

Arnold F. Shober

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Current Position

– Professor, Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin.

Education

- Ph.D., Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2006. (Thesis: “Building Government: Autonomy and Scope in State Departments of Education, 1981–2001.”)
- M.A., Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2000.
- B.A. *summa cum laude* Political Science and History, Bradley University, 1999.

Research

Research interests include origin and development of public policy, higher education policy, political aspects of K–12 education, bureaucratic design and development, bureaucracy in American political development, mass media, and federalism.

Books

- *In Common No More: The Politics of the Common Core*. 2016. Boulder, CO: Praeger Publishers.
- *The Democratic Dilemma of American Education: Out of Many, One?* 2012. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.
- *Splintered Accountability: State Governance and Education Reform*. 2010. Albany, NY: SUNY Press.

Journal Articles and Book Chapters

- Arnold F. Shober. 2017. “Can the States Take Accountability Seriously?” In *The Every Student Succeeds Act: What It Means for Schools, Systems, and States*, Frederick M. Hess and Max Eden, eds. Cambridge: Harvard Education Press.
- Arnold F. Shober. 2016. “Individuality or Community? Bringing Assessment and Accountability to K–16 Education” In *Convergence: U.S. Education Policy Fifty Years after the ESEA and the HEA of 1965*, Christopher P. Loss and Patrick McGuinn, eds., Cambridge, MA: Harvard Education Press.
- Arnold F. Shober. 2013. “Benchmarking Inequality: Measuring Education Progress in American K–12 Education.” *Public Money & Management*. 33(4, July): 242–244.
- Arnold F. Shober. 2012. “Governors Make the Grade: Growing Gubernatorial Influence in State Education Policy.” *Peabody Journal of Education* 87(5): 559–575.

- Arnold F. Shober. 2011. “Attracting Capital: Magnets, Charters, and School Referendum Success.” *Journal of School Choice* 5(2): 205–223.
- John F. Witte, David Weimer, Arnold F. Shober, and Paul Schlomer. 2007. “The Performance of Charter Schools in Wisconsin.” *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management* 26(3): 567–588.
- John F. Witte, Paul A. Schlomer, and Arnold F. Shober. 2007. “Going Charter? A Study of School District Competition in Wisconsin.” *Peabody Journal of Education* 82(2 & 3): 410–439.
- Arnold F. Shober, Paul Manna, and John F. Witte. 2006. “Analyzing State Charter School Laws and the Formation of Charter Schools in the United States.” *Policy Studies Journal* 34(4, November): 263–287.

Reviews and Other Academic Publications

- Paul Manna and Arnold F. Shober. 2020. “Answering the Call? Explaining how the States Have (or Have Not) Taken Up the ESSA Accountability Challenge.” Invited paper, Hoover Education Success Initiative, Stanford, CA.
- Arnold F. Shober. 2017. “The Comparative Politics of Education: Teachers Unions and Education Systems Around the World.” *Journal of Comparative Policy Analysis: Research and Practice* (2017): 502--503. doi:10.1080/13876988.2017.1374525
- Arnold F. Shober. 2017. *Philadelphia’s Partway Teacher Evaluation Program*. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Washington, DC.
- Arnold F. Shober. 2017. *Teacher Dismissal in the District of Columbia*. American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Washington, DC.
- Arnold F. Shober and Michael T. Hartney. 2014. “Does School Board Leadership Matter?” Thomas B. Fordham Institute, Washington, DC.
- Arnold F. Shober. 2012. “Teacher Quality 2.0: From Teacher Education to Student Progress.” American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy Research, Washington, DC.
- Arnold F. Shober. 2009. “Making the Grade: Education Governance in Ohio.” KnowledgeWorks Foundation, Columbus, Ohio.
- John F. Witte, David Weimer, Arnold F. Shober, and Paul Schlomer. 2007. “The Performance of Charter Schools in Wisconsin.” *La Follette Policy Report* 17(1, spring/summer): 11–14.
- Arnold F. Shober. 2006 / 2017 (rev.). “State Government,” “State Mandates,” and “Dairy Compacts.” In *Federalism in America*, ed. Joseph R. Marbach, Ellis Katz, and Troy E. Smith. Westport, Conn.: Greenwood Publishers.
- Arnold F. Shober. 2004. “Education” and “Entitlement Reform.” In *The Reporter’s Source Book: 2004 Election Edition*. Philipsburg, Mont.: Project Vote Smart.

