



# CURRICULUM VITAE

*Deborah Lynn Guber*

---

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Dr. Deborah Lynn Guber  
Associate Professor of Political Science  
The University of Vermont  
Old Mill, Room 532  
94 University Place  
Burlington, VT 05405-0114

Phone: 802-656-4062 (office)  
802-524-4987 (home)  
Fax: 802-656-0758  
E-mail: [Deborah.Guber@uvm.edu](mailto:Deborah.Guber@uvm.edu)  
Internet: <http://www.uvm.edu/~dguber/>

## EDUCATION

**Yale University**, New Haven, Connecticut

Ph.D. in Political Science, May 1996  
M.Phil., November 1992  
M.A., May 1992

Dissertation: "Rethinking Environmentalism: Ecology, Public Opinion, and Mass Political Behavior" (Donald P. Green and John P. Wargo, advisors)

Ph.D. Examination Fields:

- American Politics
- Empirical Analysis and Research Methodology, with distinction
- Public Policy, with distinction

**Smith College**, Northampton, Massachusetts

A.B. in Government and Economics, *magna cum laude*, May 1990

## ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**The University of Vermont**, Burlington, Vermont  
Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Political Science, 2004-present

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 1998-2004

Introductory classes: The American Political System (including a version taught online)

100-level classes: Political Parties and Elections

200-level seminars: Topics in Public Opinion  
Public Opinion and Voting Behavior  
Environmentalism and Its Critics  
Senior Honors Seminar

**Bowdoin College**, Brunswick, Maine

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Government and Legal Studies, 1996-1998

**Yale University**, New Haven, Connecticut

Teaching Fellow, 1992-1996

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Public opinion, political behavior, U.S. elections, and environmental politics.

## WORK IN PROGRESS

*Public Opinion and the Classical Tradition: Redux in an Age of Big Data*  
(solo-authored)

In 1889, while writing the second volume of his classic book *The American Commonwealth*, James Bryce insisted that the term “public opinion” referred to something greater than the sum of its parts. It was more than a simple counting of noses, he said; more than an aggregation of citizens who aligned themselves on either side of an issue, where each opinion was accorded equal weight. Instead, Bryce viewed public opinion as an interactive consensus, the endpoint of a lengthy process of social and political debate, where opinion was constructed communally through some amalgam of past experience and present fact; from what we think, in part, and from what others tell us. Following the triumph of modern sampling techniques over straw polls in 1936, however, the views of James Bryce and other early students of public opinion (such as Herbert Blumer and A. Lawrence Lowell) fell decidedly out-of-fashion in a discipline increasingly devoted to the “rhetoric of scientific democracy.” This paper attempts to rekindle interest to the discipline’s historical roots, and in the process insists that public opinion should be defined by more than whatever we measure it to be. By juxtaposing a rich history of scholarship long neglected against a number of contemporary case studies, I demonstrate that the rise of social networks and the organic nature of the “big data” they create can help us—at long last—to merge the richer, theoretical side of public opinion research with its more practical, empirical methods.

*“Time to Wake Up!” Climate Advocacy in a Polarized Congress, 1996-2015*  
(with Jeremiah Bohr and Riley E. Dunlap)

Scholars who study the failure of climate change policy in the United States tend to focus on the mechanics of denial and the coordinated efforts of political operatives, conservative think tanks, and partisan news outlets to cast doubt on what has become overwhelming scientific consensus. Our work seeks to address a factor that has been understudied until now—the role of climate change advocacy in the U.S. Congress, epitomized by Senator Sheldon Whitehouse (D-RI) and his weekly “Time to Wake Up” addresses. Using quantitative text analysis on a corpus of floor speeches published in the *Congressional Record* between 1996 and 2015, we find notable themes that emerge in the language that partisans use. Democrats communicate in ways that are message-based, emphasizing the weight of scientific evidence and the value of consensus, the way climate change contributes to anomalous weather events, and the opportunities promised by a new “green” economy. Meanwhile, Republican speech is focused more narrowly on specific policy proposals such as cap-and-trade and the Keystone Pipeline, as well as on more general resistance to the issue itself that has evolved gradually over time from an outright denial of science into a softer, cue-based narrative based on anecdotes and storytelling. We end with a discussion of what Democrats can hope to accomplish through the “politics of talk,” especially in an age of heightened polarization. Previous work has shown that institutionally disadvantaged members of Congress use floor time as a way to leverage attention on issues they care about, a symbolic activity that fits squarely into Mayhew’s description of position-taking in his classic book, *Congress: The Electoral Connection* (1974). If elites act as opinion leaders and can—as some suggest—play a key role in correcting misinformation for the mass public, those efforts remain worthwhile. That said, our results demonstrate that when Democratic and Republican party members tell competing “causal stories” about climate change, the words they use align with conventional measures of ideology and can best be understood as a single component within a deeply polarized institution. This means that overcoming inertia on climate policy will not happen by correcting misinformation alone, but rather by somehow breaking the tribal pull of partisan identity.

