

CHRISTOPHER R. MARSICANO

Vanderbilt University | 230 Appleton Pl, PMB 414 | Nashville, TN 37203-5721
christopher.marsicano@vanderbilt.edu | (704) 650-7890 | www.chrismarsicano.com

EDUCATION

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY
2018 (Expected May '18)

Doctor of Philosophy in Leadership and Policy Studies
Higher Education Concentration
Peabody College of Education and Human Development

Dissertation Title: Lobbying for Alma Mater: Higher Education Institutions as Interest Groups

Committee: Dr. Brent J. Evans, Chair
Dr. William Doyle
Dr. Jason Grissom

DUKE UNIVERSITY
2013

Master of Public Policy
Sanford School of Public Policy

DAVIDSON COLLEGE
2010

Bachelor of Arts with Honors in Political Science

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

- Higher Education Finance and Policy
- Lobbying and Interest Groups
- Public Policy Analysis and Management
- Civic, Religious, and Political Engagement

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Including articles under review and invitations to revise and resubmit

Evans, B. J., **Marsicano, C. R.**, & Lennartz, C. (Third Revise and Resubmit at *Educational Researcher*). Cracks in the bedrock of American democracy: Differences in civic engagement across institutions of higher education.

Marsicano, C. R. & Drake, A. (Under Review) Legislating in the Lone Star State: Predicting the Passage of Higher Education Bills in Texas.

PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

Braxton, J. R., Francis, C. H., Kramer, J. W. & **Marsicano, C. R.** (In Press). Inventorying the scholarship of teaching and learning literature, *Higher Education: Handbook of Theory and Research*

DISSERTATION
Multiple Manuscripts

Paper 1: “College comes to Capitol Hill: University lobbying in the U.S. Congress”

- Provides descriptive analysis of higher education institution activity and expenditures related to lobbying in the U.S. House and Senate
- Uses a unique dataset that combines public data from the U.S. Dept. of Education and Center for Responsive Politics
- Draft presented at the *American Political Science Association* annual meeting in Philadelphia, September 2016

TARGET JOURNAL: *Journal of Higher Education*

Paper 2: “The goals and tactics of college and university lobbyists”

- Uses qualitative interviews of college and university lobbyists from multiple institution types to determine their goals and tactics
- Seeks to understand the ways in which lobbyists provide information and persuade members of Congress
- Draft to be presented at the annual *Southern Political Science Association* conference in New Orleans, January 2018.

TARGET JOURNAL: *Interest Groups & Advocacy*

Paper 3: “The impact of the 2011 congressional earmark ban on lobbying behavior”

- Uses two methods for causal inference, specifically synthetic control and propensity-score-matched difference-in-differences, to determine the impact of the 2011 earmark ban on university lobbying behavior
- By comparing institutions that did not seek earmarks prior to and after the earmark ban with those that did seek earmarks, the paper determines the changes in lobbyist behavior caused by the ban
- Draft presented at the *American Education Research Association* annual meeting in San Antonio, April 2017
- Draft using additional methods to be presented at the *Association for the Study of Higher Education* annual meeting in Houston, November 2017

TARGET JOURNAL: *Education Evaluation and Policy Analysis*

WORKING PAPERS

Marsicano, C. R. & Kramer, J. W. “Wage floor, enrollment ceiling: A difference-in-differences analysis of the effects of minimum wage legislation on community college enrollment.”

TARGET JOURNAL: *Journal of Policy Analysis and Management*

Marsicano, C. R., “Regional state tuition exchanges and out-of-state enrollment at public universities and community colleges.”

TARGET JOURNAL: *Journal of Student Financial Aid*

Blissett, R., Baker, D. J., **Marsicano, C. R.**, and Kramer, J. W. “An Event history analysis on graduate labor organizing in the 21st century.”

TARGET JOURNAL: *Journal of Higher Education*

Drake, A. P. & **Marsicano, C. R.** Attack and Perry: Texas Higher Education Political Discourse, 2000-2015.