Conference Presentations

- “Paranoia or Persuasion: Journalists’ Coverage of American Governors.” Paper presented at Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Ill., April 2014.
- “Benchmarking in U.S. Education: The Genesis and Implementation of No Child Left Behind.” Presentation at “Benchmarking Services to Citizens and Intergovernmental Relations,” Forum of Federations, Queen’s University, Kingston, Ontario. October 19, 2012.

- “Public Schools, Private Agendas: The Future of Large, State-Assisted Research Universities.” Paper presented at “Issues for Universities in the 21st Century,” University of Wisconsin–Madison, June 9, 2012.
- “Trusting Teachers by Verifying Results: The Transformation of Teacher Quality Measurement from an Input to an Output.” Paper presented at the American Enterprise Institute for Public Policy K–12 Working Group, Washington, DC, March 30, 2012.
- “Politics at the Schoolhouse Door: Partisanship and School Finance Levies.” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Ill., April 2009.
- “Education Governance: The Governor or the Board?” Roundtable presentation on Gov. Ted Strickland’s education reform package. KnowledgeWorks Foundation, Columbus, Ohio, October 2008.
- “Building Citizens without Bricks and Mortar: Political Socialization in Virtual, K–12 Charter Schools,” with Meghan Condon. Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Ill., April 2007.
- “The Political Economy of School Choice,” with John F. Witte, Paul Schlomer, and Pär Jason Engle. Paper presented at the American Political Science Association, Chicago, Ill., September 2004.

Prepared Reports

- “Rethinking Economic Development in Wisconsin: Strategies for Improved Performance.” 2002. With Shawn Boyne, Liliana Cisneros, Brian Mooney, Leah Nelson, Chad Ruppel, and Eric Tempelis. Report prepared for the Department of Administration, State of Wisconsin.
- “Affordable Housing in the City of Madison, Wisconsin.” 2000. With Heather Cherin, Lisa Ellinger, and David Reznichak. Report prepared for the Department of Planning and Development, City of Madison, Wisconsin.

Teaching Experience

Teaching interests include public policy, policy process, mass media, political development, state and local government, federalism, education politics and policy, political parties, interest groups, and research methods.

– Regular Courses

- GOVT110: Introduction to Political Science
- GOVT211: American Federalism in Transition
- GOVT220: Parties, Campaigns, and Elections
- DECM224: Introduction to R and Excel for Data Analysis
- GOVT271: Research Methods in Political Science
- GOVT351: From Broadides to Blogs: Mass Media in American Politics
- GOVT375: American Political Development
- GOVT380: Introduction to Public Policy
- GOVT435: Voting, Participation, and Public Opinion
- GOVT500: Senior Seminar in Education Policy

- GOVT500: Senior Seminar in Research Methods
 - GOVT538: Quantitative Politics: Polling and Prediction in American Elections
 - Freshman Studies (Exam Committee, Winter 2008; Symposium and Lecture, Fall 2013).
- Independent Studies and Tutorials Supervised
- Teachers and Unions in American Education Policy, Fall 2017.
 - Urban Housing Policy, Spring 2017.
 - Evaluation in American Hospital Policy, Fall 2016.
 - Institutional Change in Latin American, Spring 2016.
 - Demographic Voting in American Elections, Winter 2015.
 - Urban Infrastructure Planning, Spring 2014.
 - Organizational Behavior in Hospitals, Spring 2014.
 - Measuring Teacher Quality, Winter 2014.
 - Education Reform and Assessment of Teachers in Rural Schools under No Child Left Behind, Spring 2013.
 - Evidence Based Practices in Correctional Policy, Spring 2013.
 - Probation and Prison Reform in Minnesota and Oregon, Winter 2013.
 - American Voter Behavior, Fall 2012.
 - Fisheries Regulation in New England, Spring 2012.
 - Challenges and Promise of E-Government, Spring 2012.
 - Educational Methods, Performance, and Evaluation, Fall and Spring 2012.
 - Campaign Strategies and Voter Recruitment, Spring 2011.
 - Talk Radio and American Political Discourse, Spring 2011.
 - American Electoral Fraud, Spring 2010.
 - U.S. Covert Operations and the National Interest, Fall 2009
 - Congressional Rhetoric and Democratic Victories in Republican-Leaning Districts, Fall 2009
 - The Lasting Effect of Head Start, Spring 2009.
 - The 4th Amendment and Cybercrime, Spring 2008.
- Academic Internships Supervised
- Congressional Constituent Service, 8th District, Fall 2017.
 - Immigration, Refugees, and Relief, Fall 2017.
 - County Executive Ton Nelson (D), Fall 2016.
 - Candidate Mike Gallagher Campaign (R), Fall 2016.
 - Campaign social media strategist, Spring 2014.
 - County Emergency Management, Spring 2012.
 - Political Communication in Television Media, Spring 2012.
 - United States Department of Agriculture Chicago Field Office, Summer 2010.
 - Congressman Steve Kagen (D), Winter 2008.
 - Northeast Wisconsin Regional Planning Commission, Winter 2009.

