

KIRA PRONIN

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Pittsburgh

2021

Concentration: Comparative politics, American politics

Thesis supervisor: B. Guy Peters

Thesis title: “A voice without a veto: consensus-building through inclusion of stakeholders.”

Graduate School in Public Administration and International Affairs University of Pittsburgh

Fall 2011-Spring 2012

Classes in policy analysis, environmental economics, public administration, microeconomics and macroeconomics. Transferred to the Political Science Ph.D. program before graduating.

Master of Economics, University of Bergen, Norway

2008

Thesis title: “Differential information economies and incomplete markets.”

RESEARCH INTERESTS

My research focuses on deliberation and consensus-building within legislative and policy-making institutions, and how inclusion can promote building consensus among stakeholders and others with differing knowledge, interests, and values. In my published research, I use various methods including game theory, statistical models, and laboratory and survey experiments.

JOB MARKET PAPER

“Including a broad range of stakeholders on advisory commissions builds consensus.”

The job market paper argues that including a broad range of stakeholders on advisory commissions increases the likelihood of consensual policy recommendations, for two reasons. First, stakeholders can make their proposals more attractive by incorporating policy-specific knowledge. Second, on a purely advisory commission, any member who objects to the commission proposal can issue a dissenting opinion, dissuading the government from adopting the proposal. I show these results in a formal model, then test the model’s empirical implications. The tests use a novel, hand-collected data set from Sweden, where governments appoint commissions for all significant legislative initiatives. The data cover a 29-year period, during which there was significant variation in both party system polarization and the policy environment. The results match the model’s predictions and general patterns in data from several other countries. In sum, advisory commissions are an institutional setting in which preference heterogeneity can overcome polarization rather than cause gridlock.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Dahlström, C., Lundberg, E. & Pronin, K. (2021) “No more political compromise? Swedish commissions of inquiry 1990-2018.” *Scandinavian Political Studies*, 44(4) 416-440.

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.

WORKING PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

Pronin, K. “Changes to the role of policy advisory commissions in the Nordic countries.” In *New directions in royal commissions and public inquiries: Do we need them?*, ed. Scott Prasser, Connor Court, expected 2022.

Pronin, K. & Woon, J. (2021) “Does allowing private communication lead to less prosocial collective choice?” *Social Choice and Welfare*, R&R.

Pronin, K. & Woon, J. “Giving reasons vs. deliberation: effects on collective decisions.”

Pronin, K. “Including a broad range of stakeholders on advisory commissions builds consensus.”

Christensen, J., Christiansen, P., Hesstvedt, S., Holli, A.M., Holst, C. & Pronin, K. “Nordic comparison: The changing participation of experts on advisory commissions.”

Woon, J., Ilin, D., Jang, M., Pronin, K. & Jacob Schiller. “Discussion and Fairness in a Laboratory Voting Experiment.”

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

Pronin, K. & Bonneau, C.W. “Judicial Elections and the Illusion of Pandering.”

NONACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

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

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

ACADEMIC POSITIONS AND TEACHING/RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Postdoctoral Research Associate in Experimental Political Economy, University of Pittsburgh
December 2021 - present
Department of Political Science

Instructor/Teaching assistant, University of Pittsburgh *Fall 2014, Spring 2016, Spring 2017*
Department of Political Science

Media and Politics (instructor), Research Methods (TA), Introduction to Comparative Politics (TA), Introduction to American Politics (TA).

Research Assistant, University of Pittsburgh *Spring 2014, Fall 2015, Fall 2016*
Department of Political Science

Research Assistant, University of Pittsburgh *June 2012–Aug 2012*
University Center of Urban and Social Research (UCSUR)

Collected demographic and University related statistics; researched methods used in conducting economic and social impact studies; drafted the initial version of the annual economic and social impact study.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

- American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA** *Sep 2021.*
Pronin, K., “Including a broad range of stakeholders on advisory commissions builds consensus.
Pronin, K. & Woon, J. “Public deliberation, private communication, and collective choice.”
- EITM 2019 Summer School, University of Houston, TX** *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** *Apr 2017*
Pronin, K., Craig, S. & Bonneau, C.W. “Criminal courts, screening of defendants and the right to appeal.”
- American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA** *Aug 2015*
Bonneau, C.W., Jarrod K., Pronin, K., Redman, S.M. & Zarit, 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. & Zarit, 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)

SERVICE:

- Reviewer, *Political Science Research and Methods*, *American Politics Research*, *Party Politics*, *Journal of Elections*, *Public Opinion & Parties*.

SKILLS

- Methods:** Game theory, EITM, Panel/time series, Maximum likelihood, Survey design, Experimental design
Programming: STATA, Python, z-Tree, L^AT_EX
Languages: Finnish, Swedish, Norwegian, German, Russian.