

# JEN HEERWIG

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS:

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2019-Present Associate Professor of Sociology, Stony Brook University.

2014-Present Faculty Affiliate, Department of Political Science, Stony Brook University.

2014-2019 Assistant Professor of Sociology, Stony Brook University.

## EDUCATION:

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2013-2014. Postdoctoral Fellow, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics, Harvard University.

2013. Ph.D. in Sociology, New York University.

*Dissertation:* "Access and Ideology: The Evolution of Elite Campaign Contributor Strategies, 1980-2008"

2009. M.A. in Sociology, New York University.

2005. B.A. in Interdisciplinary Study, Gallatin School, New York University.

## BOOK:

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*Democracy Vouchers and the Promise of Fairer Elections in Seattle.* (with Brian J. McCabe). Forthcoming in *Political Lessons from American Cities* series (edited by Richardson Dilworth), Temple University Press.

## ARTICLES:

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\* indicates graduate student co-author

Zhang, Yongjun and Jennifer A. Heerwig. Forthcoming. "Gender, Race, and Intersectionality in the Political Donations of America's Corporate Elite." *The Sociological Quarterly*.

Herrnson, Paul, Jay Goodliffe, Douglas Spencer and Jennifer A. Heerwig. 2023. "The Impact of Associational Ties on the Financing of Super PACs." *Interest Groups & Advocacy*.

Zhang, Yongjun and Jennifer A. Heerwig. 2022. "Gender, Race, and Intersectionality in Campaign Cash to the U.S. Congress, 1990 to 2014." *Socius: Sociological Research for a Dynamic World*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/23780231221121063>

Herrnson, Paul and Jennifer A. Heerwig. 2022. "The Super Women and Super Men Behind Super PACs: A New Source of Inequality." *The State of the Parties 2022: The Changing Role of American Political Parties*, edited by John C. Green, David B. Cohen and Kenneth M. Miller. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

McCabe, Brian J. and Jennifer A. Heerwig. 2019. "Diversifying the Donor Pool: Did Seattle's Democracy Voucher Program Help Reshape Participation in Municipal Campaign Finance?" *Election Law Journal* 18(4): 323-341.

Heerwig, Jennifer A. and Joshua Murray. 2019. "The Political Strategies and Unity of the American Corporate Inner Circle: Evidence from Political Donations, 1982-2000." *Social Problems* 66(4): 580-608.

Heerwig, Jennifer A. and Brian J. McCabe. 2019. "High-Dollar Donors and Donor-Rich Neighborhoods: Representational Distortion in Financing a Municipal Election in Seattle." *Urban Affairs Review* 55(4): 1070-1099.

Heerwig, Jennifer A. and Katie M. Gordon\*. 2018. "Buying a Voice: Gendered Contribution Careers Among Affluent Political Donors to Federal Elections, 1980-2008." *Sociological Forum* 33(3): 805-825.

\*Featured in *Sociology Lens*

Herrnson, S. Paul, Jennifer A. Heerwig and Douglas M. Spencer. 2018. "The Impact of Organizational Characteristics on Super PAC Financing." Pp. 248-262 in *The State of the Parties: The Changing Role of Contemporary American Political Parties*, edited by John C. Green, Daniel J. Coffey, and David B. Cohen. New York: Rowman & Littlefield Publishers.

Heerwig, Jennifer A. 2018. "Money in the Middle: Contribution Strategies among Affluent Donors to Federal Elections, 1980-2008." *American Journal of Sociology* 123: 1004-1063.

\* Featured in the *RSF Blog* and *The Society Pages*

Heerwig, Jennifer A. 2016. "Donations and Dependence: Individual Contributor Strategies in House Elections." *Social Science Research* 60: 181-198.

Heerwig, Jennifer A. and Katherine Shaw (Cardozo School of Law). 2014. "Through a Glass, Darkly: The Rhetoric and Reality of Campaign Finance Disclosure." *Georgetown Law Journal* 102: 1443-1500.

\*Cited in U.S. Senators' amicus brief to United States Supreme Court

Heerwig, Jennifer A. and Dalton Conley. 2013. "The Causal Effects of Vietnam-Era Military Service on Post-War Family Dynamics." *Social Science Research* 42: 299-310.

McCabe, Brian J. and Jennifer A. Heerwig. 2012. "Reframing the Marriage Debate: Wording, Context and Intensity of Support for Marriage and Civil Unions." *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 429-449.

