

Alexander V. Hirsch

CONTACT INFORMATION	Division of the Humanities and Social Sciences MC 228-77, California Institute of Technology Pasadena, CA 91125	avhirsch@hss.caltech.edu www.hss.caltech.edu/~avhirsch/ Fax: (626) 432-1726
EDUCATION	Stanford GSB , Ph.D., Political Economics, 2005 – 2010 Yale University , B.A., Political Science and Economics, 1999 – 2003	
ACADEMIC POSITIONS	California Institute of Technology , Pasadena, CA Professor of Political Science, 2016 – present Associate Professor of Political Science (untenured), 2014 – 2016 Princeton University , Princeton, NJ Assistant Professor of Politics & Public Affairs, 2011 – 2014 (Instructor 2010–11)	
VISITING POSITIONS	Member, Institute for Advanced Study, Princeton (2012-2013) Visiting Scholar, Harris School, University of Chicago (Spring 2010)	
PUBLICATIONS	“Veto Players and Policy Development,” with Kenneth W. Shotts. Accepted at <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> . “Reviewing Fast or Slow: A Theory of Summary Reversal in the Judicial Hierarchy” with John Kastellec and Anthony Taboni. Accepted at <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> . “Voter Attention and Electoral Accountability,” with Saba Devdariani. 2023. <i>Journal of Public Economics</i> 224 (2023): 104918. “Lobbyists as Gatekeepers: Theory and Evidence,” with B. Pablo Montagnes, Karam Kang, and Hye Young You. 2023. <i>Journal of Politics</i> 85 (2): 731-48. “Polarization and Campaign Spending in Elections.” 2023. <i>Journal of Politics</i> 34(2): 240-49. “A Theory of Policy Sabotage,” with John Kastellec. 2022. <i>Journal of Theoretical Politics</i> 34 (2): 191-218. “Policy-Development Monopolies: Adverse Consequences and Institutional Responses,” with Kenneth W. Shotts. 2018. <i>Journal of Politics</i> 80 (4): 1339-54. “Fear, Appeasement, and the Effectiveness of Deterrence,” with Ron Gurantz. 2017. <i>Journal of Politics</i> 93 (3): 1041-56. “Experimentation and Persuasion in Political Organizations.” 2016. <i>American Political Science Review</i> 110 (1): 52-67.	

“Signaling and Counter-Signaling in the Judicial Hierarchy,” with John Kastellec and Deborah Beim. 2016. *American Journal of Political Science* 60(2): 490-508.

“Competitive Policy Development,” with Kenneth W. Shotts. 2015. *American Economic Review* 105 (4): 1646-64.

“Whistleblowing and Compliance in the Judicial Hierarchy,” with Deborah Beim and John Kastellec. 2014. *American Journal of Political Science* 58 (4): 904-18.

“Policy Specific Information and Informal Agenda Power,” with Kenneth W. Shotts. 2012. *American Journal of Political Science* 56 (1): 67 - 83.

“Common Agency Lobbying over Coalitions and Policy,” with David P. Baron. 2012. *Economic Theory* 49 (3): 639-81.

“Theory Driven Bias in Ideal Point Estimates - A Monte Carlo Study.” 2011. *Political Analysis* 19(1): 87-102.

WORKING
PAPERS

“Productive Policy Competition and Asymmetric Extremism”
“Policy Contests”

WORK IN
PROGRESS

“An Experimental Study of Delegation,” with Marina Agranov and Lindsey Gailmard.

“Implementing Information Escrows,” with Joanna Huey

BUSINESS
SCHOOL CASES

Hirsch, Alexander V. and Kenneth W. Shotts. 2011. “Health Care Reform: 2009-2010.” Stanford GSB Case P74.

TEACHING

California Institute of Technology

Introduction to Political Science (PS12), Undergraduate, 2024-2025

Political Theory (SS202a/b), Ph.D, 2014-2025

Political Agency (SS231c, SS210a/c), Ph.D., 2018, 2021-2024

Formal Theories in Political Science (PS132), Undergraduate, 2023

Analyzing Congress (PS121), Undergraduate, 2014-2020

Princeton University and Woodrow Wilson School

Congressional Politics (POL 324), Undergraduate, Fall 2010, 2011, 2013

Money & Influence (WWS 594d, 403d), MPA 2012, Undergraduate 2013

Advanced Political Institutions (POL 581), Ph.D., Spring 2012, 2014

Business Strategy in the Public Sphere (WWS 528d), MPA/MPP, Spring 2011

DEPARTMENTAL
SERVICE

California Institute of Technology

Graduate Admissions Committee (2025)

