

Michael Dirksen
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Education

- August 2015 - Present **University of Illinois at Chicago**, Chicago, Illinois
Doctoral Candidate, Political Science
Major Field: Comparative Politics, **Minor Field:** Urban Politics
Research Interests: Political Parties, Middle Eastern Politics,
Religion and Politics, Environmental Politics
- August 2013 – May 2016 **American University**, Washington, District of Columbia
Masters of Arts in International Peace and Conflict Resolution
- August 2008 - July 2012 **Hope College**, Holland, Michigan
Bachelors of Arts
Majors: Political Science, International Studies, Sociology

Professional Experience

- August 2020 - Present **Hope College**, Holland, Michigan
Adjunct Professor
•Political Science 110: Politics of the Middle East
•Political Science 200: Political Geography
•Political Science 262: Latin American Politics
- August 2019 - Present **North Park University**, Chicago, Illinois
Adjunct Professor
•Political Science 207: Chicago Politics (In-Person & Online)
•Political Science 203: Comparative Politics (In-Person & Online)
•Political Science 310: Politics of the Middle East
- January 2018 - Present **Elmhurst University**, Elmhurst, Illinois
Adjunct Professor
•Urban Studies 291: Suburbia: People, Problems, and Policies (In-Person & Online)
•Urban Studies 210: Cities (In-Person & Online)
•Political Science 307: American Foreign Policy
- January 2018 - Present **Trinity Christian College**, Palos Heights, Illinois
Adjunct Professor
• Political Science 201: American Government (In-Person & Online)
• Geography 200: World Geography (In-Person & Online)

August 2015 – May 2020 **University of Illinois at Chicago, Chicago, Illinois**

Adjunct Instructor

- Political Science 101: American Government
- Political Science 243: Politics of the Middle East

Teaching Assistant

- Political Science 101: American Government
- Political Science 130: Comparative Politics
- Political Science 184: International Relations
- Political Science 212: Chicago's Future
- Political Science 300: Documenting the Political: Art, Activism and Film in the Middle East
- Political Science 300: The Politics of Harry Potter
- Political Science 348: Topics in Middle Eastern Politics

Research Assistant

- Researched, collected and analyzed data with Professor Dick Simpson regarding corruption in Chicago
- Researched, collected and analyzed data with Professor Sultan Tepe regarding election rules in Turkey
- Researched, collected and analyzed data for Professor Seung-Whan Choi regarding terrorism.

May 2012 – August 2013 **Good Samaritan Ministries, Holland, Michigan**

AmeriCorps Member

- Co-directed summer recreation activities, including a 5k training program, for approximately 75 under-served youth.
- Taught approximately 40 suspended and expelled “at risk” students in Math, English, Social Studies, Spanish and Science
- Mentored students for re-entry into the public school system
- Compiled data into Microsoft Access databases

Academic Honors and Scholarships

University of Illinois at Chicago

- Ragsdale Fellowship 2014-2015 Academic Year: One year fellowship awarded to outstanding first year or continuing students

Hope College

- Pi Sigma Alpha: National Political Science Honors Society
- Pi Sigma Alpha: Mortar Board
- Sigma Iota Rho: National International Studies Honors Society
- Deans List
- Fried Scholarship 2009

Conferences

- April 2020 *Negotiation, Competition, and Informality: Local Water Politics in Mumbai*
Urban Affairs Association, Washington, D.C.
- August 2019 *Do Populist Parties Reflect or Shape Opinions? Variant Levels of Congruence Between Populist Supporters and Elite*
American Political Science Association, Washington, D.C.
- April 2019 *Do Populist Parties Reflect or Shape Opinions? Variant Levels of Congruence Between Populist Supporters and Elite*
Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois
- April 2018 *We are the People (They are not): A Cross-Country Analysis of Varieties of Populist-Religious Discourse*
Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois
- September 2017 *Puzzling Victories and Neglected Rules: Electoral Design Centered Explanation for the Resilience of Competitive Authoritarianism*
American Political Science Association, San Francisco, California
- April 2017 *Countering the Narrative: Teaching the Middle East through Rappers, Activists, and Everyday People*
Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois
- April 2017 *Consolidation of or Challenge to Clientelistic Relations: Management of Water in Istanbul and Mumbai*
Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois
- April 2016 *Consolidation or Corrosion?: The Politics of Exclusion in Turkey*
Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois
- April 2016 *Undecided Voters: Challengers or Guardians of Democracies*
Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois

Publications

Dirksen, Michael, Simpson, D. W., & Gradel, Thomas (2020). Illinois Corruption Report. University of Illinois at Chicago Department of Political Science.

The Party and “The People”: Congruence Between Populist Party Supporters and Elites.
Michael Dirksen, Keith Simonds, Sultan Tepe

For God’s Sake (and forsaken people): Religious Populism in Israel, Turkey, and India. Journal of Populism. January 2022. Journal of Populism
Michael Dirksen, Keith Simonds, Sultan Tepe

International Travel for Work & Study

India

2010: Completed 5-week fieldwork research in India to study four major religions and the social, cultural, political, and economic facets of 1 billion+ people.

Austria

2009: Studied the concept of empires employing both fieldwork and classroom based learning to explore the major empires of Europe.

Professional Skills Profile

- . Quantitative / qualitative research and data collection / analysis
- . Effective, clear public speaker
- . Strong interpersonal communication skills
- . Computer proficient in the Microsoft Suite, as well as InDesign, SPSS, STATA, and R
- . Conversational level-fluency in French (reading, writing, speaking)
- . Background in Student Affairs, Customer Service and Office Administration
- . Extensive Supervision Experience
- . Strong research, analytical and writing skills

Community Service and Interests

June 2012 - Present

Crystal Conference Center Board, Michigan

Recruit and Train Deans and Counselors for Summer Camps
Create the publicity for the Children's Camps
Oversee budgets and programming for the entire conference center
Manage all social media and create publicity

References

Dr. Connie Mixon

Professor of Political Science at Elmhurst College

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(630) 617-3569

Dr. Sultan Tepe

Associate Professor in Political Science
at The University of Illinois at Chicago

sultant@uic.edu

(773) 742-7293

Dr. Kate Floros

Clinical Assistant Professor

kmfloros@uic.edu

(312) 996-8778

Dr. Dick Simpson

Professor of Political Science

simpson@uic.edu

(312) 413-3780