\* Winner of the Warren J. Mitofsky Student Paper Award from the New York Chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research

Manza, Jeff, Jennifer A. Heerwig, and Brian J. McCabe. 2012. "Public Opinion in the 'Age of Reagan': Political Trends 1972-2006." Pp. 117-145 in *Social Trends in the United States, 1972-2006*, edited by Peter Marsden. Princeton: Princeton University Press.

Conley, Dalton and Jennifer A. Heerwig. 2012. "The Long-Term Effects of Military Conscription on Mortality: Estimates from the Vietnam-Era Draft Lottery." *Demography* 49: 841-855.

Conley, Dalton and Jennifer A. Heerwig. 2011. "The War at Home: Effects of Vietnam-Era Military Service on Post-War Household Stability." *American Economic Review (Papers and Proceedings)* 101: 350-354.

Heerwig, Jennifer A. and Brian J. McCabe. 2009. "Education and Social Desirability Bias: The Case of a Black Presidential Candidate." *Social Science Quarterly* 90: 674-686.

\* Winner of the Seymour Sudman Student Paper Award from the American Association for Public Opinion Research and featured in *Science* magazine

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## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW & IN PROGRESS:

\* indicates graduate student co-author

"Buying the Big Apple: Evaluating the Donor Coalition in NYC Elections." (with \*Raff Thompson). Paper in progress.

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## OTHER PUBLICATIONS:

"Broadening Donor Participation in Local Elections: Results from the Seattle Democracy Voucher Program in 2021." McCourt School of Public Policy research brief, Georgetown University (8/2022). Available: [https://mccourt.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Broadening-Donor-Participation-in-Local-Elections\\_Report\\_2022.pdf](https://mccourt.georgetown.edu/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/Broadening-Donor-Participation-in-Local-Elections_Report_2022.pdf)

"Seattle's Unique Campaign Finance System Is Boosting Donor Diversity." Sludge Op-Ed (2/2021). Available: <https://readsludge.com/2021/02/11/seattles-unique-campaign-finance-system-is-boosting-donor-diversity/>

"Building a More Diverse Donor Coalition: An Analysis of the Seattle Democracy Voucher Program in the 2019 Election Cycle." McCourt School of Public Policy research brief, Georgetown University (12/2020). Available: <https://mccourt.georgetown.edu/news/building-a-more-diverse-donor-coalition/>

"Gillibrand's 'Democracy Dollars' Could Break Big Money's Stranglehold on U.S. Politics." Sludge Op-Ed (5/2019). Available: <https://readsludge.com/2019/05/13/gillibrands-democracy-dollars-could-break-big-moneys-stranglehold-on-u-s-politics/>

"Evaluating the Seattle Democracy Voucher Experiment." Sludge Guest Article (11/2018). Available: <https://readsludge.com/2018/11/10/evaluating-the-seattle-democracy-voucher-experiment%EF%BB%BF/>

"Early Results—and Next Steps—For Seattle's Democracy Voucher Program." SSN Key Findings Brief, Scholars Strategy Network (5/2018). Available:

<https://scholars.org/brief/early-results-and-next-steps-seattles-democracy-voucher-program>

“The Corporate Outer Circle Goes to Washington: Trump and the Divided Politics of the Corporate Elite.” Public Seminar Guest Essay, New School (6/2018). Available:

<http://www.publicseminar.org/2018/06/the-corporate-outer-circle-goes-to-washington/>

“Democracy Vouchers Broadened Seattle’s 2017 Donor Base.” with Brian J. McCabe. Brennan Center for Justice Purchasing Power Guest Essay, NYU School of Law (5/2018). Available:

<https://www.brennancenter.org/blog/democracy-vouchers-broadened-seattles-2017-donor-base>

“Expanding Participation in Municipal Elections: Assessing the Impact of Seattle’s Democracy Voucher Program.” With Brian J. McCabe, University of Washington Center for Studies in Demography and Ecology policy brief, University of Washington (4/2018). Available: [jenheerwig.com/seattle](http://jenheerwig.com/seattle)

“Diagnosing Disclosure: A Social Scientific Perspective on Campaign Finance Disclosure.” *Yale Law and Policy Review Inter Alia*, Yale University (4/2016).

