Robin E. Best

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

2016-	Associate Professor of Political Science, Binghamton University, SUNY
	Visiting Scholar, Cornell University, Fall 2019
2013-2016	Assistant Professor of Political Science, Binghamton University, SUNY
2013 (Spring)	Research Assistant Professor of Political Science, Binghamton University, SUNY
2010-2012	Assistant Professor of Political Science, University of Missouri
2007-2010	Assistant Professor of Political Science, Leiden University (the Netherlands)
2006-2007	Instructor of Political Science, Syracuse University,

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	Political Science, Binghamton University, SUNY, August 2007
M.A.	Political Science, Binghamton University, SUNY, May 2005
M.A.	Social Sciences, University of Chicago, August 2002
B.A.	Political Science, University at Albany, SUNY, May 2001

JOURNAL ARTICLES

Best, Robin E. and Didem Seyis. "How do voters perceive ideological congruence? The effects of winning and losing under different electoral rules." Forthcoming in *Electoral Studies*.

Best, Robin E. 2020. "Do Radical Right-Wing Populist Parties in the Legislature Affect Representation in Government? A Cross-National Analysis." *Representation* 56(3): 367-386.

Best, Robin E., Daniel B. Magleby, and Michael D. McDonald. 2020. "Detecting Florida's Gerrymander: A Lesson for Law and Social Science." *Social Science Quarterly* 101(1): 37-52.

Krasno, Jonathan, Daniel B. Magleby, Michael D. McDonald, Shawn Donahue, and Robin E. Best. 2019. "Can Gerrymanders Be Measured? An Examination of Wisconsin's State Assembly." *American Politics Research* 47(5): 1162-1201

Best, Robin E., Shawn J. Donahue, Jonathan Krasno, Daniel B. Magleby, and Michael D.

McDonald. 2018. "Considering the Prospects for Establishing a Packing Gerrymandering Standard." *Election Law Journal* 17(1): 1-20.

Best, Robin E., Shawn J. Donahue, Jonathan Krasno, Daniel B. Magleby, and Michael D. McDonald. 2018. "Authors' Response – Values and Validations: Proper Criteria for Comparing Standards for Packing Gerrymanders." *Election Law Journal* 17(1); 82-84.

Best, Robin E., Ian Budge, and Michael D. McDonald. 2017. "Jettisoning Illusions About the Median Mandate." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 43(1): 11-20.

McDonald, Michael D. and Robin E. Best. 2015. "Unfair Partisan Gerrymanders in Politics and Law: A Diagnostic Applied to Six Cases." *Election Law Journal*, 14(4): 213-330.

Best, Robin E. and Andrei Zhirnov. 2015. "The Perils and Pitfalls of Ignoring Disproportionality's Behavioral Components." *Electoral Studies*, 40: 256-267.

Best, Robin E. 2013. "How Party System Fragmentation Has Altered Political Opposition in Western Democracies." *Government and Opposition,* 48(3): 314-342.

McDonald, Michael D., Ian Budge, and Robin E. Best. 2012. "Electoral Majorities, Political Parties, and Collective Representation." *Comparative Political Studies,* 45(9) 1104–1131.

Best, Robin E. 2012. "The Long and the Short of It: Electoral Laws and the Dynamics of Party System Size in Western Democracies, 1950-2005." *European Journal of Political Research*, 51(2): 147-165.

Best, Robin E., Ian Budge and Michael D. McDonald. 2012. "Representation as a Median Mandate versus Bilateralism: Taking Cross-National Differences Seriously" *European Journal of Political Research*, 51(1): 1-23.

Best, Robin E. 2011. "The Declining Electoral Relevance of Traditional Cleavage Groups." *European Political Science Review,* 3(2): 279-300.

Best, Robin E., and Steve B. Lem. 2011. "Electoral Volatility, Competition, and Third Party Candidacies in US Gubernatorial Elections." *Party Politics*, 17(5): 611-628.

Best, Robin E. 2010. "Increasing Irrationality? The Equilibrium Relationship between Electoral and Legislative Party System Size, 1950–2005." *Electoral Studies*, 29(1): 105-116.

McDonald, Michael D., and Robin Best. 2006. "Equilibria and Restoring Forces in Models of Vote Dynamics" *Political Analysis*, 14(4): 369-392.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Magleby, Daniel B., Michael D. McDonald, Jonathan Krasno, Shawn J. Donahue, and Robin E.

Best. "Analyzing Gerrymandering's Offense to Electoral Integrity." 2018. In *Challenges of U.S. Electoral Integrity.* Eds. Pippa Norris, Sarah Cameron and Thomas Wynter. New York: Oxford University Press.