*Up and Down with Climate: Extreme Weather Events and the Issue-Attention Cycle*  
(with Meredith Niles and Thomas Wentworth)

As David Leonhardt recently wrote in *The New York Times*: “If vast amounts of scientific evidence—and a consensus in nearly every other country—have not persuaded Americans to take on climate change, maybe the grim march of extreme weather finally will.” In this paper, we use organic data drawn from Google Trends as an alternative to conventional measures of issue salience in polls to see whether or not internet search queries related to climate change increase in volume during (and after) extreme weather events—such as hurricanes, floods, heat waves, and droughts—and use those results to explore implications for climate policy and communication. Despite a surge in media attention in recent years attributing the frequency and intensity of storms to broader changes in climate, we find little evidence that average citizens connect the two. Instead, the issue-attention cycle on climate is dictated largely by political events—from Al Gore’s “An Inconvenient Truth” to the infamous “climategate” memos and President Trump’s decision to withdraw from the Paris Agreement—in short, issues that do little to bridge, and quite often deepen, the partisan divide.

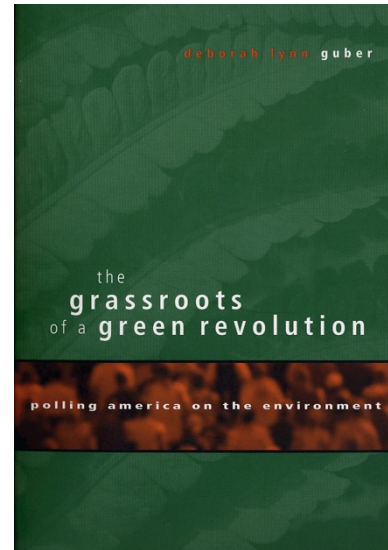
## PUBLICATIONS

### Books

Deborah Lynn Guber.\* 2003. *The Grassroots of a Green Revolution: Polling America on the Environment*. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. 279 pages.

\* Peer reviewed

Since the first Earth Day in 1970, environmentalism has become woven into the fabric of American life. Concern for environmental quality has spawned extraordinary changes in how we think, work, and recreate, in what we buy, and how we govern. But popular consensus on the environment is more complicated than it appears. The real question is no longer whether Americans side with environmentalism, but rather what kind of commitment they bring to the table. This book argues that understanding public opinion—the grassroots of the “green” revolution—is essential to sustaining genuine environmental progress. The long-term success of the environmental movement will be measured not only by its legislative achievements, but by its ability to persuade average Americans to back up their words with action, and to further alter their voting patterns, buying habits, and lifestyles.



*The Grassroots of a Green Revolution* uses polling data from a wide variety of sources to explore the myths, inconsistencies and tensions that characterize public thinking on environmental issues. The book defines and describes key characteristics of public opinion—including direction, strength, stability, distribution, and consistency—and traces the way in which those qualities influence the behavior of citizens and consumers alike. In the end, that body of evidence is used to weigh the significance of environmental concern within the arena of U.S. politics and policymaking, and to provide pragmatic advice for decisionmakers in their efforts to motivate Americans to act in an environmentally-responsible way.

Reviews of this book were published in the following journals: *Perspectives on Politics, Political Science Quarterly, Journal of Environment and Development, Society and Natural Resources, Rural Sociology, Environmental Politics, Political Science, and Quarterly Review of Biology.*

### Journal Articles

Deborah Lynn Guber.\* 2013. “A Cooling Climate for Change? Party Polarization and the Politics of Global Warming.” *American Behavioral Scientist*, 57 (1): 93-115.

Deborah Lynn Guber.\* 2010. “‘Make of Them Grand Parks, Owned in Common’: The Role of Newspaper Editorials in Promoting the Adirondack Park, 1864-1894.” *Journal of Policy History*, 22 (4): 423-449.

Deborah Lynn Guber.\* 2001. “Environmental Voting in the American States: A Tale of Two Initiatives.” *State and Local Government Review*, 33 (2): 120-132.

Deborah Lynn Guber.\* 2001. "Voting Preferences and the Environment in the American Electorate." *Society and Natural Resources*, 14 (6): 455-469.

Deborah Lynn Guber.\* 1999. "Getting What You Pay For: The Debate Over Equity in Public School Expenditures." *Journal of Statistics Education*, 7 (2). Available: <http://www.amstat.org/publications/jse/secure/v7n2/datasets.guber.cfm>

The dataset I developed for this article has been reprinted in the following texts: *Statistical Methods for Psychology*, 5th ed., by David C. Howell (Duxbury/Thomson Learning, 2002); *A Visual Approach to SPSS for Windows: A Guide to SPSS 15.0*, by Leonard Stern (Allyn & Bacon, 2007); and *Applied Statistics: Regression and Analysis of Variance* by H.B. Lawal and F. Famoye (University Press of America, 2013).