Political Economy Organizer, Bray Seminar Series (2024-2025)
 SS Graduate Reform Committee (2023-present)
 Organizer, Caltech Applied Political Theory Lab (2018-present)
 Director of Graduate Studies, Social Science PhD program (2020 – 2022)
 Social Science PhD Review Committee (chair) (2017-2018; 2020 – 2022)
 Search Committee: Political Science (chair) (2018-2019)
 Political Economy Organizer, Bray Seminar Series (2017-2018)
 Search Committee: Political Science (2014-2015; 2015-2016; 2016-2017)

Primary Adviser: Garrett Hall, Joanna Huey (2024 PhD), Lindsey Gailmard (2023 PhD), Saba Devdariani (2021 PhD)

Committee Member: Jacob Morrier (in progress), Yimeng Li (2022 PhD), Shiyu Zhang (2021 PhD), Welmar Rosado (2017 PhD), Tatiana Mayskaya (2017 PhD)

Princeton University and Woodrow Wilson School

Woodrow Wilson School Undergraduate Faculty Committee (2013-2014)
 Faculty Organizer, American Politics Graduate Research Seminar (2013-2014)
 Woodrow Wilson School MPA Admissions Committee (2011-2012)
 Co-organizer, CSDP Seminar Series (2011-2012)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Editorial Boards

Journal of Theoretical Politics (2018-present); Journal of Politics (2017-2018)

Referee

Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy, American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Political Science Research & Methods, Journal of Theoretical Politics, Political Analysis, American Economic Review, Quarterly Journal of Economics, Theoretical Economics, Journal of Economic Theory, AEJ Micro, Journal of Public Economics, Games & Economic Behavior, Economic Theory, Social Choice & Welfare, Public Choice, Economics & Governance, Journal of Economics & Management Strategy, Journal of Empirical Legal Studies, Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy, The Economic Journal, Research & Politics

Discussant

UCSD Conference on American Politics (2024); Washington University Theoretical Political Economy Conference (2024); Aspen Conference on Political Economy I (2024); SoCal PE and Institutions Workshop, Irvine (2023); ASSA Annual Meeting (2023); Wallis Political Economy Conference (2022), USC PIPE Conference (2020, cancelled), Vanderbilt Frontiers of Formal Political Theory Conference (2018), WashU conference in Theoretical PE (2018), USC PIPE Conference (2018), Yale CSAP Conference (2017), Venice Political Economy Conference (2014), Princeton Conference on Political Economy (2012), Wallis Political Economy Conference (2010), MPSA Meetings (2008, 2011), APSA Meetings (2007, 2008, 2010, 2014, 2017)

Other

Co-organizer SoCal PIPE Conference (Summer 2023, 2024, 2025)

Executive Committee member of Political Economy section, APSA 2010-2012

Replication Assistant, Quarterly Journal of Political Science (2006-2007)

CONFERENCE AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

Aspen Conference on Political Economy II (2025), Emory (2024), Yale (2024), Aspen Political Economy Conference I (2024), Yale Political Power in Democracies Conference (2024), SAET Conference (2024), Princeton Political Economy Conference (2023); SoCal PE and Institutions Workshop, USC (2022); NYU (2022); Joint Online PE Seminar HKBU-CEIBS-NTU-NUS (2022); UNC-Chapel Hill Online F&Q Seminar (2022); Rochester (2022); Utah Finance (2021); Chicago Harris (2021); Princeton (2021); Utah Winter Organizational and Political Economics Conference (2020); Yale (2019); Princeton CSDP Conference on Lobbying & Institutional Performance (2019); Emory Institutions and Law-making Conference (2019); SAET Conference (2015, 2018); USC Economics (2017); Vanderbilt Economics (2017); Texas A&M (2009, 2017); Virginia PE Conference (2016); Stanford GSB PE (2016); USC Business (2016); Wallis PE Conference (2013, 2016); University of Utah Finance (2016); Emory (2016); Yale Political Economy Conference (2015); UCLA (2015); Berkeley (2015); Stanford (2015); Chicago-Harris CHEAP Conference (2015); WashU (2015); UC Irvine (2014); Max Planck Institute Workshop on Contest Theory & Political Competition (2014); Priorat Workshop in Theoretical Political Science (2014), Caltech (2013, 2012), Princeton Q-APS IR Conference (2013), Princeton PIEP (2013), Harvard (2012), Chicago Harris (2012), NYU (2011), Columbia (2011, 2010), Cornell Economics (2011), Princeton Conference on Political Agency & Institutions (2011), Vanderbilt (2009), Princeton (2009), University of Minnesota (2009)

American Political Science Association Meetings (2007-2011, 2013-2014)

Midwest Political Science Association Meetings (2008-2011, 2013-2014)

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Institute for Advanced Study (Princeton), Social Science Fellowship, 2012-2013

Best Law & Courts paper 2012 APSA (with John Kastellec & Deborah Beim)

Best Legislative Studies paper at 2008 APSA (with Kenneth W. Shotts)

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2005

Last Updated: June 2, 2025