

Kira Pronin M.Econ.

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UNIVERSITY:

Department of Political Science
University of Pittsburgh
4600 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
Pittsburgh, PA 15260

RESEARCH INTERESTS:

My main research interests lie in the intersection of legislative politics, bureaucracy, deliberative institutions, and consensus politics. I am planning a book on the bureaucratic and legislative origins of consensus democracy in Sweden and other Scandinavian countries.

EDUCATION:

- 2020** **Ph.D. in Political Science** (Comparative Politics, American Politics)
University of Pittsburgh
Supervised by Professor B. Guy Peters
Defended: November 24, 2020
Thesis title: A Voice without a Veto: Consensus-building through Inclusion of Stakeholders
- 2008** **Master of Economics**
University of Bergen
Thesis title: *Differential Information Economies and Incomplete Markets.*

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS:

Bonneau, C. W. Kelly, J.T., Pronin, K., Redman, S. M. & Zarit, M. (2016) "Evaluating the Effects of Multiple Opinion Rationales on Supreme Court Legitimacy" *American Politics Research*, 45(3), 335-365.

Lunawat, R., Stecher, J., Pronin, K., & Dickhaut, John W. (2011) "Decision Making and Trade without Probabilities." *Economic Theory*, 48(2-3) 275-288.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

Dahlström, C., Lundberg, E. & Pronin, K. (2019). "The Swedish Commissions of Inquiry 1990–2016" SNS (Centre for Business and Policy Studies) Research Brief 59.

Dahlström, C., Lundberg, E. & Pronin, K. (2019/10/15). "Sverige bör bädda bättre för politiska uppgörelser" ("Sweden should do a better job laying groundwork for political agreement". *Svenska Dagbladet*.

WORKING PAPERS:

Pronin, Kira. "Advisory commissions build consensus from ideological diversity." SSRN. 2020.

Dahlström, C., Lundberg, E. & Pronin, K. "No more compromise? Swedish Commissions of Inquiry 1990-2018." (Under review)

Lunawat, R., Pronin, K., Stecher, J. & Zhang, G. "Model-based Fair Values Make Markets Illiquid."

Woon, J., Ilin, D., Jang, M., Pronin, K. & Jacob Schiller. "Discussion and the Fairness of Majority Rule."

Pronin, K. & Woon, J. "Public Deliberation, Private Communication, and Collective Choice."

Pronin, K. & Bonneau, C.W. "Criminal Courts, Screening of Defendants, and Cost of Appeals."

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS:

EITM 2019 Summer School, University of Houston, Hobby School of Public Affairs. June 2019. Pronin, K. "Information and Dissent in Advisory Commissions."

Social Dilemmas, University of Massachusetts Amherst. June 2017. Pronin, K. & Woon, J. "Public Deliberation, Private Communication, and Collective Choice."

Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 2017. Pronin, K., Craig, S. & Bonneau, C.W. "Criminal Courts, Screening of Defendants and the Right to Appeal."

American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA. August 2015. Bonneau, C.W., Cann, D. & Pronin, K. "Institutions, War Chests, and Candidate Deterrence."

American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA. August 2015. Bonneau, C.W., Jarrod K., Pronin, K., Redman, S.M. & Zart, M. "Evaluating the Effects of Multiple Opinion Rationales on Supreme Court Legitimacy."

Southern Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, Winter 2015. Bonneau, C.W., Jarrod K., Pronin, K., Redman, S. M. & Zart, M. "Evaluating the Effects of Multiple Opinion Rationales on Supreme Court Legitimacy."

Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2014. Pronin, K. & Bonneau, C.W. "Judicial Elections and the Illusion of Pandering."

FELLOWSHIPS:

American Scandinavian Foundation fellowship, 2017 (\$13,000)

European Studies Center Klinzing Grant, 2017 (\$6,000)

B. Guy Peters Award for Graduate Research in European Politics, 2016 (\$2,000)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE:

Undergraduate classes taught: Research Methods (TA), Introduction to Comparative Politics (TA), Introduction to American Politics (TA), Media and Politics.

SERVICE:

Reviewer, Political Science Research and Methods, American Politics Research

LANGUAGE SKILLS:

English, Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, German (intermediate), Russian (intermediate)

PHD SYNOPSIS:

My thesis studies whether including a broad group of stakeholders in policy advisory commissions helps build consensus. It may seem that including interested parties with conflicting preferences would increase conflict, but advisory commissions reach unanimity with a surprisingly high frequency. I propose two reasons why diversity can increase agreement. First, ideologically diverse parties from a variety of backgrounds can produce a greater variety of policy-relevant knowledge, increasing the valence of a proposal. Second, in a diverse commission, a proposal without broad appeal will lead some commission members to issue dissenting opinions, which reduce the government's willingness to follow the majority recommendation. I show in a formal model that both of these factors help increase consensus by incentivizing commission members to coordinate on a policy recommendation that all actors weakly prefer to the government's outside option. To test the model's predictions, I use a novel, hand-collected data set of 2,705 Swedish commissions of inquiry that completed their inquiries between 1990 and 2018. Swedish governments appoint commissions for all significant legislative initiatives, so the data minimize selection bias. As the theory predicts, I find that increasing stakeholder representation in broadly representative commissions increases consensus. The last chapter of this thesis studies the preconditions that make it possible for this institution to flourish. These may explain variation in the appointment of broadly representative commissions under different governments.