

Vincent Benjamin Vecera
Curriculum Vitae

Visiting Assistant Professor of Political Science
Gustavus Adolphus College
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Education

2011 Ph.D. University of Minnesota, *Political Science*.
2008 M.A. University of Minnesota, *Political Science*.
2005 B.A. Reed College, *Political Science*.

Dissertation

Title: *The Supreme Court and the Politics of Language: An Empirical Investigation*.
Committee: Timothy R. Johnson (adviser), Joanne M. Miller (chair), Elizabeth Beaumont,
and Christopher M. Federico.

My dissertation explores how Supreme Court decisions granting constitutional rights influence the way Americans think about and debate those issues. I show that, contrary to the general skepticism of Rosenberg, the Court can influence the way policy issues are framed in the public square. I use quantitative content data to analyze changes in public debates over abortion and gun politics, two social issues in which the Court has controversially recognized constitutional rights. Using mixed qualitative and quantitative data, I argue that Court rulings best explain profound transformations in public debates over abortion and gun policies.

Employment

2011-2012 Visiting Assistant Professor, Gustavus Adolphus College, *Political Science*
2010-2011 Doctoral Dissertation Fellow, University of Minnesota.
2009 Adjunct Instructor, University of Minnesota, *Political Science*
2009 Adjunct Instructor, Minnesota State University-Mankato, *Political Science*
2005-2009 Teaching Assistant, University of Minnesota, *Political Science*
2007-2008 Research Assistant, Associate Professor Joanne Miller
2003-2005 Research Assistant, Associate Professor Paul Gronke

Research and Teaching Interests

Law and society, constitutional law, political communication, American political institutions, political psychology, philosophy of social science.

Working Manuscripts

One Language Under Law: How Judges Influence the Way We Talk Politics. (Book manuscript under preparation.)

“The Supreme Court and the Social Conception of Abortion.” (Under submission at *Journal of Law and Courts.*)

Awards

- 2010-2011 Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship (competitive), University of Minnesota
- 2006-2009 Graduate student summer fellowships, University of Minnesota
- 2005 Phi Beta Kappa, Reed College
- 2004, 2005 Faculty commendations for academic excellence, Reed College
- 2003-2005 Henry Wessinger Memorial Academic Scholarship, Reed College

Conference Presentations

Vecera, Vincent, and Matthew D. Hindman. 2012. “The Two Faces of LGBT Rights.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Vecera, Vincent. 2011. “Did D.C. v. Heller Influence Gun Policy Debate?” Paper presented at the annual Twin Cities Law and Society/Empirical Legal Studies Conference, Minneapolis, MN.

Vecera, Vincent. 2010. “How Do Courts Influence Democratic Discourse? Some Lessons from the Abortion and Gun Regulation Cases.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Galdieri, Christopher, Kevin Parsnaeu, and Vincent Vecera. 2009. “Appointing Loyalty: Stickers, Switchers, and the Clinton Superdelegate Hunt.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Vecera, Vincent, Joanne M. Miller, and George E. Marcus. 2008. “Conceptualizing Motivation.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

Teaching Experience

Introduction to Politics, Introduction to American Politics, Politics of Race and Ethnicity, Politics of Language, Political Psychology, Research Methods.

References available upon request.