Best, Robin E. and Michael D. McDonald. 2016. "Models in Political Science: Forms and Purposes." In Hans Keman and Jaap Woldendorp (eds.) *Handbook of Research Methods and Applications in Political Science*. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Best, Robin E. 2013. "Using Manifesto Estimates to Correct Systematic 'Centring' Error in Expert and Electoral Positioning of Parties." In Andrea Volkens, Judith Bara, Ian Budge, Michael D. McDonald, Hans-dieter Klingemann (eds.) *Mapping Policy Preferences from Texts III*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Best, Robin E. and Michael D. McDonald. 2011. "The Role of Party Policy Positions in the Operation of Democracy." In Christopher J. Anderson and Russell J. Dalton (eds.) *Citizens, Context, and Choice: How Institutional Structures Shape Citizen Behavior.* New York: Oxford University Press.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

"Republicans didn't lose big in 2020 – they held onto statehouses and the power to influence future elections." With Steve B. Lem. The Conversation. November 24, 2020.

"Votes cast in November will shape Congress through 2030." With Steve B. Lem. The Conversation. September 25, 2020.

Review of *Gerrymandering in America: The House of Representatives, the Supreme Court, and the Future of Popular Sovereignty* by Anthony J. McGann, Charles Anthony Smith, Michael Latner, and Alex Keena. (2018) *Law and Politics Book Review*, 28(2): 23-24.

"Wisconsin's state legislative districts are a big Republican gerrymander." With Jonathan Krasno, Michael D. McDonald, Daniel B. Magley, and Shawn Donahue. *The Washington Post's Monkey Cage*. May 24, 2016.

WORKING PAPERS

"No Alternative? Perceived Establishment Party Polarization and Support for Challenger Parties"

"On the Reciprocal Relationship between Party Polarization and Citizen Polarization" with Mert Moral

"Do Redistricting Commissions Avoid Partisan Gerrymanders?" with Steve B. Lem, Daniel B. Magleby, and Michael D. McDonald.

"Are Distant Voters More Likely to Reject the Establishment? The Effects of Perceived Ideological Congruence on Support for Challenger Parties." With Didem Seyis.

"Are leftist voters better substantively represented? The effects of variance in district magnitude on ideological representation."

"Party Polarization, Voter Polarization, and Ideological Congruence." With Mert Moral

GRANTS AND AWARDS

First place winner of the 2015 Common Cause "Gerrymander Standard" writing competition. With Michael D. McDonald

Dean's Research Semester Award, Binghamton University, Fall 2015

Dean's Workshop Series Award (with Ekrem Karakoc), "Citizens and Political Representation in Democracies," Binghamton University, 2015-2016, $3,000

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Democratic Representation, Electoral Politics, Political Parties and Party Systems, Electoral Systems, Electoral Rules & Reform, Electoral Geography, Voting Behavior, Party Competition, European Politics

COURSES TAUGHT

Undergraduate	Graduate
Introduction to Comparative Politics	Research Methods and Statistics I
West European Politics	Comparative Parties & Elections
Comparative Political Parties	Politics of Industrialized Societies
Representation & Democracy	Comparative Political Parties
European Political Systems	Comparative Government and Politics
Gender & Politics	State of the Art in Political Science
Rational Choice Theory	Research Proposal Lab
Elections & Geography	Data Collection and Analysis
Politics of the European Union	Advanced Research Seminar

INVITED TALKS

Co-Instructor for Cornell University summer course on West European Politics, Turin, Italy, 2015, 2017-2019

"How Populist Parties in Opposition Can Affect Representation in Government." Conference on *Minding the Gap? The Populist Surge and its Consequences for Representation.* Berlin, Germany. June 2018.

"Citizen Perceptions of Party Policy Positions and Support for Challenger Parties.**"**Workshop on *European Elections in Times of Crisis*, Munk School of Global Affairs, University of Toronto, May 2018.

"No Alternative? Perceived Establishment Party Polarization and Support for Challenger Parties." Cornell University, Department of Government, December 2017.

"How Electoral Systems Facilitate or Contain Challengers." Guest Lecturer, West European Politics, Cornell University, October 2017.

"The E.U." Lyceum Program, Binghamton University, April 2017.

Panelist on "French Election Roundtable." Cornell Institute for European Studies, Cornell University, April 2017.

"Assessing the Greek Election and What it Means for Austerity in Europe." Cornell Institute for European Studies, Cornell University, October 2015.

"The Radical Right in Western Europe." Cornell Institute for European Studies, Cornell University, February 2015.

"Toward a Bidirectional Account of the Relationship between Party System Size and Electoral Institutions." Visions in Methodology, Pennsylvania State University, May 2012.