TARGET JOURNAL: *Rhetoric & Public Affairs*

BOOK CHAPTERS IN DEVELOPMENT

Marsicano, C. R. (In Development). Lobbying as Postsecondary Institutional Political Action, *Political Engagement and Activism in Higher Education: A Primer*, Eds. Demetri Morgan and Charles Harris.

Marsicano, C. R. (In Development). University Students and Political Action in the United Kingdom, *Political Engagement and Activism in Higher Education: A Primer*, Eds. Demetri Morgan and Charles Harris.

OTHER MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

Marsicano, C. R., Grissom, J., & Lee, G. "Legislator representation and state appropriations to public postsecondary institutions: Evidence from panel data."

TARGET JOURNAL: *Education Finance and Policy*

Marsicano, C. R., Lennartz, C. J., & Evans, B.J. "Privileging service: Have universities forgotten the 'civic' in civic engagement?"

TARGET JOURNAL: *Education, Citizenship, and Social Justice*

Kramer, J. K., Gentile, S., & **Marsicano, C. R.** "Sustaining Free College Programs in a Volatile Funding Environment"

TARGET JOURNAL: Edited Volume of *American Education Research Journal*

PEER-REVIEWED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Kramer, J. K., Gentile, S., & **Marsicano, C. R.**, (June 2018) "Sustaining Free College Programs in a Volatile Funding Environment" Paper to be presented at *the Volatility in State Spending for Higher Education conference* at the University of Illinois. Urbana, IL.

Marsicano, C. R., & Drake, A. P. (April 2018) "Calling the Roll: Predicting Higher Education Legislation Outcomes" Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association*. New York, NY.

Marsicano, C. R., & Kramer, J. W. (April 2018) "Cross-Border Student Migration and Regional Tuition Exchange Compacts" Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association*. New York, NY.

Marsicano, C. R., Kramer, J. W., Kramer, D, (March 2018) "The Impact of Seattle's Minimum Wage Increase on Community College Enrollment." Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Portland, OR

- Velikova, M. & **Marsicano, C. R.** (March 2018) "Minimum Wage Legislation and Tertiary Education Attainment " Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the *Comparative and International Education Society*. Mexico City, MX.
- Marsicano, C. R.** (January 2018) "‘Most of What We Do is Blocking and Tackling.’ Lobbyists for Higher Education Institutions." Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the *Southern Political Science Association*. New Orleans, LA.
- Marsicano, C. R.** (November 2017) " Examining Congressional Earmarks and Higher Education Institution Lobbying Using a Difference-in-Differences Approach." Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the *Association for the Study of Higher Education*. Houston, TX.
- Marsicano, C. R.** & Kramer, J. W. (November 2017) "The Fight for 15 (and a Degree): Increases to the Minimum Wage and Community College Enrollment." Paper to be presented at the annual meeting of the *Association for the Study of Higher Education*. Houston, TX.
- Marsicano, C. R.** (April 2017) "Earmarks and the elite: Recent changes in research university lobbying practices." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association*. San Antonio, TX.
- Marsicano, C. R.,** & Drake, A. P. (April 2017) "Legislating in the Lone Star State: Predicting the passage of higher education bills in Texas" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association*. San Antonio, TX.
- Kramer, J., **Marsicano, C. R.**, Blissett, R. & Baker, D. J. (March 2017) "An Event history analysis on graduate labor organizing in the 21st century." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Association for Education Finance and Policy. Washington, DC.
- Drake, A. P., & **Marsicano, C. R.** (November 2016) "Attack and parry: Texas higher education political discourse, 2000-2015." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Association for the Study of Higher Education*. Columbus, OH.
- Marsicano, C. R.** (September 2016) "College comes to Capitol Hill: University lobbying in the US Congress." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *American Political Science Association*. Philadelphia, PA.
- Marsicano, C.R.** (April 2016). "Wage floor, enrollment ceiling? The relationship between state minimum wage laws and community college enrollment." Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association*. Washington, DC.
- Marsicano, C. R.** (March 2016) "Higher education lobbying in the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Association for Education Finance and Policy*. Denver, CO.

