutzer, Eric and Julianna Sandell. 2007. "How State Electoral Institutions Influence the Electoral Participation of Young Citizens." State Politics and Policy Annual Conference, February 24, 2007 in Austin.

Plutzer, Eric. 2006. "From Dollars to Darwin: How Public Opinion and Institutions Shape Education Policies." Invited lecture at Harvard University, Program on Education Policy and Governance (PEPG), November 1, 2006.

Plutzer, Eric and Julianna Sandell. 2006. "Poverty, Cumulative Disadvantage and Political Participation." National Poverty Center, Spring Mini-Conference in Ann Arbor.

Berkman, Michael, Eric Plutzer, and Nicholas Stark. 2006. "Teaching Evolution: State Institutions, Public Opinion, and Science Curriculums." Annual Meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association, in Chicago.

Sandell, Julianna, and Eric Plutzer. 2005. "Stay in School, Don't Get Pregnant: The Impact of Teen Life Transitions on Voter Turnout." Annual Meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association, in Chicago.

Berkman, Michael, and Eric Plutzer. 2005. "Electoral Systems, Descriptive Representation, and Substantive Representation on American School Boards." Annual Meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association, in Chicago.

Professional Associations and Activities

American Political Science Association
Midwest Political Science Association

American Association for Public Opinion Research
American Sociological Association

Editorial Service:

Editorial Board:

American Journal of Education (2004 – present)

American Politics Research (2003 – present)

Politics & Gender (Associate Editor 2006 –2007; Editorial Board 2008- 2010)

Social Science Quarterly (2002 – present)

Manuscript Referee (2005 - present):

General Political Science Journals: *American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, American Politics Research, Journal of Politics, Political Behavior, Political Psychology, Political Research Quarterly*

General Sociology Journals: *American Journal of Sociology, Social Forces, Social Science Research, Sociological Quarterly, Sociology of Education*

Interdisciplinary Journals: *Politics & Gender, Public Opinion Quarterly, Social Science*

Quarterly, Women, Politics and Policy, Gender Issues, American Journal of Education

Funding Agencies and Publishers: *National Science Foundation, Thomson/Wadsworth Publishing, Westview Press, Pearson, Pine Forge Press, Sage QASS*

Award Committees: *State Politics and Policy Quarterly, best 2009 paper committee (Chair)*
State Politics and Policy Quarterly, best 2008 paper committee
Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior, best 2002 paper committee

Major Department Service: Political Science, Penn State University

Acting/Interim Department Head	January 1998 - June 1999
Director of Graduate Studies	August 1995 - June 1999
Graduate Placement Director	August 1995 - December 1999

Additional, Recent Department Service: Political Science, Penn State University

Chair, Department Promotion & Tenure Committee	2007-08, 09-10, 11-12
Field Examiner: Political Methodology	2003-2007
Field Examiner: American Politics	2003-04, 07-08, 09-11
Department Colloquium Series Coordinator	2002-04, 09-11
Task Force to Develop Methodology Field Exams	2002-03
Teaching Evaluation Committee	2002-04
Strategic Planning Committee	1995-99

Selected Service: College of the Liberal Arts, Penn State University

Faculty Research Committee	2002-2005 (Chair, 2003-2005)
College Promotion and Tenure Committee	Summer 2001
Task Force on Enhancing Dissertation Year Support	1997-1998
Graduate Research & Awards Committee	1995-1997, 2011-12

Selected University Service, Penn State University

Academic Director, Survey Research Center	2006- present
SSRI Advisory Committee	2006-present
Senior Vice President for Research Promotion Committee	2007-2008
NSF-IGERT down-select committee	2006-2008
Survey Research Center Advisory Committee	2003-2006
Social Studies Advisory Committee	2004-2005
Search Committee Chair (Survey Research Center Director)	2005-2006 and 2000-2001
Liebowitz Lecture Committee	1995-1996

Selected Department & University Service, Iowa State University

ICPSR Official Representative	1993-1994
Search Committee Chair	1990-1991 & 1992-1993
Curriculum Committee Chair	1990-1991