

CHRISTOPHER R. MARSICANO

Ph.D. Candidate in Leadership and Policy Studies
Higher Education Concentration

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EDUCATION

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY, Peabody College
Ph.D. Student in Leadership and Policy Studies
Higher Education Concentration
Nashville, TN
Expected 2017

Dissertation - *Lobbying for Alma Mater: Higher Education Institutions as Interest Groups*

Committee: Dr. Brent J. Evans (Chair)
Dr. William Doyle
Dr. Jason Grissom
Dr. Erik Ness

DUKE UNIVERSITY, Sanford School of Public Policy
M.P.P. (Master of Public Policy)
Durham, NC
May 2013

DAVIDSON COLLEGE
A.B. with Honors in Political Science
Davidson, NC
May 2010

RESEARCH INTERESTS AND AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Higher education with a focus on finance, politics, and public policy
- Interest groups, political behavior, and public opinion
- Political representation and the legislative process
- Civic, religious, and political engagement on college campuses

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation (Multiple Manuscripts):

Paper 1: "College comes to Capitol Hill: University lobbying in the U.S. Congress"

- Provides descriptive analysis of higher education institution activity and expenditures related to lobbying in the U.S. House and Senate
- Uses a unique dataset that combines public data from the U.S. Dept. of Education and Center for Responsive Politics
- Draft presented at the American Political Science Association annual meeting in Philadelphia, September 2016

Paper 2: "A qualitative analysis of the tactics and goals of college and university lobbyists"

- Uses interviews of college and university lobbyists from multiple institution types to determine the goals and tactics they use
- Seeks to understand the ways in which lobbyists provide information and persuade members of Congress

Paper 3: "Determining the impact of the 2011 congressional earmark ban on lobbying and interest group behavior using a synthetic control method for causal inference"

- Uses synthetic control, a variation of the difference-in-differences method, to determine the causal impact of the 2011 earmark ban on university lobbying behavior
- By comparing institutions that did not seek earmarks prior to and after the earmark ban with those that did seek earmarks, the paper determines the changes in lobbyist behavior caused by the ban

Articles Under Review:

Evans, B. J., **Marsicano, C. R.**, & Lennartz, C. *Revise and Resubmit at Educational Researcher*. Cracks in the bedrock of American democracy: Differences in civic engagement across institutions of higher education.

Working Papers:

Marsicano, C. R., Grissom, J., & Lee, G. "Legislator representation and state appropriations to public postsecondary institutions: Evidence from panel data." Institutions in the state appropriations process," *in preparation for submission to the Journal of Politics*

Marsicano, C. R. "Regional state tuition exchanges and out-of-state enrollment at public universities and community colleges," *in preparation for submission to the Journal of Higher Education*

Marsicano, C. R. "Wage floor, enrollment ceiling: A difference-in-differences analysis of the effects of minimum wage legislation on community college enrollment," *in preparation for submission to Research in Higher Education*

News Media Essays:

Marsicano, C. R. (2016, June 21). "The Brexit challenge to universities." *Inside Higher Ed* <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2016/06/21/universities-face-major-challenges-brexit-essay>

Marsicano, C. R. (2015, May 26). "Campaign Promise Backlash: Essay on the British

election campaign and campaign promises about higher education.” *Inside Higher Ed* <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/05/26/essay-british-election-campaign-and-campaign-promises-about-higher-education>

Marsicano, C. R. (2014, September 15). “Bad break: Essay on the impact an independent Scotland would have on its universities.” *Inside Higher Ed* <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2014/09/15/essay-impact-independent-scotland-would-have-its-universities>

Peer-reviewed conference papers, presentations, and posters:

Drake, A. P., and **Marsicano, C. R.** (November 2016) “Attack and Parry: Texas Higher Education Political Discourse, 2000-2015.” Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the *Association for the Study of Higher Education*. Columbus, OH.