"How Party System Fragmentation Has Altered Political Opposition in Western Democracies" London School of Economics and Political Science, April 2012.

"Error Correction Models." Invited instructor for the 2008 Oxford Spring School in Quantitative Methods for Social Research on Time-Series, Oxford University.

"Equal Access for All? Electoral Laws and the Dynamics of Party System Size in Western Democracies, 1950-2005." Essex University, Department of Government, and Binghamton University, Political Science Department, 2008

"Disloyalty or Diminishing Numbers? Party System Fragmentation and the Decline of Traditional Social Cleavages." 2007. Nuffield Political Science Seminars, Nuffield College, Oxford University.

RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

"Support for Hopeless Parties in Established Democracies: Preferences, Protest, and Information." 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington D.C.

"Do Redistricting Commissions Avoid Partisan Gerrymanders?" with Steve B. Lem, Daniel B. Magleby, and Michael D. McDonald. 2019 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington D.C.

"Political Polarization and the Dynamics of Ideological Congruence" with Mert Moral. 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA.

"Citizen Perceptions of Party Policy Positions and Support for Challenger Parties" 2018 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA.

"No Alternative? Perceived Establishment Party Polarization and Support for Challenger Parties" 2018 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

"A Proposal to Give Seat Effects Second Billing When Investigating Gerrymandering." With Michael D. McDonald, Daniel B. Magleby, Jonathan Krasno, and Shawn J. Donahue. 2018 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

"On the Relationship between Party Polarization and Electoral Polarization." With Mert Moral. 2017 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

"A Comprehensive Analysis of Congressional Gerrymandering in the United States." With Daniel Magleby, Michael D. McDonald, Shawn J. Donahue, and Jonathan Krasno. 2017 Pre-APSA Electoral Integrity Project workshop on *Protecting Electoral Security and Voting Rights: The 2016 U.S. elections in comparative perspective*. San Francisco, CA.

"Valid and Reliable Detection of Gerrymanders." With Michael D. McDonald, Daniel B. Magleby, Shawn J. Donahue, and Jonathan Krasno. 2017 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. 2017 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA.

"An Objective and Simple Measure of Gerrymandering: A Demonstration from New York State." With Michael D. McDonald, Jonathan Krasno, Daniel B. Magleby, Joshua Zingher, and Daniel Mosesson. 2015 Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

"Unfair Partisan Gerrymanders in Politics and Law: A Diagnostic Applied to Six Cases." With Michael D. McDonald. 2015 Common Cause conference on "Redistricting Reform: Mapping Our Future," The George Washington University Law School, Washington, DC.

SERVICE

Profession

Section Chair   *Legislative Campaigns and Elections*, 2018 Program Committee for the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.
Representation and Electoral Systems, 2012 Program Committee for annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.
Discussant   Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2007, 2009-2011, 2015, 2018.

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2008, 2009, 2013, 2018, 2019.

Han-Jyun Hou Conference on Political Violence, Binghamton University, 2015

ECPR Joint Sessions, 2010

Workshop on European Parties and Representation, Syracuse University, 2009.

Politicologenetmaal (meeting of the Dutch/Flemish Political Science Association), 2008, 2009

Reviewer   *American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, European Journal of Political Research, Comparative Politics, Electoral Studies, Political Behavior, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion & Parties, Government & Opposition, Party Politics, European Union Politics, Research & Politics, Election Law Journal*

Member of the Steering Committing for the *Manifesto Research on Political Representation* (MARPOR) project, Social Science Research Center (WZB) Berlin, January 2012 – 2015

Assistant Editor for the *Political Handbook of the World*, CQ Press, 2008-2011.

University

Binghamton University	Director of Graduate Studies, 2016-2019
	Member, Executive Committee, 2014-2019
	Faculty Senator, Fall 2018-2020
	Member, Graduate Committee, 2013-2015
	Member, Richard I. Hofferbert Best Paper Award Committee, 2014, 2015.
	Library Reserves Committee, 2016-2017
University of Missouri	Member, Faculty Search Committee
	Member, Undergraduate Committee
	Member, Committee on External Speakers
	"Pizza and Politics" Led political conversation among undergraduate students in residence halls.
	Grant application reviewer for University of Missouri system
Leiden University	Chair, MA admissions committee (2009-2010)
	Member, MA admissions committee
	Co-Coordinator, Honors Class on Agenda Setting
	Member, Faculty Search Committee

PhD Supervision

Christine Sylvester, completed December 2020, Postdoctoral Researcher, University of Strathclyde
Didem Seyis, In progress
Hyoungrohk Chu, In progress

References available upon request