Invited Talks and Columns

- University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, Learning in Retirement, October 2020. “Polling and Prediction in American Elections”
- Lawrence University, Cultural Competency Lecture, September 2020. “Political Polarization: The Way Forward”
- Lawrence University, January 2020. “The 2020 U.S. Election in Global Perspective”
- Appleton Rotary, October 2017. “The Electoral College: Proposals for Reform”
- Appleton Public Library, January 2017. “The Electoral College: Defending the Republic or Defrauding a Democracy?”
- University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, Learning in Retirement, Spring 2016. “Common Core: Politics, Assessments, and Results”
- Panelist, Midwest Political Science Association, April 2014. “Working with the Media”
- University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, Learning in Retirement, April 2, 2014. “Party Polarization: Are Voters or Parties Driving Division?”
- Lawrence University Economics Colloquium, March 6, 2014. “Scraping Data and Making ‘Big’ Inferences.”
- University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, Learning in Retirement, September 19, 2013. “Is Anyone Listening? American Presidents and Public Attention.”
- University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, Learning in Retirement, February 21, 2013. “Alternate Realities: The American Third Party Experience.”
- National Constitution Center and the American Library Association, Lawrence University, January 10, 2013. “Lincoln, the Constitution, and the Civil War.”
- Fox Valley Association of Credit Unions, Business Meeting, October 22, 2012. “Bitter Clingers and the 47 Percent: How the Rise of Social Media Has Undercut Honest Democracy.”
- University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, Learning in Retirement, September 21, 2012. “The 2012 Election in Historic Perspective.”
- University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, Learning in Retirement, October 24, 2011. “Political Culture and American Political Development.”
- Appleton Rotary Club, April 21, 2011. “The Walker Budget and Wisconsin’s Fiscal Future.”
- Appleton Conference of ELCA Ministers, March 17, 2011. “The Wisconsin Budget Process, Collective Bargaining, and Recall Elections.”
- Fox Valley League of Women Voters, March 24, 2010. “Redistricting and Political Competition.”
- Lawrence University College Democrats, February 3, 2010. “Assessment of Barack Obama’s State of the Union and his Presidency.”
- Prince of Peace Lutheran Church, September 27, 2009. “Political Development of Modern Israel and the Palestinian Authority.”
- Lincoln Second Inaugural anniversary panel presentation with Prof. Jerry Podair, March 4, 2009.
- LUCC, Presidential inaugural speech analysis panel, January 20, 2009.
- Hogensen Strategies Group, Milwaukee, January 10, 2009. “Why Obama won.”

- Appleton Noon-hour Philosophers, Appleton, January 7, 2009. "From Polls to the Presidency: What the November elections tells us about the next president's plans."
- Appleton Rotary Club, October 30, 2008. "The Polls and the Pocketbook: What to Expect in November."
- University of Wisconsin – Oshkosh, Learning in Retirement, September 22, 2008. "Positive Recall of Negative Ads."
- Appleton Public Library, September 18, 2008. "The People or the Nation? The American Electoral College."
- *Lunch at Lawrence* speaker, May 9, 2008. "The Revenge of Richard J. Daley: How the Democratic presidential nomination has become more fair and the nominee less electable."

