

Nhat-Dang Do
Ph.D. Candidate
Email: n4do@ucsd.edu
Website: nhatdangdo.com

Social Sciences Building
9500 Gilman Drive, #0521
La Jolla, CA 92037-0521

Education & Training

University of California, San Diego:

B.A., Political Science/History of the Near East, 2015

Magna Cum Laude, Departmental High/Highest Honors

M.A., Political Science, 2018

Ph.D., Political Science, expected 2022

Dissertation: “Achieving Representation Through Racial Interest Groups (RMIGs) in the United States: Lobbying Activity in Legislative Politics”

Committee Members: Marisa Abrajano (co-chair), Thad Kousser (co-chair), LaGina Gause, Dan Butler, Yen-Le Espiritu (Ethnic Studies)

Publications

Work in Progress

Do, Nhat-Dang. “Achieving Representation Through Racial Minority Interest Groups (RMIG) in the United States: Lobbying Activity in Legislative Politics.”

Abstract: Racial minority interest groups (RMIGs) are organizations that lobby and influence policy for and on behalf of ethnic and racial minorities, and in doing so have historically served as another mode of representation for these marginalized communities. However, many scholars contend that the lobbying system is biased towards and dominated by wealthy and elite interests (Schattschneider 1960). Relative to traditional interest groups, RMIGs have far fewer financial resources and represent groups that have little participation. Hence, they are expected to have little or no influence on policymaking. But little empirical evidence has investigated whether this is the case. Using an original data set of over 56,000 California legislative bills and proposals from 1997-2018, I show that RMIGs are just as active as a range of interest group organizations, that they generally participate in large and diverse coalitions, and pass or kill bills at similar rates as non-RMIGs. I also show that RMIGs have actively lobbied across a diverse range of issues and are generally reliable representatives of their respective racial groups. These findings suggest a more nuanced and optimistic view of racial minority representations in lobbying than previously considered.

Do, Nhat-Dang. “Reliable Brokers: Racial Minority Interest Groups (RMIG) Lobbying Topics and Salient issues.”

Abstract: Previous research has shown that the work of advocacy organizations representing marginalized communities are biased in ways that fail to represent the interests of the disadvantaged. Rather than being equal representatives of their group, these internal biases lead to disproportionately higher levels of attention to the privileged members within their groups. Are organizations who specifically and explicitly represent racial groups also subject to such biases? I conceptualize these

groups as a separate category of advocacy organizations called racial minority interest groups (RMIGs) whose purpose is to lobby on behalf of racial minorities and whose incentives and behavior are different than that of traditional lobbying organization. Using a part of an original dataset of over 200,000 legislative bill analyses over a twenty-year period, I show that RMIGs have actively lobbied across a diverse range of issues and are generally reliable representatives of their racial groups. The data suggests instances of cooperation and “logrolling” between RMIGs. Using structural topic modeling, I also show the lobbying proclivities of Latinx, Black, and Asian RMIGs. These findings suggest a more nuanced and optimistic view of racial minority representations in lobbying than previously considered.

Flatt, Henry and Do, Nhat-Dang. “Analytical Bureaucracy and Bill Passage: Evidence from California.” (Revise & Resubmit) at *Public Administration Review*.

Abstract: We argue that highly specialized “analytic” bureaucratic actors are essential for the passage of legislation. Analytic bureaucratic agencies can exert special influence over the legislative process because of their critical role acting as both information processing organizations and policy design experts. While previous theories of bureaucratic responsiveness and bill passage almost exclusively examine elected officials and federal agencies, this paper documents how a state agency—California’s Department of Finance (DOF)—sets the legislative agenda by both processing information and communicating the Governor’s policy preferences. Using data culled from the state legislative archive, we demonstrate how the DOF’s bill recommendations are strongly associated with bill passage and the Governor’s veto. The data examined span six recently completed legislative sessions (N ~26,000) and over 7,700 fiscal summaries produced by the DOF.

