

Research Career Paths Among Political Scientists in Teaching Institutions

Methodological Appendix

Journals Included in the Coding Publications that Were Not in the Garand and Giles (2003)

Survey

The *Journal of Political Science Education* began publication in 2005, but it does not yet have a journal impact score. Based on examining a number of issues of the journal over time, it was included as a tier four outlet.

Perspectives on Politics was not included in the Garand and Giles survey since it only began publication in 2003. I included it as a Tier 2 publication, however, given its journal-reported 2016 Impact Factor of 3.234. (Journal Impact Factors can be calculated in various ways and for various time periods, so comparisons among ones from different sources should be used judiciously.)

Politics & Gender that began publication in 2006, had a journal-reported Impact Factor of 0.779 in 2018, roughly comparable to that of the *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy* (previously titled *Women and Politics*) a Tier 3 journal in my categorization of the Garand and Giles rankings that reported it had an Impact Factor of 1.125 in 2018. Thus *Politics & Gender* was also coded as a Tier 3 outlet.

The *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* that began publication in 2005 had a journal-reported Impact Factor of 1.839 in 2016 and was coded as a Tier 3 outlet.

The journal *Research and Politics* is sufficiently new that it is not in the Social Science Citation Index, and thus I could count it as a Tier 3 publication for some purposes (given a

ResearchGate Impact score of 1.52 in 2019 and no self-reported score from the journal in late 2019), but I could not get citation data for papers in it (which were very few in my data set).

State Politics & Policy Quarterly, that began publication in 2001 and that has a self-reported impact factor of 1.675 was included as a tier three journal.

The journal *Science* was not in the Garand and Giles survey, but several scholars in my data set published there. Thus I include it in my analyses as a tier one journal, given both its general reputation across all scientific disciplines and its impact factor of 41.845 for 2019.

The Representativeness of the Subjects Taken From Hiring Announcements in *PS*

It is impossible to know the universe of relevant cases for these new hires: instances where in a given year successful applicants for assistant professors entered a position in a political science department in a research university. Yet the composition of the full set of cases I documented from the two years under study – especially since I coded all such announcements, whether they were for positions in research or teaching institutions – suggests that it was very common for both research and teaching institutions to announce their new hires in *PS*.

One might expect this custom would be strongest among flagship institutions, but only 16 such institutions are represented in my data for the 81 research positions (although some of them made more than one hire in these years). The bulk of the research institution cases, then, are for “regional” state institutions with doctoral programs and selected private institutions that also had such programs. Further, because I collected data for all faculty whose positions were announced in *PS* in the two relevant years, 46 of the individuals in my full sample took up appointments in teaching institutions, with many public and private ones in the sample (cases which I have used

for another, parallel paper). Some of the latter institutions were also quite small and sometimes relatively specialized – further suggesting how common such announcements are.

In sum, I conclude that the custom of reporting new hires in *PS* reached deeply into the variety of colleges and universities, thus my sample would appear to be highly representative of those hired for research institutions even if it does not capture the universe of all hires. Further, I find no evidence that the data are likely to mis-represent career paths in research institutions.

Validation Evidence for the Rankings of Journal and Book Outlets

Garand and Giles (2003, 294-302) report a high degree of over time stability in the journal outlet rankings, as well as high similarity in top journal rankings within disciplinary subfields. Garand, Giles, Blais, and McLean (2009, 715-717) find comparable similarities in the rankings of journals by American, British, and Canadian scholars. Garand and Giles (2011, 379-382) also report notable similarity in the top book press rankings of scholars in four different subfields of political science.

Publication and Citation Data from the Web of Science Online Database

Citations were accumulated from three components of the Web of Science – a product of Clarivate Analytics described at clarivate.com: (1) the *Social Science Citation Index* that includes the cited works in articles in over 3,400 journals in 58 broadly defined social science disciplines with coverage from 1900 to the present, (2) the *Social Sciences and Humanities Book Citation Index* that begin in 2005 and includes over 100,000 books (with no details readily available for coverage by discipline), and (3) the *Social Sciences and Humanities Conference Proceedings Index* (for which, again, no details are readily available by discipline).

Citations, however, for encyclopedia entries, book reviews, “memorial” essays, and textbooks were not included in my citation counts.

Journals in the Garand and Giles Survey and Those in the Web of Science

Because citation counts in the Web of Science come from the full array of social sciences and humanities journals, a comparison of these two sets of journals is of limited, but still notable, interest. Comparing the lists of journals in these two sources is also complicated because Garand and Giles’ survey queried political scientists about 115 journals, many of which are categorized in the Web of Science as ones in such other fields as developing area studies, law, psychology, and sociology. The Web of Science has a category for political science journals alone that includes 176 such outlets in 2019 (and that number can grow over time).

It is most instructive to compare the coverage of political science journals in the two source sets by considering the 176 in the Web of Science for this discipline. One hundred and twenty one of the latter journals are not in the Garand and Giles set (although the vast majority of the journals ranked by Garand and Giles are in the Web of Science under one or another category). And the bulk of the latter 121 journals are highly specialized ones with low impact scores. Eighty-two percent of them had Journal Impact Scores for 2018 less than 2.00, and 42 percent had Impact Factors below 1.00. (Web of Science Journal Impact Factors are computed for a given year for the citations in each journal in the preceding two years.) Because the preceding 121 journals are not in the Garand and Giles list of outlets subjectively ranked by political scientists, they count as tier four ones in my categorization.

Matching Cited Works Included in the Web of Science With the Correct Authors

One challenge with the Web of Science data set is the “disambiguation” of individual names, that is, identifying specific authors’ works correctly when other authors have similar names or initials. A related problem is ensuring that one counts all the publications from an individual scholar since they are listed in Web of Science indices by full names in some citations but only by surname and first initial in other citations.

Some scholars have created novel statistical procedures for these purposes, especially for dealing with large samples of authors (e.g., Torvik and Smalheiser 2009). With the relatively small sample of the present study I could rely on more “intensive” methods. Because individual authors’ names can be listed in varying ways across publication outlets, a valuable starting process is to search on the surname and key initials. Given my small sample, I could also cross-reference Web of Science entries with those on individual scholars’ vitae or summaries of their work and fields of interest from their web pages. Thus I have high confidence in the codings of the publications of such individuals.

Some individuals’ names and initials are so distinctive, however, that a search only turns up their work, and for such individuals the Web of Science produces aggregate citation measures of total publications, total citations, and H indices. If, however, an individual’s name and initials are identical to those of other authors, one must list relevant statistics for each publication for that author and then calculate desired publication summary statistics.

Finally, the citation count and related data employed in this paper were collected in September, 2019.

Tier Two Journals

The full set of tier two journals in the Garand and Giles data, in their rank order, includes: *World Politics*, *International Organization*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *American Sociological Review*, *American Economic Review*, *Comparative Politics*, *American Journal of Sociology*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *PS: Political Science and Politics*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *International Security*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Political Theory*, and the *Public Administration Review* – to which I added *Perspectives on Politics* as noted above.

References

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