Marsicano, C. R. (September 2016) “College Comes to Capitol Hill: University Lobbying in the US Congress.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *American Political Science Association*. Philadelphia, PA.

Marsicano, C.R. (April 2016). “Wage floor, enrollment ceiling? The relationship between state minimum wage laws and community college enrollment.” Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association*. Washington, DC.

Marsicano, C. R. (March 2016) “Higher education lobbying in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Association for Education Finance and Policy*. Denver, CO.

Marsicano, C. R. (March 2016) “The Thistle and the rose: The Politics of higher education in the United Kingdom over the past decade.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Comparative and International Education Society*. Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Evans, B.J., Marsicano, C.R., & Lennartz, C. (November 2015). “Civic engagement activities and organizational structure among elite colleges and universities in the United States.” Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Association for the Study of Higher Education*. Denver, CO.

Marsicano, C.R. (March 2015). Regional state tuition exchanges and out-of-state enrollment at public universities and community colleges. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Association for Education Finance and Policy*. Washington, DC.

Marsicano, C.R., Grissom, J., & Lee, G. (April 2015). “Texas legislator representation and state appropriations to public postsecondary institutions in austere times.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association*. Chicago, IL.

Evans, B.J., **Marsicano, C.R.**, & Lennartz, C. (April 2015). "Exploring differences in civic engagement structures and activities across institutions of higher education." Paper presented in a roundtable session at the annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association*. Chicago, IL.

Marsicano, C.R. (March 2015). "The big Palestine question, the 'Little State Department', and the power of the purse: The recent history of US-UNESCO relations." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Comparative and International Education Society*. Washington, DC.

Marsicano, C.R., Marti, H., Sellers, P. & Wills, A.B. (March 2010). Civil religion in presidential campaign speech: 1960-2008. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Southeastern Commission on the Study of Religion*. Atlanta, GA

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record:

Enrollment Management. (Instructor of Record).
Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. Will teach course on college admission, financial aid, and student personnel management in Spring 2017.

Teaching Assistant:

Research Design and Data Analysis. (Teaching assistant to Dr. Brent J. Evans).
Peabody College, Vanderbilt University. Served as assistant for three classes and taught lab section of an introductory course in social science research methods and quantitative data analysis for masters students. Taught classes on T-Tests and public opinion and survey research – Fall 2013 and Fall 2016

Policy Analysis II. (Teaching assistant to Prof. Pope "Mac" McCorkle).
Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University. Served as assistant for two classes of a course in public policy analysis and recommendation with an emphasis on written and oral communication skills for masters students – Spring 2013.

Policy Choice as Value Conflict. (Teaching assistant to Dr. Gunther Peck).
Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University. Served as assistant for a course in the ethical implications and moral frameworks associated with the formation and implementation of public policy. Taught discussion section of 15 undergraduate public policy majors – Fall 2012.

Political Analysis for Public Policy-Making. (Teaching assistant to Dr. Frederick "Fritz" Mayer and Dr. James "Jay" Hamilton). Sanford School of Public Policy, Duke University. Twice served as assistant for a course in the analysis of the political and organizational processes that influence policy formation and implementation. Taught a weekly discussion section on political analysis and policy memo writing to undergraduates – Spring and Fall 2012.

Invited Guest Lectures:

“Higher Education in the Athens of the South: Opportunity and Postsecondary Education in Nashville and Tennessee.” Guest lecture to international business officers from Belfast Metropolitan College, Ulster University, and Queens University, Belfast at the invitation of the Belfast City Council. Queens University, Belfast – Fall 2016.

“Political Risk, New Institutionalism, and Social Capital.” Guest lecture to an international business class for M.B.A. and M.Acc. students on political stability and risk assessment for foreign direct investment at the invitation of Dr. Marieta Velikova. Massey School of Business, Belmont University – Summer 2016.