Presentations

2020 Do, Nhat-Dang. “Achieving Representation Through Racial Minority Interest Groups (RMIG) in the United States: Lobbying Activity in Legislative Politics.” Race and Ethnicity Workshop: San Diego, CA

2018 Do, Nhat-Dang. “Racial Minority Interest Group Signaling: A Mediating Force in Legislative Voting Behavior?” Politics of Race, Immigration, and Ethnicity Consortium: San Diego, CA.

2017 Do, Nhat-Dang. “Close Relationships: Interest Group and Legislator Networks in the California State Legislator.” Omi-Methods Research Group: San Diego, CA

2015 Do, Nhat-Dang. “The Legitimacy of Repression: The History of Martial Law in Palestine.” UC San Diego Library Research Prize Poster Session: San Diego, CA

2015 Do, Nhat-Dang. “Political Maneuvering: Analyzing Politicians’ Response to the Immigration Debate in the 2014 Midterm Elections.” Senior Honors Thesis Conference: San Diego, CA.

Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

UC President's Dissertation Fellowship (university-wide award)	2021	Awarded to promising students in the final stages of their doctoral work who demonstrate strong potential for university teaching and research (\$22,000/year)
Barbara and Paul Saltman Distinguished Teaching Award (university-wide award)	2021	Prestigious award to those who exhibit creativity, innovative teaching methods, the ability to motivate students to actively seek out knowledge, and an extraordinary level of teaching commitment.
Division of Social Sciences RFP on Advancing Racial Justice Grant (\$50,000)	2020	Division grant to support work that advances racial justice. Awarded for project to support the mobilization work of BLM/racial justice organizations in San Diego with team of graduate and faculty researchers.
UC San Diego Center for American Politics Dissertation Grant (\$6000)	2020	Department grant to support data collection and cleaning work. Used to hire/train two undergraduate research assistants.
Edward Alexander Bouchet Graduate Honor Society	2020	Awarded to preeminent scholars who exemplify academic and personal excellence, foster environments of support, and serve as examples of scholarship, leadership, character, service, and advocacy for students who have been traditionally underrepresented in the academy.
UCCS President's GOLD Fellowship	2020	Highly prestigious award to engage deeply with the policymaking community in Sacramento, the capital of the nation's largest state.
College Teaching Certification	2019	Awarded to graduate students who successfully completed rigorous course on teaching undergraduate students.
Teaching Excellence Award	2019	Department award for graduate students who demonstrate success in teaching.
San Diego Fellowship	2018	Award to support graduate students that enhances the diversity of the university.
California State Senate Resolutions No. 136, No. 841	2016	Two state resolutions recognizing legislative work in service to the California State Senate.

Departmental Service & Discipline Service Jobs

Remote Teaching and Technology Advisor <i>Department of Political Science, UC San Diego</i>	2020-present	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Facilitate workshops on remote teaching pedagogy for faculty and graduate• Instructional Assistants Provide expertise and guidance on the use of remote teaching tools and technology
Graduate Community Climate Interns <i>Graduate Division, UC San Diego</i>	2015-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Implement inclusive and interdisciplinary programming for graduate students
Graduate Advocate and Dept. Coordinator <i>Summer Training Academy for Research Success (STARS) Program</i>	2018-2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mentored undergraduate researchers from Spelman & Morehouse Colleges (HBCUs)• Taught introductory courses on statistical analyses and social science writing
Editorial Assistant <i>Journal of Race, Ethnicity and Politics</i>	2017-2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Maintains manuscript submissions and assigns editors• Perform technical checks and desk review of research manuscripts
Senate Fellow, Office of Senator Marty Block <i>Capital Fellowship Program</i>	2015-2016	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Assist in the creation and passage of state laws• Perform legislative research

Teaching Experience

Teaching Assistant:

University of California San Diego:

- POLI 103A: California Politics
- POLI 11D: Intro to Comparative Politics
- POLI 10D: Intro to American Politics
- POLI 100A: The Presidency
- POLI 100B: The U.S. Congress
- POLI 142K: Politics of Warfare
- POLI 100O: Perspectives on Race in American Politics

Instructor of Record:

University of California San Diego:

- POLI 100H: Race & Ethnicity in Politics
- POLI 103C: California Politics

UC Center Sacramento Program:

- Introduction to R Programming
- Introduction to Public Policy Writing
- Personal Statement Writing Workshop