

# David O. Rossbach

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## Contact Information

Department of Political Science  
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## Education

Ph. D., Texas A&M University, expected December 2008.  
Fields: Comparative Politics, American Politics, Post-Communist Politics  
Committee: Alexander C. Pacek (chair), Guy D. Whitten, Paul M. Kellstedt and  
L. Brett Cooke.  
Dissertation: Cleavages, Social Engagement and Trust in Post-Communist Europe  
(successfully defended July 31, 2008)

B.A., University of Wisconsin-Whitewater, 1999

## Academic Appointments

Visiting Assistant Professor, University of Mississippi	2008-2009
Graduate Assistant Lecturer, Texas A&M University	2006-2008

## Publications

Harmel, Robert, Wei Shan and David O. Rossbach. Forthcoming 2008. "Do Party Leaders Matter?: Impacts of Leader Change on Party Change." In *Partier og partisystemer i forandring. Festskrift til Lars Bille [Changing Parties and Party Systems. A Festschrift to Lars Bille]*. Karina Kosiara-Pedersen & Peter Kurrild-Klitgaard (eds.) Odense: Odense Universitetsforlag [Odense University Press]

## Courses Taught

Department of Political Science, University of Mississippi  
*Undergraduate*  
POLS 102 Introduction to Comparative Politics

Croft Institute of International Studies, University of Mississippi  
*Undergraduate*  
INST 312 Topics in European Studies: The European Union

Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University

*Undergraduate*

POLS 326 Government and Politics of Eastern Europe

POLS 312 Ethnic Conflict

POLS 329 Introduction to Comparative Politics

POLS 432 Politics of the European Union

### **Work in Progress**

Pacek, Alexander C. and David O. Rossbach. *'Opportunity' Vs. 'Security' in Post-Communist Europe*. Book Manuscript.

Rossbach, David O. and Tyler Johnson. "Differentiating Eurosceptics in Central and Eastern Europe."

Rossbach, David O. "Loss of National Identity and Opposition to European Integration."

Rossbach, David O. "Ethnic Competition and Trust in Post-Communist Europe."

### **Conference Presentations**

Pacek, Alexander C. , Benjamin Radcliffe and David O. Rossbach. "Globalization and Well-Being: A Cross-National Analysis." Presented at the American Political Science Association meeting, 2008.

Rossbach, David O and Alexander C. Pacek. "Post-Communist Political Cleavages and Interpersonal Trust." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting, 2008.

Rossbach, David O. Panel Discussant, "Post-Communist Parties and Elections." Midwest Political Science Association meeting, 2007.

Rossbach, David O. "Ethnic Competition and Trust in Post-Communist Europe." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting, 2007.

Rossbach, David O. "Religious Attachment and Political Participation in Post-Communist Poland." Poster presented at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting, 2007.

Rossbach, David O. "Competition and Trust in Post-Communist Europe." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting, 2006.

Rossbach, David O. and Tyler Johnson. "Are Parties Listening? Public Policy Mood and Party Ideology as Determinants of Party Issue Emphasis." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting, 2005.

Rossbach, David O. "Individual Perceptions of Democracy in Post-Communist Europe and Support for the European Union." Poster presented at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting, 2005.

Harmel, Robert, Wei Shan and David O. Rossbach. "Do Party Leaders Matter?: Impacts of Leader Change on Party Change." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association meeting, 2003.

### **Invited Talks**

"Public Opinion and Legitimacy in the European Union." *Constitutional Experiences in Federal Polities – Problems of Political Legitimacy in a Transatlantic Perspective*. An International Symposium co-sponsored by the ASKO EUROPA STIFTUNG and Texas A&M University. October 18-20 2007, College Station, Texas.

### **Teaching Interests**

Comparative Politics  
Post-Communist Politics  
Mass Political Behavior and Attitudes  
European Union Politics  
Ethnic Conflict

### **Research Interests**

Post-Communist Politics  
Mass Political Behavior and Attitudes  
Attitudes Towards European Integration  
Trust – Social Capital Development  
Political Cleavages  
Ethnic Conflict Resolution  
Subjective Well-Being and Politics

### **Research Experience**

Grant Writing Seminar, Texas A&M University  
Office of Vice-President for Research  
Research Assistant, Dr. Alexander C. Pacek  
Research Assistant, Dr. Matthew Hoddie  
Research Assistant, Dr. Robert Harmel

Fall 2007  
Fall 2002 – Spring 2006  
Spring 2004  
Fall 2002 – Fall 2003,  
Summer 2004

**Awards**

Slavic Summer Language Institute Scholarship, University of Pittsburgh	2005
Dean's Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University	2002-03

**Professional Activities**

DISCIPLINE

Member, American Political Science Association	2002 - present
– Comparative Politics section	
– European Politics and Society section	
Member, Midwest Political Science Association	2002-present
Member, American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies	2006-present
Member, Polish Studies Association	2006-present

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Wiley Lecture Series, Panel Moderator	2007
- <i>A Global Look at Immigration in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century.</i>	

**Language Skills**

Polish (intermediate)  
Russian (beginning)

## References

Professor Alexander C. Pacek  
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## **Dissertation Abstract**

Title: Cleavages, Social Engagement and Trust in Post-Communist Europe

### Description:

This dissertation addresses generalized trust in post-communist Europe. I examine trust stressing two sets of factors: the impact of attitudes associated with cleavages coming out of transition to democracy, and the importance of informal interpersonal association over more formal, structured forms of association. I argue that the classic list of cleavages suggested by Lipset and Rokkan (1967) have less importance to trust since those cleavages developed under the communist one-party state and were therefore less connected to the party system. As a result, these classic cleavages did not have the same mobilization functions as they did in Western Europe. Instead, I argue that cleavages that have developed out of the transition to democracy and a free-market economic system bear greater importance to trust.

I further argue that due to the experience of forced group association during the Communist era, and lingering distaste for formal political participation, the familiar Western models of the benefits of social engagement underestimate the importance of informal association in the post-communist states. Informal association was a key component of survival during the Communist era and continues to be

The first contribution this dissertation makes is that it brings together theories of political cleavages with theories of trust and social capital development. The dissertation bridges the gap between societal divisions and the position of the individual within these divisions. A second contribution of the dissertation is the testing of established theories of formal social engagement in post-communist states. The secretive nature of association during the Communist era differs greatly from the open nature of association in the West. Theories of trust and social capital development must take this fact into account when exploring post-communist states.