“The Public Policymaking Process.” Guest lecture to undergraduate introduction to public policy class on the stages and multiple streams models of policymaking at the invitation of Dr. Angela Boatman. Peabody College of Education and Human Development, Vanderbilt University – Fall 2014.

SERVICE*Institutional Service:*

Department of Leadership, Policy, and Organizations <i>Faculty Search Student Representative</i>	Vanderbilt University 2015-16
University Judicial Board <i>School of Public Policy Student Representative</i>	Duke University 2012-13
Graduate and Professional Student Council <i>Attorney General</i>	Duke University 2012-13
<i>Candidate for Young Trustee</i>	2012-13
<i>Master of Public Policy Student Representative</i>	2011-12
Master of Public Policy Student Council <i>Honor Board Representative and Secretary</i>	Duke University 2012-13
<i>Student Representative</i>	2011-12
Honor Council <i>Member</i>	Davidson College 2009-10

Professional Service:

Reviewer for ASHE Annual Conference	2016 - Present
Reviewer for AERA Annual Conference	2016 - Present

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Educational Research Association (AERA)
 American Political Science Association (APSA)
 Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)
 Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)
 Comparative and International Education Society (CIES)

AWARDS, HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND SCHOLARSHIPS

Graduate Certificate in College Teaching, Vanderbilt University	2016
Graduate Honor Scholarship, Vanderbilt University	2013-2017
Peabody Dean's Fellowship, Vanderbilt University	2013-2017
Richard A. Stubbing Memorial Scholarship, Duke University	2012-2013

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Vanderbilt University	Nashville, TN
<i>Graduate Assistant to Dr. Brent J. Evans</i>	August 2013 – Present

Office of Housing, Dining, and Residence Life , Duke University	Durham, NC
<i>Graduate Resident</i>	August 2012 – May 2013

- Supervised resident assistant team of seven upperclassmen staff members.
- Managed budgets totaling several thousand dollars.
- Designed and implemented programming for over 150 first-year Duke students.
- Advised elected residence hall councils on student life programming.

Sanford School of Public Policy , Duke University	Durham, NC
<i>Graduate Teaching Assistant and Development Intern</i>	January 2012 – May 2013

- Served as teaching assistant for undergraduate politics, policy analysis, and ethics classes.
- Supervised master's-level consulting teams in a second-year policy analysis course.
- Graded and assisted students with memos and writing projects.
- Wrote copy for publications and assisted staff at fundraising events.

Postsecondary National Policy Institute , New America Foundation	Washington, DC
<i>Policy Intern</i>	May 2012 – October 2012

- Wrote weekly online news report on higher education.
- Summarized academic research papers on higher education.
- Researched and prepared briefing books on financial aid and affordability trends.

Office of Federal Relations, Duke University
Federal Relations Intern

Washington, DC
May 2012 – August 2012

- Wrote memos and assisted preparing testimony for university officials.
- Maintained lists of Duke connections in Washington.
- Attended meetings with elected officials.

Office of Admission and Financial Aid, Davidson College
Admission Counselor

Davidson, NC
July 2010 – June 2011

- Managed a travel region consisting of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and parts of Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Read applications from Idaho, Nebraska, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and all states within travel region.
- Recruited students at college fairs and high school visits.
- Conducted group information sessions for prospective students.
- Wrote copy for print and online recruitment materials.
- Served as editor and contributor for campus admission blog as part of Social Media and Communications team.
- Read and presented over 350 applications and served on selection committee for the Class of 2015.

Americans for the Arts Action Fund PAC
Action Fund Intern

Washington, DC
June 2008 – August 2008

- Researched and compiled list of U.S. House and Senate candidates for financial support to election campaigns.
- Advised on final decisions for PAC donations.

REFERENCES

Dr. Brent J. Evans

Assistant Professor of Higher Education and Public Policy
Dept. of Leadership, Policy & Organizations, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University
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Dr. Will Doyle

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A: 230 Appleton Place PMB 414 Nashville, TN 37203-5721
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Dr. John Braxton

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