

## David A. Karpf, Ph.D

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### Current Position

Assistant Professor  
School of Communication and Information  
Journalism and Media Studies Department  
Rutgers University

Faculty Associate  
Eagleton Institute of Politics  
Rutgers University

(September 2010-August 2011) Visiting Fellow  
Information Society Project, Yale University

### Previous Positions

(July 2008- June 2009) Residential Fellow  
Miller Center for Public Affairs, University of Virginia

(July 2009- July 2010) Postdoctoral Research Associate  
Taubman Center for Public Policy, Brown University

### Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, August 2009. Dissertation:  
*Unexpected Transformations: The Internet's Effect on Political Associations in  
American Politics*. Committee: Rogers M. Smith (Chair), Jack Nagel, John Lapinski

B.A. Oberlin College, May 2002.

Summa Cum Laude, Honors thesis consisted of comparative case analysis of modern  
wilderness legislation as a test of prominent policy subsystem and agenda change  
models.

### Book Manuscript

(forthcoming – spring/summer 2012) *The MoveOn Effect: The Unexpected  
Transformation of American Political Advocacy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

### Publications (Peer-Reviewed)

December, 2008. "Understanding Blogspace" *Journal of Information Technology and  
Politics*. Volume 5, Issue 4. Routledge Press, pp. 369-384

**Recognized as the most-downloaded *JITP* article of 2009 by Routledge Press.**

May, 2010. "Macaca Moments Revisited... Electoral Panopticon or Netroots Mobilization?" *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*. Special Issue on YouTube and the 2008 Election. Volume 7, Issue 2/3. pp. 143-162

December 2010 "Online Political Mobilization from the Advocacy Group's Perspective: Looking Beyond Clicktivism." *Policy & Internet*. Volume 2, Issue 4.

January 2011. "Implications of the Mobile Web for Online/Offline Reputation Systems" *IEEE Intelligent Systems, Special Issue on "Society Online: Best Papers from the Websci'09 Conference"*. Volume 26, Issue 1.

Forthcoming 2011. "Open Source Political Community Development: A Five-Stage Adoption Process." *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*. Volume 8, Issue 2/3

### **Other Publications (Invited Publications, Book Chapters, and Book Reviews)**

March, 2008. "Measuring Influence in the Political Blogosphere: Who's Winning, and How Can We Tell?" *Politics and Technology Review*, Institute for Politics, Democracy, and the Internet (IPDI), George Washington University, pp. 33-41

January, 2009. "Review of 'Blogs, Wikipedia, Second Life and Beyond: From Production to Prodsusage.'" *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*. Volume 6, Issue 1. pp. 81-83

September, 2009. "Blogosphere Research: A Mixed-Methods Approach to Rapidly Changing Systems." *IEEE Intelligent Systems*. pp. 67-70

April, 2010. Encyclopedia Entry: "Network TV and Newspapers, 1976-Present" in *Encyclopedia of United States Political History*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

July, 2010. "Metrics: Measuring Success in Digital Activism" Chapter in Joyce, Mary (ed.). 2010. *Digital Activism Decoded: The New Mechanism of Change*. IDEA Publishing.

Forthcoming. "Netroots Political Associations." Chapter in Herrnson, Wilcox, and Deering (ed.) *Interest Groups Unleashed*. Washington, DC: CQ Press.

### **Working Papers (Available at [www.davidkarpf.com](http://www.davidkarpf.com))**

"The Superdelegate Transparency Project and the New Rules of Latent Group Activation: A Comparison of the 1984 and 2008 Contested Democratic Primaries."

"Beyond Citizen Journalism: Weigelgate, JournoList, and the Shifting Media Ecology of America"

“Don’t Think of an Online Elephant: Explaining the Dearth of Conservative Political Infrastructure Online in America.”

“Advocacy Group Communication in the New Media Environment.”

“MoveOn.org and the New Generation of Political Advocacy Groups.”

### **Academic Conference Panels**

“The Superdelegate Transparency Project and the New Rules of Latent Group Activation: A Comparison of the 1984 and 2008 Contested Democratic Primaries.” Presented at International Studies Association Annual Convention, New York City. February 16, 2009.

“Why Bowl Alone When You Can Flashmob the Bowling Alley?: Implications of the Mobile Web for Online-Offline Reputation Systems.” Presented at WebSci’09 Conference, Athens, Greece. March 2009.

“Stability and Change in the Blogosphere in the 2008 Election.” Presented at Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. April 2009.

“Macaca Moments Reconsidered: YouTube Effects or Netroots Effects?” Presented at YouTube and the 2008 Election Conference, University of Massachusetts-Amherst, April 2009.

“Organizational ‘Membership’ in the MoveOn Era: From Armchair Activism to Digital Participation.” Presented at Democracy, Citizenship and Constitutionalism Annual Conference, University of Pennsylvania, May 2009.

“All the Dogs that Didn’t Bark: Understanding the Dearth of Online Conservative Infrastructure.” Presented at American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2009.