Marsicano, C. R. (March 2016) “The Thistle and the rose: The Politics of higher education in the United Kingdom over the past decade.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Comparative and International Education Society*. Vancouver, BC, Canada.

Evans, B.J., **Marsicano, C.R.**, & Lennartz, C. (November 2015). “Civic engagement activities and organizational structure among elite colleges and universities in the United States.” Poster presented at the annual meeting of the *Association for the Study of Higher Education*. Denver, CO.

Marsicano, C.R. (March 2015). Regional state tuition exchanges and out-of-state enrollment at public universities and community colleges. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Association for Education Finance and Policy*. Washington, DC.

Marsicano, C.R., Grissom, J., & Lee, G. (April 2015). “Texas legislator representation and state appropriations to public postsecondary institutions in austere times.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association*. Chicago, IL.

Evans, B.J., **Marsicano, C.R.**, & Lennartz, C. (April 2015). “Exploring differences in civic engagement structures and activities across institutions of higher education.” Paper presented in a roundtable session at the annual meeting of the *American Education Research Association*. Chicago, IL.

Marsicano, C.R. (March 2015). “The big Palestine question, the ‘Little State Department’, and the power of the purse: The recent history of US-UNESCO relations.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Comparative and International Education Society*. Washington, DC.

Marsicano, C.R., Marti, H., Sellers, P. & Wills, A.B. (March 2010). Civil religion in presidential campaign speech: 1960-2008. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the *Southeastern Commission on the Study of Religion*. Atlanta, GA

NEWS MEDIA AND TRADE PUBLICATIONS

Kramer III, Dennis and **Marsicano, C. R.** (2017, December 11). “5 ways the proposed PROSPER Act could impact students” *The San Francisco Chronicle* c/o *The Conversation*. <http://www.sfgate.com/news/article/5-ways-the-proposed-PROSPER-Act-could-impact-12420600.php>

Marsicano, C. R. (2017, November 27). [The perils of a ‘grad student tax’](http://beta.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-marsicano-grad-student-tax-20171127-story.html) *Los Angeles Times* A13. Published online as “If the GOP gets its way on taxes, the party could doom post-graduate education in the U.S.” <http://beta.latimes.com/opinion/op-ed/la-oe-marsicano-grad-student-tax-20171127-story.html>

- Marsicano, C. R.** (2017, July 13). “Republicans don’t hate higher education.” *Inside Higher Ed* <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2017/07/13/republicans-view-individual-colleges-differently-they-do-higher-ed-general-essay>
- Marsicano, C. R.** (2016, June 21). “The Brexit challenge to universities.” *Inside Higher Ed* <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2016/06/21/universities-face-major-challenges-brexit-essay>
- Marsicano, C. R.** (2015, May 26). “Campaign promise backlash: Essay on the British election campaign and campaign promises about higher education.” *Inside Higher Ed* <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2015/05/26/essay-british-election-campaign-and-campaign-promises-about-higher-education>
- Marsicano, C. R.** (2014, September 15). “Bad break: Essay on the impact an independent Scotland would have on its universities.” *Inside Higher Ed* <https://www.insidehighered.com/views/2014/09/15/essay-impact-independent-scotland-would-have-its-universities>

MEDIA MENTIONS

- Edgerton, A. (2017, December 15). “Tax savings for K-12 tuition riles public school advocates” *Bloomberg Politics*. <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2017-12-16/tax-savings-for-k-12-tuition-riles-public-school-advocates>
- Berman, J. (2017, December 13). “Graduate students reportedly spared from ‘devastating’ tax increase” *MarketWatch*. <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/graduate-students-reportedly-spared-from-devastating-tax-increase-2017-12-13>
- Gonzales, J. (2017, December 11). “How the Republican tax plan could affect a Tennessee graduate student” *The Tennessean*. <http://www.tennessean.com/story/news/education/2017/12/12/how-republican-tax-plan-affect-tennessee-graduate-student/919150001/>
- Berman, J. (2017, November 29). “Graduate students protest the House GOP tax bill across the U.S.” *MarketWatch*. <https://www.marketwatch.com/story/graduate-students-protest-the-house-gop-tax-bill-across-the-us-2017-11-29>
- Christensen, R. (2017, July 28). “Losing ground in budget and reputation.” *The Greenville Reflector*. <http://www.reflector.com/Op-Ed/2017/07/28/Losing-ground-in-budget-and-reputation.html>
- Christensen, R. (2017, July 21). “UNC is losing ground in budget and reputation. Whose fault is that?” *The News & Observer*. (Raleigh, NC). <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/politics-government/politics-columns-blogs/rob-christensen/article162945273.html>