Professional Activities and Memberships

- Discussant, "Policy and Bureaucracies," Midwest Political Science Association, April 2017.
- Chair, "Political Reform and Education-Assessment Outcomes," Midwest Political Science Association, April 2014.
- Participant, AEI K-12 Working Group, 2011–.
- Chair, "Evaluating Political Parties," Midwest Political Science Association, April 2011.
- Discussant, "The Political Activities of Governors," Midwest Political Science Association, April 2010.
- Chair, "Direct Democracy in the American States," Midwest Political Science Association, April 2009.
- Reviewer for *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Politics Research*, *Journal of School Choice Research*, *Policy Studies Journal*, *Policy Sciences*, *Politics and Policy*, and *Public Administration Review*, *Journal of School Choice*, and *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*.
- Project Vote Smart Key Votes Advisor for Wisconsin, 2007–.
- Member of Midwest Political Science Association.

Committee Service

- Member, Institutional Review Board, 2020–present.
- Member, Task force on Reappointment, Tenure, and Promotion, 2019–present.
- Member and co-author, Lawrence University Reaccreditation Report, 2017–2018.
- Member, Committee on Honors, 2013–2017.
- Member, Committee on Assessment, 2009–2012, 2013.
- Member, Committee on Teaching Development, 2007–09.
- Member, Lawrence Fellows Program Hiring Committee, 2007–08.
- Moderator, R. A. Harrison Symposium, May 2008.

Department and Community Service

- Media appearances:
 - More than 100 local, national, and international media appearances, including
 - Print: The Telegraph (London), La Prensa of Mexico City, Azerbaijan Trend News, USA

Today, Los Angeles Times, Christian Science Monitor, National Journal, Atlanta Journal-Constitution, New Orleans Times-Picayune, U.S. News and World Report, Education Week, Pittsburgh Tribune-Review, Washington Times, San Diego Union-Tribune, Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel, Appleton Post-Crescent, and Gannett News

- Television: Fox 11 WFRV-TV, CBS 5 WLUK-TV, and NBC 26 WGBA-TV, Wisconsin Public Television, including election night coverage.
- Radio: Alabama Public Radio, Wisconsin Public Radio, WILS 1320 (Lansing, MI), and WISS 1100AM (Berlin, WI), WSWA (Harrisonburg, VA), WHBY (Appleton).
- I am a regular guest (every other week) on WHBY 1150AM (Appleton) on Fresh Take with Josh Dukelow, 2017--present.
- Organized a state-wide student conference on corruption and civil liberties, Lawrence University, Fall 2019.
- Organized a 2011 Redistricting Panel. Invited five state and national experts to Lawrence to discuss Congressional redistricting.
- Government Club organizer and sponsor, 2007–2009. Sponsored internship workshop, Winter 2008; sponsored student panel on Obama’s first 100 days, Winter 2009; brought in ‘75 alumnus for talks on grassroots, electronic organizing and (separately) on the end of the Republican Revolution in Congress, Winter 2009.
- Government Department library liaison, 2006–2008.
- Government Department picnic organizer, Spring 2007; Spring 2008; Spring 2009.
- Focus group on faculty support for the Committee of Individualized Learning, January 4, 2007.
- *Post-Crescent* High School Academic All-Star judge, May 2007; May 2008.

Recognitions, Awards, and Fellowships

- Research grant from the Center for the Study of Institutions and Innovation, Summer 2018.
- Erickson Public Policy Fund, Fall 2017.
- Excellence in Scholarship, Lawrence University, Spring 2015.
- Recognized as an “Emerging Educational Policy Scholar” by the American Enterprise Institute and the Thomas B. Fordham Institute, both of Washington, D.C. Summer 2010.
- Finalist for the Politics of Education Association “Best Dissertation in the Politics of Education.” American Educational Research Association, New York, N.Y. April 2008.
- Dissertation nominated by the University of Wisconsin Department of Political Science for the American Political Science Association’s William Anderson Award for the best doctoral dissertation in the field of state and local politics, federalism, or intergovernmental relations. September 2007.
- Research Fellowship, Interdisciplinary Training Program for Predoctoral Research in the Education Sciences, University of Wisconsin--Madison, 2005 – 2006.
- Vilas Travel Fellowship, Spring 2004.
- University Fellowship, The Graduate School, University of Wisconsin – Madison, 1999 – 2000.
- Best undergraduate paper in American history, Phi Alpha Theta Regional Conference, 1999.

- Pi Sigma Alpha, 1998.
- Phi Kappa Phi, 1997.