“The MoveOn Effect: Internet Fundraising and the Second Interest Group Realignment.” Presented at American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2009.

“Don’t Think of an Online Elephant: Explaining the Dearth of Conservative Political Infrastructure Online in America.” Presented at Society for the Social Studies of Science 2009 Annual Meeting. October 2009.

“The Technological Underpinnings of Interest Group Revolutions.” Presented at Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. January 2010.

“Advocacy Group Involvement in the 2008 Democratic Presidential Primary: The New Generation Arrives” Presented at Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. April 2010.

“What Can Wikipedia Teach Us About Open Source Politics?” Presented at JITP 2010 – The Politics of Open Source Conference. May 2010.

“Advocacy Group Activity in the New Media Environment.” Presented at the 2010 Political Networks Conference. Duke University, May 2010.

“Advocacy Group Communication in the New Media Environment.” Presented at the 2010 APSA Political Communication Preconference. Georgetown University, September 2010.

“Beyond Citizen Journalism: The Role of Blogs in the Media Ecology of the United States.” Presented at the 2010 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. September 2010.

“The MoveOn Effect” Presented at Transnational Connections International Conference. IE University, Segovia, Spain. March 17, 2011.

“The Evolution of the Political Blogosphere: A Preliminary Analysis of 2 Years of Data from the Blogosphere Authority Index.” Presented at the 2011 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. Chicago, IL, April 1, 2011.

“Partisan Adoption of Campaign Innovations Over Time: A Fuzzy-Set Research Agenda.” Presented at the 2011 International Communications Association Annual Meeting. Boston, MA, May 28, 2011.

### **Invited Presentations**

“The MoveOn Effect.” Presented at Brown University, Taubman Center for Public Policy Brown Bag Luncheon Series. November 17, 2009.

“The MoveOn Effect.” Presented at Roundtable on Technology and Democracy, Columbia University. November 24, 2009.

“The MoveOn Effect.” Presentation at Harvard University, Berkman Center for the Internet and Society Luncheon Series. October 12, 2010.

“Unexpected Transformations: The Internet’s Effect on American Political Associations.” Presentation at Rutgers University Eagleton Institute for Politics Workshop in American Politics. December 9, 2010.

“Don’t Think of an Online Elephant.” Presented at Cyberscholars Seminar, MIT Media Lab. February 16, 2011.

### **Panels/Research Presentations at Technology and Advocacy Conferences**

“New Data/Research” Panel at IPDI’s Politics Online Conference. Presentation of the Blogosphere Authority Index, a new method for comparative ranking of elite blog sites. March 5, 2008.

“Uniting the network online: Blogging and online networking for campaign success.” Panel at PowerShift 2009. Discussion of research findings from the blogspace typology. February 28, 2009.

“Academic Research on Internet Tools in the 2008 Election.” Panel at IPDI’s Politics Online Conference. Presentation of findings from Blogosphere Authority Index data collection during the 2008 election cycle. April 21, 2009.

“How to Survive and Thrive Financially in Online Politics.” Panel at Personal Democracy Forum, 2009. Presentation of findings from MoveOn-related fundraising research. June 29, 2009.

“Academic Studies of the Netroots.” Panel at Netroots Nation 2009. Presentation of MoveOn- and blogosphere-related research findings. August 15, 2009.

“The Past, Present, and Future of Progressive Media.” Panel at Netroots Nation 2010.

“Social Media as a Platform for Collective Action.” Panel at “Information Overload? Navigating the Age of Democratized Media” conference. Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs. February 25, 2011.

“From Blog Diaries to Lasting Political Realignment.” Panel at Netroots Nation 2011.

### **Previous Research**

“Profile of a Sierra Club Voter.” October 2003. Quantitative analysis of election trends in Sierra Club elections. This research was commissioned by Groundswell Sierra, an internal caucus that worked to combat a hostile takeover of the organization’s Board of Directors. Through detailed content analysis and multivariate regression, I produced a set of recommendations for successful candidate statements. This report is annually circulated to preferred candidates, with over 90% of successful Board candidates basing their statements on my analysis and recommendations.

“Blogosphere Authority Index.” Publicly-available dataset ([www.blogosphereauthorityindex.com](http://www.blogosphereauthorityindex.com)) that provides monthly ranked updates of the elite progressive and conservative blogospheres. The index combines four distinct metrics of blog strength to offer the most comprehensive data available on the comparative size and strength of the left- and right-wing blog networks.

“Membership Communications Project.” Publicly-available dataset consisting of 2,162 email communications from 70 progressive advocacy groups over a six month time period.

### **Fellowships, Honors, and Awards**

Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Miller Center for Public Affairs, University of Virginia, 2008-09

Pew Presidential Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania, Summer 2008

Distinction in American Politics field exam at the University of Pennsylvania, September 2005

William Penn Fellowship for Ph.D study at the University of Pennsylvania, 2003-2008.