“Higher Education in the Athens of the South: Opportunity and Postsecondary Education in Nashville and Tennessee.” Guest lecture to international business officers from Belfast Metropolitan College, Ulster University, and Queens University, Belfast at the invitation of the Belfast City Council. Queens University, Belfast – Fall 2016.

“Political Risk, Voting Patterns, and Social Capital.” Guest lecture to an international business class for M.B.A. and M.Acc. students on political stability and risk assessment for foreign direct investment at the invitation of Dr. Marieta Velikova. Massey School of Business, Belmont University – Summer 2016.

“The Policymaking Process.” Guest lecture to undergraduate public policy class on the stages and multiple streams models of policymaking at the invitation of Dr. Angela Boatman. Peabody College of Education and Human Development, Vanderbilt University – Fall 2014.

PROFESSIONAL AND OTHER SERVICE

PEER REVIEWER OF JOURNAL ARTICLES

2017 – Present Journal of International Education and Development

CONFERENCE PROPOSAL REVIEWER

2016 – Present Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)

2017 – Present American Educational Research Association (AERA)

ORGANIZATION MEMBERSHIPS

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

Association for Education Finance and Policy (AEFP)

Association for the Study of Higher Education (ASHE)

Comparative and International Education Society (CIES)

INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE AND COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIPS

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

2017 – 2018 *Colloquium Planning Representative*
Department of Leadership, Policy, and Organizations

2015 – 2016 *Faculty Search Student Representative*
Department of Leadership, Policy, and Organizations

DUKE UNIVERSITY

- 2012 – 2013 *Student Representative*
University Judicial Board
- 2012 – 2013 *Attorney General*
Graduate and Professional Student Council
- 2012 – 2013 *Candidate for Young Trustee*
Graduate and Professional Student Council
- 2011 – 2012 *Student Representative*
Graduate and Professional Student Council

DAVIDSON COLLEGE

- 2009 – 2010 *Student Member*
Honor Council

CIVIC ORGANIZATION INVOLVEMENT

SISTER CITIES OF NASHVILLE

- 2015 – Present *Member, Executive Board*
- Elected by membership to serve as member of the Executive Board in January 2017.
- 2015 – Present *Co-Chair, Belfast Committee (\$)*
- As manager of Nashville’s sister city relationship with the City of Belfast, Received \$60,000 grant from the Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County to build stronger cultural ties with Northern Ireland through the creation of an annual festival in Belfast dedicated to Nashville’s music, food, and arts scenes.
 - Advised elected officials on both sides of the Atlantic on strengthening civic, educational, and business ties between the two cities
 - Assisted in the creation of a short-term study abroad program for Ulster University students in Nashville, April 2017
- 2015 – Present *Member, Fundraising Committee*
- Managed social media content for Sister Cities of Nashville in Dublin, Ireland; Belfast, United Kingdom; and in the United States
 - Assisted in planning for main fundraising gala.

4TH AND MONROE COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

- 2016 – Present *Member, Homeowner’s Association*
- Appointed as member of the Executive Board in December 2016.

(\$) denotes grant, fellowship, or scholarship funding received.

HONORS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

MERCATUS CENTER, GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY

- 2017 Frédéric Bastiat Fellowship in Public Policy (\$)
- One-year, competitive fellowship to study the Bloomington, Virginia, and Austrian schools of political economics.

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

- 2016 Graduate Certificate in College Teaching
- Two-semester professor training program supported by the Graduate School and Center for Teaching at Vanderbilt University.
 - Includes both a seminar in teaching theory and a practicum.