Deborah Lynn Guber.\* 1996. "Environmental Concern and the Dimensionality Problem: A New Approach to an Old Predicament." *Social Science Quarterly*, 77 (3): 644-662.

\* Peer reviewed

### Chapters in Edited Volumes

Deborah Lynn Guber.\* 2017. "Partisan Cueing and Polarization in Public Opinion about Climate Change." In, *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Climate Science*. New York: Oxford University Press. DOI: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190228620.013.306.

Deborah Lynn Guber and Christopher J. Bosso.\* 2012. "Issue Framing, Agenda-Setting, and Environmental Discourse." In, *The Oxford Handbook of U.S. Environmental Policy*, Michael E. Kraft and Sheldon Kamieniecki, editors. New York: Oxford University Press, 437-460.

Deborah Lynn Guber and Christopher J. Bosso. 2012. "'High Hopes and Bitter Disappointment: Public Discourse and the Limits of the Environmental Movement in Climate Change Politics.'" In, *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century*, 8<sup>th</sup> edition. Norman J. Vig, and Michael E. Kraft, eds. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 54-82.

Deborah Lynn Guber and Christopher J. Bosso. 2009. "Past the Tipping Point: Debating the Future of Public Discourse on the Environment." In, *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century*, 7<sup>th</sup> edition. Norman J. Vig, and Michael E. Kraft, eds. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 51-74.

Deborah Lynn Guber and Christopher J. Bosso.\* 2007. "Framing ANWR: Citizens, Consumers, and the Privileged Position of Business." In, *Business and Environmental Policy: Corporate Interests in the American Political System*. Michael E. Kraft and Sheldon Kamieniecki, editors. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press, 35-60.

Christopher J. Bosso and Deborah Lynn Guber. 2005. "Maintaining Presence: Environmental Advocacy and the Permanent Campaign." In, *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the*

*Twenty-First Century*, 6<sup>th</sup> edition. Norman J. Vig, and Michael E. Kraft, eds. Washington, DC: CQ Press, 78-99.

Christopher J. Bosso and Deborah Lynn Guber. 2003. "The Boundaries and Contours of American Environmental Activism." In, *Environmental Policy: New Directions for the Twenty-First Century*, 5<sup>th</sup> edition. Norman J. Vig, and Michael E. Kraft, eds. Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 79-101.

\* Peer reviewed

## **Working Papers**

Deborah Lynn Guber. 1995. "Economic Voting in U.S. Elections: An Annotated Bibliography." *Institution for Social and Policy Studies Working Paper 95-01*. New Haven, CT: Yale University.

## **CONFERENCE PAPERS**

Deborah Lynn Guber, Meredith T. Niles, and Thomas Wentworth. 2019. "Up and Down with Climate: Extreme Weather Events and the Issue-Attention Cycle." *Annual Conference of the Northeast Political Science Association*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 7-9.

Deborah Lynn Guber, Jeremiah Bohr, and Riley E. Dunlap. 2019. "'Time to Wake Up!' Climate Advocacy in a Polarized Congress, 1996-2015." *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, Washington, D.C., August 29 - September 1.

Deborah Lynn Guber. 2019. "Public Opinion and the Classical Tradition: Redux in an Age of Big Data." *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Portland, Maine, April 25-27.

Deborah Lynn Guber. 2012. "Can Americans be Persuaded to Care about Climate Change?" *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, April 26-28.

Deborah Lynn Guber. 2010. "A Cooling Climate for Change? Party Polarization and the Politics of Global Warming," *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, Washington, D.C., September 2-5.

Deborah Lynn Guber and Christopher J. Bosso. 2005. "Framing ANWR: Citizens, Consumers and the Privileged Position of Business," *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, Washington, D.C., September 1-4.

Deborah Lynn Guber. 2003. "'Make of Them Grand Parks, Owned in Common': Public Opinion and the Democratic Ideal in the Adirondacks, 1864-1894," *Annual Meeting of the*

*American Political Science Association*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, August 28-31.

Deborah Lynn Guber. 2001. "Up and Down With Ecology Revisited: The Stability of Public Attitudes Toward Environmental Spending, 1973-1998," *33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Northeastern Political Science Association*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 8-10.

Deborah Lynn Guber. 1999. "Issue Voting and the Environment in the American Electorate," *31<sup>st</sup> Annual Conference of the Northeastern Political Science Association*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 11-13.

Deborah Lynn Guber. 1999. "Motivating the Citizen-Consumer: Environmental Values in the Voting Booth and the Marketplace," *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, Atlanta, Georgia, September 2-5.