“Rethinking Disclosure in the Wake of McCutcheon v. FEC.” With Kate Shaw, Invited RegBlog Opinion Piece, Penn Program on Regulation (6/30/14). Available:

<https://www.theregreview.org/2014/06/30/30-heerwig-shaw-campaign-finance-disclosure/>

“McCutcheon v. FEC: Murky Money and the Rise of [More] Megadonors?” with Kate Shaw, E.J. Safra Center Blog, Harvard University (10/13).

“Authority and the State” and “Social Control and Deviance.” With Dalton Conley in *You May Ask Yourself: An Introduction to Thinking Like a Sociologist*, New York: W. W. Norton & Company (2008).

## **HONORS AND AWARDS:**

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Faculty in the Arts, Humanities, and Lettered Social Sciences (FAHSS) Research Initiative Grant. Project Title: “Big Data for Political Good.” May 2022. (\$7,500)

Emerging Leaders Invited Participant. Office of the Provost, Stony Brook University. Fall 2021.

Piper Foundation Research Grant. Project Title: “Comparing Small Donor Public Financing Systems: The Effects of Matching Funds and Democracy Vouchers on Donor Diversity.” September 2020. (\$75,000)

Russell Sage Foundation Visiting Scholar. Project Title: “Bringing Elites Back In: Investigating the Long-Term Political Behavior of the American Corporate Elite.” September 2018-June 2019.

Most Valuable Professor Award. Stony Brook University Athletics Department. January 2018.

Massive Data Institute Seed Grant, Georgetown University. Project Title: “The Seattle Voucher Experiment: Using Big Data to Enhance Local Democracy.” July 2017. (\$38,600)

Faculty in the Arts, Humanities, and Lettered Social Sciences (FAHSS) Research Initiative Grant. Project Title: “Buying a Voice: The Gender Gap in Political Influence.” May 2016. (\$2,000)

Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Grant. Project Title: “Partisanship, Unity, and Inter-Corporate Networks: Political Donations of the Corporate Elite, 1980-2014.” August 2015. (\$33,000)

United University Professions Individual Development Award. June 2015. (\$488)

Center for the Study of Democratic Politics Fellowship, Princeton University. March 2013. (Declined)

Russell Sage Foundation Presidential Grant. Project Title: “Rich People’s Movements.” January 2012-2013. (\$35,000)

National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant. September 2010. (\$6,425)

Warren J. Mitofsky Student Paper Award, New York Chapter of the American Association for Public Opinion Research. Paper Title: “Framing and Context Effects in Support for Same-Sex Marriage and Civil Unions.” June 2010.

Seymour Sudman Student Paper Award, American Association of Public Opinion Research. Paper Title: “Social Desirability Bias in Estimated Support for a Black Presidential Candidate.” April 2008.

## **SELECTED CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION AND INVITED LECTURES:**

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“Representative Democracy” panel. Invited presenter and moderator at the OpenSecrets Data & Democracy 2023 Convening, May 2023.

“Money in Politics and Representation in Elected Officials” panel. Invited discussant at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2022.

“Gender, Race, and Intersectionality in the Political Donations of America’s Corporate Elite.” European University Institute Analytical Sociology Colloquium (virtual), March 2022.

“Buying the Big Apple: Evaluating the Donor Class in New York City Elections.” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (virtual), October 2021.

“From Vouchers to Voters: Does Participation in Public Campaign Financing Increase Voter Participation in Municipal Elections?” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting (virtual), August 2021.

“Building a More Diverse Donor Coalition: An Analysis of the Seattle Democracy Voucher Program in the 2019 Election Cycle.” Center for Studies in Demography & Ecology Invited Seminar, University of Washington, January 2021.

“The Shifting Political Strategies of America’s Corporate Elite, 1980-2008.” Russell Sage Foundation Seminar, April 2019.

“Comments on Seattle’s Democracy Voucher Program.” Oral and written testimony to the New York City Charter Revision Commission, February 2019.

“Diversifying the Donor Pool: How Did Seattle’s Democracy Voucher Program Reshape Participation in Municipal Campaign Finance.” Council on Governmental Ethics Laws Annual Conference, December 2018.

“Money in the Middle: Contribution Strategies among Affluent Donors to Federal Elections, 1980-2008.” Center for the Study of Wealth and Inequality Invited Seminar, Columbia University, December 2018.

“Expanding Participation in Municipal Elections: Assessing Seattle Democracy Voucher Program.” Scholars Strategy Network Invited/Sponsored Event, October 2018.