Highest Honors in politics at Oberlin College, May 2002

### **Professional Service**

Executive Committee Member (2009-2011), Information Technology and Politics Section of APSA

Secretary, Information Technology and Politics Section of APSA (2010-2011)

Chair of the “Best Graduate Student Paper” Awards Committee, Information Technology and Politics Section of APSA (2010)

Manuscript reviewer for *Journal of Information Technology and Politics*.

Manuscript reviewer for *Environmental Politics*

Manuscript reviewer for *American Behavioral Scientist*

Manuscript reviewer for *American Politics Research*

Manuscript reviewer for *Policy & Internet*

Manuscript reviewer for *Political Communication*

Manuscript reviewer for *Journal of Computer Mediated Communication*

Planning committee member for “The Politics of Open Source Software” conference. University of Massachusetts – Amherst. April, 2010.

Discussant, Political Communication Pre-Conference, American Political Science Association 2009 Annual Meeting. September 2, 2009.

Chair and Discussant, “Interest Groups in the Policy Process” Panel. Southern Political Science Association 2010 Annual Meeting. January 8, 2010.

Discussant and Chair, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. March 31-April 3, 2011.

Co-convener (with James Katz), “Social Media as Politics by Other Means” workshop at Rutgers University, April 10-11, 2011.

### **Academic Teaching Experience (Syllabi available at [www.davidkarpf.com](http://www.davidkarpf.com))**

“The Internet and Public Policy.” Undergraduate/Graduate seminar at Brown University, Fall 2009.

“Shaping Policy: Political Institutions in the United States.” Undergraduate/Graduate seminar at Brown University, Spring 2010.

“Media, Government, and Politics.” Undergraduate seminar at Rutgers University, Fall 2010, Spring 2010, Fall 2011..

“Media and Politics.” Ph.D. seminar at Rutgers University, Spring 2010, Fall 2011.

Guest Lecture, “Politics as Choice” undergraduate seminar, Eagleton Institute for Politics. February 9, 2011.

Teaching Assistant at the University of Pennsylvania.  
Introduction to American Politics with John DiIulio, Fall 2004  
Introduction to American Politics with Jerome Maddox, Spring 2005  
Introduction to American Politics with Donald Kettl, Fall 2005  
Civil Rights and Civil Liberties with Rogers Smith, Spring 2006

Teaching Assistant/Tutor at Oberlin College.  
Political Change in America with Ronald Kahn, Fall 2001.  
Constitutional Law with Ronald Kahn, Spring 2002

### **Related Non-Academic Teaching Experience**

Directed the Sierra Student Coalition’s High School and College Environmental Leadership Training Programs, 1998-2002. These are weeklong activist trainings for the volunteer leadership of the Sierra Club’s student-run arm. Responsibilities included curriculum design, small and large group facilitation, workshop presentation, mentoring of volunteer trainers and participants, site logistics, and iterative program development from year to year. These trainings have been widely recognized as the best available for high school and college environmental organizers.

Member of the Sierra Club’s Leadership Development Program launch team, 2006-present. In coordination with Marshall Ganz of Harvard University and Ruth Wageman of Dartmouth College, the Sierra Club has spent the past two years developing a new volunteer training program for its state and local leadership. This relies heavily on recent scholarship on organizational effectiveness, a field in which Ganz and Wageman are leading scholars. The launch team has worked with them to translate these findings into practical applications for a non-scholarly audience of volunteer leaders.

Scholastic Aptitude Test (SAT) Prep Instructor, Montgomery County Public Schools (September 2002-August 2003)

### **Non-Academic Honors and Awards**

*Brower Youth Award*, 2000. This award is given annually by the Earth Island Institute for excellence in environmental leadership to youth under the age of 22.

*Adam Werbach Award*, 2002. This is the Sierra Student Coalition’s highest internal award. Given for outstanding service to the organization.

As of 2006, the Sierra Student Coalition also offers a *Dave Karpf Award* to members who achieve excellence within their trainings department.

I have served as a guest lecturer or keynote speaker at over 50 environmental conferences and trainings.

### **Selected Non-Academic Positions**

Sierra Club Board of Directors, 2004-2010  
Executive Committee Member, 2005-06, 2008-2010  
Sierra Club Vice President for Trainings, 2003-04  
Sierra Student Coalition National Director, 1999-2000  
Sierra Student Coalition Trainings Director, 1998-2001  
Various Sierra Club Committee and Task Force memberships and chairmanships.  
1996-present

### **References**

Rogers M. Smith  
Christopher H. Browne  
Distinguished Professor of Political  
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University of Pennsylvania  
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Jack Nagel  
Steven F. Goldstone Endowed Term  
Professor of Political Science  
University of Pennsylvania  
215-898-4255  
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John Lapinski  
Associate Professor of Political  
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University of Pennsylvania  
215-898-6186  
[lapins@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:lapins@sas.upenn.edu)

J. Robert Cox  
Professor of Rhetorical Studies  
University of North Carolina –  
Chapel Hill  
(Past President of the Sierra  
Club)  
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