

## Robin E. Best

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### ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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*Assistant Professor*, Department of Political Science, University of Missouri, 2010-present

*Assistant Professor*, Department of Political Science, Leiden University (the Netherlands), 2007-2010

*Instructor*, Department of Political Science, Syracuse University, 2006-2007

### EDUCATION

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**Ph.D.** Political Science, Binghamton University (SUNY), August 2007  
*Fields of Study:* Comparative Politics, Research Methodology, American Politics  
*Dissertation:* Political Parties, Voters, and Institutions: An Examination of Party System Fragmentation in Advanced Democracies, 1950-2005

**M.A.** Political Science, Binghamton University (SUNY), May 2005

**M.A.** Social Sciences, University of Chicago, August 2002

**B.A.** Political Science, SUNY Albany, May 2001

### PUBLICATIONS

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Best, Robin E. "The Long and the Short of It: Electoral Laws and the Dynamics of Party System Size in Western Democracies, 1950-2005." Forthcoming in the *European Journal of Political Research*.

Best, Robin E. Ian Budge, and Michael D. McDonald. "Representation as a Median Mandate versus Bilateralism: Taking a Cross-National Perspective" With Michael D. McDonald and Ian Budge. Forthcoming in the *European Journal of Political Research*.

McDonald, Michael D., Ian Budge, and Robin E. Best. "Electoral Majoritarianism and Collective Representation: Who is Authorized to Be Represented? Forthcoming in *Comparative Political Studies*.

Best, Robin E. "The Declining Electoral Relevance of Traditional Cleavage Groups." Forthcoming in the *European Political Science Review*.

Best, Robin E., and Steve B. Lem. "Electoral Volatility, Competition, and Third Party Candidacies in US Gubernatorial Elections." Forthcoming in *Party Politics*.

- Best, Robin E. and Michael D. McDonald. 2011. "The Role of Party Policy Positions in the Operation of Democracy." In Christopher J. Anderson and Russell J. Dalton (eds.) *Citizens, Context, and Choice: How Institutional Structures Shape Citizen Behavior*. New York: Oxford University Press.
- Best, Robin E. 2010. "Increasing Irrationality? The Equilibrium Relationship between Electoral and Legislative Party System Size, 1950–2005." *Electoral Studies*, 29(1): 105-116.
- McDonald, Michael D., and Robin Best. 2006. "Equilibria and Restoring Forces in Models of Vote Dynamics" *Political Analysis*, 14(4): 369-392.

## **WORKING PAPERS**

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McDonald, Michael D., Aida Paskeviciute, Robin E. Best, and Rachel Cremona. "In Search of Limits to Democratic Representation with Divergent Parties." Conditionally accepted for publication at the *British Journal of Political Science*.

"Do Voters Have a Choice? Party Policy Positions and Support for Non-Establishment Parties in 15 Western Democracies"

"Electoral Volatility, Competition, and Third Party Participation in SMD-P Electoral Systems"  
With Conor M. Dowling and Steve B. Lem

"An Objective and Simple Measure of Gerrymandering: A Demonstration from New York State"  
With Michael D. McDonald and Jonathan Krasno

## **RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS**

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### **Research Interests**

Politics of Advanced Industrial Democracies, Electoral Politics, Political Parties and Party Systems, Party Competition, Political Representation, Quantitative Methodologies, West European Politics, Electoral Systems, European Union Politics, Women's Representation.

### **Teaching Interests**

Politics of Advanced Industrial Democracies, Political Parties, Comparative Politics, European Union Politics, West European Politics, Research Methodology and Statistics, Political Institutions, Elections and Voting Behavior, Women and Politics.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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### **University of Missouri**

European Political Systems (*undergraduate*)  
The Political System of the European Union (*undergraduate*)  
Politics of Industrialized Societies (*graduate*)

### **Leiden University**

Comparative Government and Politics (*MA level*)  
State of the Art – Coordinator and Lecturer (*MA level*)  
Research Proposal Lab (*MPhil level*)  
Quantitative Data Collection and Analysis – Co-lecturer (*MPhil level*)  
Rational Choice Theory (*BA level*)

Comparative Political Parties (*BA level*)  
Political Science Honors Class on Agenda Setting – Co-coordinator  
(*BA/MA level*)

**Syracuse University**                      Comparative Government and Politics  
Politics of Western Europe  
Comparative Political Parties  
Gender and Politics

**Binghamton University**                      American Political Parties  
(SUNY)    Comparative Political Parties  
Women and Politics

### **INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS**

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“Error Correction Models.” Invited instructor for the 2008 Oxford Spring School in Quantitative Methods for Social Research on Time-Series, Oxford University.