“Money in Politics in U.S. Elections” panel. Invited discussant at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2018.

“The Super Women and Men behind Super PACs.” Paper presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2018.

“Teaching at a Public University.” Invited talk at NYU Department of Sociology, Pro-Seminar. April 23, 2018.

“Diversifying the Donor Pool: Did Seattle’s Democracy Voucher Program Help Reshape Participation in Municipal Campaign Finance?” Paper presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2018.

“The Impact of Organizational Characteristics on Super PAC Financing.” Paper presented at the State of the Parties Conference, Ray C. Bliss Institute of Applied Politics, November 2017.

“Buying a Voice: Gendered Contribution Careers among Affluent Political Donors to Federal Elections, 1980-2008.” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2017.

“High-Dollar Donors and Donor-Rich Neighborhoods: Representational Distortion in Municipal Elections.” Paper presented and discussant at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2017.

“Teaching at a Public University.” Invited talk at NYU Department of Sociology, Pro-Seminar. March 6, 2017.

“The Partisanship and Pragmatism of the American Corporate Inner Circle: Evidence from Political Donations, 1982-2000.” Paper presented at the How Class Works Conference, SUNY-Stony Brook, June 2016.

“The Partisanship and Ideology of the American Corporate Inner Circle: Evidence from Political Donations, 1982-2000.” Invited talk at Vanderbilt University, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions, October 2015.

“The Partisanship and Ideology of the American Corporate Inner Circle: Evidence from Political Donations, 1982-2000.” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2015.

“Disclosure: From the Ground to the Tower.” Invited talk at the New Normal in Election Law, Yale Law School, April 2015.

“Political Micro-databases in the Study of Elite Individual Contributors to Federal Elections: Insights, Limitations, and Agendas.” Invited talk at the 6th International Conference on Social Informatics, November 2014.

“Donations and Dependence: Elite Contributor Strategies in House Elections.” Paper presented at the American Sociological Association Annual Meeting, August 2014.

“Donations and Dependence: Elite Contributor Strategies in House Elections.” Invited Lecture at the Institute for Advanced Computational Science, SUNY-Stony Brook, May 2014.

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

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### **Undergraduate:**

- American Society
- Political Sociology
- Statistics for Social Research

### **Graduate:**

- Introduction to Causal Inference
- Multivariate Regression Techniques
- Political Sociology

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE:**

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*American Journal of Sociology*, Consulting Editor, 2023-2025

Occasional Reviewer: Russell Sage Foundation, American Journal of Sociology, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, American Sociological Review, Business & Politics, Contemporary Sociology, Demography, International Journal of Public Opinion Research, Journal of Urban Affairs, Journal of Human Resources, PLOS One, Political Research Quarterly, Political Behavior, Politics, Groups & Identities, Public Opinion Quarterly, Public Administration, Routledge, Social Forces, Social Science History, Social Science Journal, Social Science Research, SAGE Publishing, Urban Affairs Review.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS:**

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American Political Science Association  
American Sociological Association  
Midwest Political Science Association

Scholars Strategy Network  
Society for the Study of Social Problems

**DEPARTMENTAL AND UNIVERSITY SERVICE:**

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Vice President for Strategic Initiatives Search Committee (Spring 2023)  
Shared Governance Committee, A&S Senate (Fall 2022-Present)  
Executive Committee Chair (Fall 2021-Spring 2022)  
IDEA Hiring Committee Chair (Fall 2021)  
Emerging Leaders Invited Participant (Fall 2021)  
Graduate Committee (Fall 2020)  
Track Paper Editorial Board (Fall 2020)  
Hiring Committee Co-Chair (Spring 2020)  
Graduate Admissions Committee (Spring 2020)  
Tenure Review Committee (Fall 2019)  
Research Committee, University Senate (Fall 2016-Fall 2019)  
Evaluation Committee (Spring 2018)  
Colloquium Committee (2017-18)  
Executive Committee (2017-18)  
Undergraduate Committee (2017-18)  
Graduate Admissions Committee (2015-16)  
Executive Committee (2015-16)

Dissertation Committees:

Hyang-gi Song  
David Stack (Political Science)  
Jessica Kim  
Michael Lenmark (Chair)  
Adam Safer  
Irene Paneda (European University Institute)  
Raff Thompson  
Gyuho Shin (Chair)

*Note: Current as of February 2024*