Deborah Lynn Guber. 1996. "Greenbacks or 'Green' Ballots? Environmental Voting on Statewide Ballot Propositions, 1964-1993," *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Springfield, Massachusetts, May 3-4.

Deborah Lynn Guber. 1995. "The Environment's Bottom Line: Evaluating 'Green' Voting Behavior in U.S. Elections," *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Portland, Maine, May 5-6.

Deborah Lynn Guber. 1995. "Measuring Environmentalism: Survey Research and the Dimensionality Problem," *49<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the New York State Political Science Association*, New York, New York, April 28-29.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Manuscript referee, *Oxford University Press*, *The MIT Press*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Political Behavior*, *The Sociological Quarterly*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Society & Natural Resources*, *Environmental Politics*, *Social Forces*, *Nature Climate Change*.

Participant (by invitation), "Building Public & Political Will for Climate Action," Yale University, October 15-17, 2015.

Chapter delegate, Phi Beta Kappa Society's 44<sup>th</sup> Triennial Council, Denver, Colorado, October 8-10, 2015.

Advisory board member, Cengage Learning, 2014.

External peer review committee member, Department of Government, Smith College, 2014.

Roundtable panelist, "Author Meets Critics: Zygmunt Plater's *The Snail Darter and the Dam*," *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Woodstock, VT, April 24-26, 2014.

Grant proposal referee, Decision, Risk and Management Sciences Program, National Science Foundation, Washington, DC, 2004-2013.

Member of the Executive Council (elected), New England Political Science Association, 2010-2012.

Chair, committees to award the John C. Donovan prize for the best faculty paper, and the Robert C. Wood prize for the best graduate student paper at the New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2010-2011.

Chair, "The Politics of Economic Development, Public Policy, and Public Space," *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Newport, RI, April 23-25, 2010.

Chair, committee to award the Robert C. Wood prize for the best graduate student paper at the New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2009-2010.

Chair and discussant, "Urban Politics," *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Portland, Maine, May 7-9, 2009.

Consultant to the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy, Yale University, New Haven, Connecticut, 2005.

Workshop participant (by invitation), *Communicating Urgency, Facilitating Social Change: New Strategies for Climate Change*, sponsored by the National Center for Atmospheric Research, Boulder, Colorado, June 8-11, 2004.

Discussant, "Issues and Character in Elections," *35<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference of the Northeastern Political Science Association*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 6-8, 2003.

Chair, "Presidential Elections," *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Portland, Maine, May 3-4, 2002.

Chair and Discussant, "Issues in Legislative Politics," *33<sup>rd</sup> Annual Conference of the Northeastern Political Science Association*, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, November 8-10, 2001.

Chair, "Public Opinion, Third Parties, and Political Speech," *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, May 4-5, 2001.



Discussant, "New Perspectives on Voter Turnout," *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Portsmouth, New Hampshire, May 4-5, 2001.

Discussant, "Partisan Leadership and Scandal in the House of Representatives," *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Providence, Rhode Island, April 29-May 1, 1999.

Chair and Discussant, "Perspectives on Congressional Elections," *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, New London, Connecticut, May 2-3, 1997.

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

Member, Academic Integrity Council, The University of Vermont, 2014-present.

President, Alpha of Vermont chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, 2015-2017.

Register, Alpha of Vermont chapter of Phi Beta Kappa, 2013-2015.

Member, Educational and Research Technologies Committee of the Faculty Senate, The University of Vermont, 2009-2011.

Member, Honors College Scholarship Committee, The University of Vermont, 2006-2008.

Member, Academic Standing Committee of the College of Arts & Sciences, The University of Vermont, 2005-2008.

Member, Admissions Committee of the College of Arts & Sciences, The University of Vermont, 2001-2004.

Member, Academic Affairs Committee, The University of Vermont, Fall 2000.

## **ACADEMIC HONORS AND AWARDS**

Recipient, Robert C. Wood prize for best graduate student paper, *New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, New London, Connecticut, May 2-3, 1997.

Recipient, Samuel Bowles prize, Smith College, 1990, for best thesis on an economics subject.

- Thesis topic: "Job Displacement and Labor Market Readjustment: An Analysis of the Cann & Saul Steel Company."

Co-recipient, Sidney S. Cohen prize, Smith College, 1990, for outstanding work in the field of

economics.

Recipient, Smith College Alumnae Association scholarship for graduate study, 1990.

Member, *Phi Beta Kappa*, Smith College, inducted 1989.

Participant, Jean Picker Semester-in-Washington Program, Smith College, 1988.

- Thesis topic: “Democracy and Foreign Policy: Power, the President, and Public Opinion.”
- Internship: Office of Congressman William H. Gray, III (D-PA), Washington, D.C.