

Martha S. Thomas

CONTACT INFORMATION

The Pennsylvania State University
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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science, The Pennsylvania State University, University Park PA. Expected May 2010
Major Field: International Relations
Minor Fields: Comparative Politics; Political Methodology
Dissertation Title: The Pursuit of Disputes in Regional Integration Agreements.
Committee: Douglas Lemke (Chair); Quan Li (Texas A & M, Special Member); Scott Bennett; Donna Bahry; Andres Rodriguez-Clare (Economics).

Visiting Researcher, Political Science. 2009.
Free University of Brussels, Brussels, Belgium.

M.A. William Paterson University, Wayne NJ. May 2005
Field: International Public Policy

B.A. St. Francis College, Brooklyn NY. May 2003 (summa cum laude)
Major Field: Economics
Minor Fields: Accounting; Business Management

OTHER GRADUATE TRAINING

Visiting Fellow, The Free University of Brussels, Brussels, Belgium (Fall 2009).

University of Michigan, Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research. June-July 2006
Classes: (1) Maximum Likelihood Estimation; (2) Game Theory.

DISSERTATION ABSTRACT

Why do parties to regional integration agreements (RIAs) choose to have some disputes litigated by the regional dispute resolution body but not others? This question is important because it contributes to our understanding of how international law impacts the behavior of state and non-state actor's ex ante. Throughout the dissertation I show that the decision to dispute is impacted by the domestic politics in both the potential plaintiff and respondent states. I argue that this dynamic is influenced by two groups of factors – (1) the perceived likelihood of winning and (2) the costs and benefits of dispute. I show how each party's perception of its likelihood of winning is influenced by the standard of review established by the treaty or by past adjudication. I further demonstrate that actors contemplate not only the actual material costs and benefits of disputes, but also the potential political costs and benefits from litigation. In order to test this theory I develop original datasets including information on potential and actual disputes in three RIAs: NAFTA (1994-2008); the Andean Community (1994-2008); and the EU (1965-2008). Preliminary results for NAFTA and the Andean Community provide support for my argument, indicating that actors only pursue those cases where the benefits outweigh the costs and they have a high probability of winning.

PUBLICATIONS

Thomas, Martha. Forthcoming October 2009. "The Education Experience of Immigrants in the United States." In Wartyna L. Davis (Ed), Justice in America. Dubuque, Iowa: Kendell/Hunt Publishing.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Thomas, Martha. "The Logic of Dispute Initiation under NAFTA Chapter 19."
Under final revision.

Analyzes the impact the perceived legal strength of a case has on the decision to initiate a dispute under the NAFTA Chapter 19 dispute resolution mechanism. Hypotheses are tested using an original dataset of NAFTA disputes.

Thomas, Martha, Kanisha Bond and Logan Kincheloe "Black Gold: A New Cause of Inter-State Conflict?" Under revision.

Examines the relationship between national petroleum quality and production and the likelihood of MID onset. Hypotheses are tested using an original dataset that includes measures of petroleum quality and deposit location, observed from 1945 to 2000.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

"Political incentives and the decision to pursue disputes in the Andean Community." Poster presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Toronto, Canada, September 3, 2009.

"The Logic of Dispute Initiation under NAFTA Chapter 19." Paper presented at (1) the Annual International Studies Association Conference, New York, February 18, 2009; and (2) the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 2, 2009;

"From the Fields to the Cities: The Political Empowerment of Women in the Caribbean." Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April 21, 2005.

"Race and Gender in American Politics." with Wartyna L. Davis. Paper presented at the Second Annual Race and Gender Symposium at William Paterson University, Spring 2005.

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Grants, Fellowships, Scholarships, and Awards:

Dissertation Enhancement Award for research in Brussels, Belgium. College of Liberal Arts, Penn State (2009): \$3500.

Dissertation Support Grant. The College of Liberal Arts, Penn State (Fall 2009).

Robert S. Friedman Award for Excellence in Teaching, Penn State Department of Political Science (2009): \$1000.

Program in Empirical International Relations Pre-Doctoral Teaching Fellowship, Department of Political Science, Penn State (2008-2009): awarded an instructor position for the academic year.

Miller Graduate Research Award, Department of Political Science, Penn State (Summer 2008): summer stipend for collaborative research with faculty member.

Best M.A. Essay, Department of Political Science. William Paterson University, NJ, Spring 2005.

Ford Foundation Graduate Fellowship, William Paterson University (2003 – 2005): award covering tuition and providing stipend to assist in race and gender research project.

Full Academic Scholarship, St. Francis College (2000 – 2003): award covering tuition and living expenses for four years.

Other Awards:

Conference Travel Grant to the APSA Annual Meeting, Penn State University (2009).

Conference Travel Grant to MidWest Annual Meeting, Penn State University (2009).

Conference Travel Grant to ISA Annual Meeting, Penn State University (2009).

Conference Travel Grant to MidWest Annual Meeting, William Paterson University (2005).

Dun Scotus National Honor Society, St. Francis College (2002).

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Political Economy: Trade policy; International Organizations; Political and economic regionalism; Trade dispute resolution.

International Conflict: Interstate Conflict; Resource endowment and conflict.

Methodology: Quantitative Methods.

TEACHING INTERESTS

International Relations: Introduction to International Political Economy; Introduction to International Relations; Model UN; advanced topics in International Political Economy (e.g., International Organizations; the Politics of International Trade; Government and Society in a Globalizing World; Politics of International Business); and advanced topics in International Relations (e.g., Theories of International Relations; Quantitative Study of Conflict).

Comparative Politics: Introduction to Comparative Politics; Comparative Political Economy; Democratization; Politics of Development; Politics of Latin America and the Caribbean.

Political Methodology: Research Design and Methods in Political Science; Probability and Regression Analysis; Linear Analysis.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Graduate Research Assistant to:

Dr. Kathy Powers, Penn State University, University Park, PA. May 2006 - July 2006.
Regional Integration Agreements data collection and coding project.

Dr. Stephanie Rickard, Penn State University, University Park, PA. August 2005 – May 2006.
Labor mobility measure and domestic subsidies data collection project.

Dr. Wartyna Davis, William Paterson University, Wayne NJ. September 2003- July 2005.
Gender and minority experience in US politics data collection project.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor:

International Political Economy, Penn State University, Summer 2009.

Theories of International Relations, Penn State University, Spring 2009.

International Political Economy, Penn State University, Fall 2008.

Graduate Teaching Assistant for:

American Government, Penn State University, Spring 2008.

International Relations, Penn State University, Fall 2007.

International Relations, Penn State University, Spring 2007.

American Government, Penn State University, Fall 2006.

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE

The United Nations, NY. Administrative Intern, Department of Public Information.
January – December 2001

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Panel Discussant: “Children in War.” Midwest Political Science Association, Spring 2009.

Brown Bag presentation to undergraduate students. Penn State University, Fall 2008.

Asian Politics Search Committee, Penn State University, 2008-2009.

International Political Economy Search Committee, Penn State University, 2007-2008.

American Politics Search Committee, William Paterson University, 2004-2005.

Comparative Politics Search Committee, William Paterson University, 2004-2005.

Volunteer Accounting and Writing Tutor, St. Francis College 2001 – 2003.

COMPUTER SKILLS

Stata, R, LATEX, MS-Office

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association (APSA)
International Studies Association (ISA)
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

REFERENCES

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