2013 – Present Graduate Honors Scholarship (\$)

2013 – Present Peabody Dean's Fellowship (\$)

DUKE UNIVERSITY

2012 – 2013 Richard A. Stubbing Memorial Scholarship (\$)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2013 – Present **Graduate Researcher and Teaching Assistant**
Nashville, TN VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

- Teaching and research assistant to Dr. Brent Evans
- Assisted research on AP credit usage, loan default rates and higher education finance
- Taught lab sessions of intro-level statistics courses for M.Ed. and M.P.P. students.
- Collaborated on civic engagement research project funded by \$10,000 startup grant.

2012 – 2013 **Graduate Resident**
Durham, NC DUKE UNIVERSITY - OFFICE OF HOUSING, DINING AND RESIDENCE LIFE

- Supervised resident assistant team of seven upperclassmen staff members.
- Managed budgets totaling several thousand dollars.
- Designed and implemented programming for over 150 first-year Duke students.
- Advised elected residence hall councils on student life programming.

2012 – 2013 **Graduate Teaching Assistant and Development Intern**
Durham, NC DUKE UNIVERSITY – SANFORD SCHOOL OF PUBLIC POLICY

- Served as teaching assistant for undergraduate politics, policy analysis, and ethics classes.
- Taught discussion sections for ethics and public policy courses.
- Supervised master's-level consulting teams in a second-year policy analysis course.
- Graded and assisted students with memos and writing projects.
- Wrote copy for publications and assisted staff at fundraising events.

2012 **Postsecondary National Policy Institute Intern**
Washington, DC THE NEW AMERICA FOUNDATION

- Wrote weekly online news report on higher education.
- Summarized academic research papers on higher education.
- Researched and prepared briefing books on financial aid and affordability trends.

Summer 2012 **Federal Relations Intern**
Washington, DC DUKE UNIVERSITY – OFFICE OF FEDERAL RELATIONS

- Wrote memos and assisted preparing Congressional testimony for university officials.
- Maintained lists of Duke connections in DC and attended meetings with elected officials.

2010 - 2011
Davidson, NC

Admission Counselor
DAVIDSON COLLEGE – OFFICE OF ADMISSION AND FINANCIAL AID

- Managed a travel region consisting of Maine, Vermont, New Hampshire, and parts of Pennsylvania, Virginia, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Read and presented over 350 applications from Idaho, Nebraska, Wyoming, North Dakota, South Dakota, Montana, and all travel region states to admissions committee for the Class of 2015.
- Recruited students at college fairs and high school visits.
- Conducted group information sessions for prospective students.
- Wrote copy for print and online recruitment materials.
- Served as editor and contributor for campus admission blog as part of social media and communications team.

Summer 2008
Washington, DC

Action Fund Intern
AMERICANS FOR THE ARTS ACTION FUND PAC

- Researched and compiled list of U.S. House and Senate candidates for financial support to election campaigns.
- Provided policy reports to members and regional arts organization political directors.
- Advised on final funding decisions for Political Action Committee donations.

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Dr. Brent J. Evans

Assistant Professor of Higher Education and Public Policy

Dept. of Leadership, Policy & Organizations, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

A: 230 Appleton Place PMB 414 Nashville, TN 37203-5721

P: (615) 322-6491

E: b.evans@vanderbilt.edu

Dr. Will Doyle

Associate Professor of Higher Education and Public Policy

Dept. of Leadership, Policy & Organizations, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

A: 230 Appleton Place PMB 414 Nashville, TN 37203-5721

P: (615) 322-2904

E: w.doyle@vanderbilt.edu

Dr. Gary Henry

Director of Graduate Studies, Dept. of Leadership, Policy & Organizations

Patricia and Rodes Hart Professor of Public Policy and Education

Dept. of Leadership, Policy & Organizations, Peabody College, Vanderbilt University

A: 230 Appleton Place PMB 414 Nashville, TN 37203-5721

P: (615) 322-0249

E: gary.henry@vanderbilt.edu