“Equal Access for All? Electoral Laws and the Dynamics of Party System Size in Western Democracies, 1950-2005.” 2008. Essex University, Department of Government, and Binghamton University, Political Science Department.

“Disloyalty or Diminishing Numbers? Party System Fragmentation and the Decline of Traditional Social Cleavages.” 2007. Nuffield Political Science Seminars, Nuffield College, Oxford University.

### **ADDITIONAL EDUCATION**

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Political Parties Summer School, Rijs, the Netherlands, 2005. “Democracy in Europe: European Politics and Multi-level Governance”

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, University of Michigan, 2004.  
*Courses:* Matrix Algebra, Advanced Maximum Likelihood Estimation.

### **RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (2007-Present)**

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“Do Voters have a Choice?: Establishment-Party Polarization and Support for Non-Establishment-Parties in 13 Western Democracies” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL, March 31-April 3, 2011. Paper presented at the European Consortium for Political Research Joint Sessions of Workshops, Münster, Germany, March 2010.

“An Objective and Simple Measure of Gerrymandering: A Demonstration From New York State”. With Michael D. McDonald and Jonathan Krasno. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL, March 31-April 3.

“Electoral Uncertainty and Minor Party Participation in SMD-P Electoral Systems”. With Steve B. Lem and Conor M. Dowling. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science

Association in Chicago, IL, March 31-April 3

“Representation as a Median Mandate versus Bilateralism: Taking a Cross-National Perspective” With Michael D. McDonald and Ian Budge. Paper presented at the workshop *Political Parties and Comparative Policy Agendas: an ESF Workshop on Political Parties and their Positions, and Policy Agendas*, Manchester, UK, May 2010.

“Votes, Seats, and Policy: An Examination of Electoral System Responsiveness and Its Policy Consequences.” With Steve B. Lem. Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association National Conference, Chicago, Illinois, April 2010, and at the Southern Political Science Association Conference in Atlanta, Georgia, January 2006.

“Can Party Divergence Prevent Fragmentation? Major Party Positioning and the Two-Party Vote Share, 1950-2003.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Toronto, Canada, September 2009.

“Electoral Uncertainty and Minor Party Participation in SMD-P Electoral Systems.” With Conor M. Dowling and Steve B. Lem. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL, April 2009.

“Embracing Change: Parties, Preferences, and Union Density.” with Steve B. Lem. Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Boston, MA, August 2008.

“Disloyalty or Diminishing Numbers? Party System Fragmentation and Social Cleavages in Western Europe, 1971-1999.” Paper presented at the Politics of Change Workshop, Amsterdam (the Netherlands), June 2008.

“Equal Access for All? Electoral Institutions and the Dynamics of Party System Size in Western Democracies, 1950-2005.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL, April 2008.

“Contestation without Reward? Representation as an Equilibrium Force on Party System Size, 1950-2005.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL, April 2007.

“Electoral Institutions and Party System Fragmentation in Western Democracies; 1950-2005.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association in New Orleans, LA, January 2007.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICE**

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Assistant Editor for the *Political Handbook of the World*, CQ Press, 2008-present.

Discussant                      Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, 2007, 2009-2011.  
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, 2008, 2009.  
ECPR Joint Sessions, 2010  
Workshop on European Parties and Representation, Syracuse University, 2009.  
Politicologenetmaal (meeting of the Dutch/Flemish Political Science Association),

2008, 2009

Leiden University

Chair of Admissions for the MA program in political science 2009-2010.

Co-Organizer of the Honors Class on Agenda Setting for Political Science and Public Administration Students, 2009-2010

First Reader (Supervisor) and Second Reader for MA theses, 2007-2010

Mentor for first and second year BA students, 2007-2010.

## REFERENCES

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Professor of Political Science  
Binghamton University, SUNY  
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