

Benjamin T. Rayder

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Education

- 2011-2017 University of Bamberg, Germany (Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences)
Ph.D., Political Science
Dissertation: *Calculated Competitors or Ideological Bedfellows? A Comparative Analysis of the Policy Similarities and Differences between the National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD) and Die Linke in the Saxon State Parliament During the 5th Legislative Period, 2009-2014.*
Committee: Thomas Saalfeld (first adviser), Ariadna Ripoll-Servent, Johannes Marx
Areas of Specialization: Comparative Politics, Political Extremism, European Politics
- 2010-2011 University College London, United Kingdom
M.A., Modern European Studies, 2011
Thesis: *The Ideological Development of the Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands from 1996 to 2011*
Adviser: Jan Vermeiren
- 2005-2009 College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA
B.A., Political Science and German

Employment

- 2017- Executive Director, Office of Undergraduate Research and Majors Awards (OURMA),
University of Houston, Houston, Texas
Responsibilities: Advise all UH students about competitive merit awards, provide feedback and guidance to students throughout the application process, generate awareness for fellowship opportunities across campus, build capacity with academic and administrative liaisons, manage all administrative facets of assigned awards, collaborate with the Honors College Office of Communication to develop outreach materials for major awards, strategize OURMA annual budget with Honors College Business Office, design and lead information sessions about fellowship opportunities, run application workshops for select awards, write campus endorsement letters for specified awards, manage the Houston Scholars Program, coordinate the Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi chapters, direct the Energy Scholars Program, organize the annual Undergraduate Scholars and Major Awards Dinner, participate on Senior Honors Thesis committees, administer fellowships survey to track learning outcomes, prepare reports for campus partners, plan larger outreach initiatives for OURMA, and manage a team of full-time staff.

- 2017- Instructional Associate Professor, Honors College, University of Houston, Houston, Texas
Responsibilities: Prepare and teach 1-3 credit classes, design course syllabi, assign readings, correct assignments and provide feedback to students during designated office hours.
- 2017 Course Instructor, Honors Program, Pennoni Honors College, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Responsibilities: Prepared and taught 1-3 credit classes, designed course syllabi, assigned readings, corrected assignments and provided feedback to students during designated office hours.
- 2016-2017 Assistant Director, Fellowships, Pennoni Honors College, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania
Responsibilities: Advised undergraduate and graduate students about competitive merit awards, provided feedback and guidance to students throughout the application process, created awareness for fellowship opportunities across campus, built capacity with academic and administrative liaisons, supported the director in developing outreach strategies for various awards and partnerships, managed all administrative facets of assigned awards, wrote and distributed fellowships e-newsletter for liaisons, designed and led information sessions about fellowship opportunities, ran application workshops for core and priority awards and organized campus interview committees where necessary.
- 2013-2016 Part-time Sessional Lecturer, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bamberg, Germany
Responsibilities: Prepared and taught weekly undergraduate seminars, designed course syllabi, assigned readings, corrected assignments and discussed student needs during designated office hours.
- 2011-2014 Study Abroad Adviser, International Office, University of Bamberg, Germany
Scholarship Advising Responsibilities: Advised German students about scholarship opportunities (Fulbright, DAAD and Bavarian state funding), edited scholarship applications, updated and posted all scholarship information, developed a budget for DAAD scholarship funds and submitted annual reports about certain DAAD scholarship programs.
- International Programs Responsibilities:*
 Mentored students about traditional exchange and fee-paying study abroad options, researched new partnerships with prospective institutions, facilitated registration procedures for Erasmus Intensive Language Course applications, produced English transcripts, compiled biannual English course lists.

Research and Teaching Interests

Political Extremism, European Politics, Qualitative Methods, European Union, German Politics

Publications

“Early Research Program as a Pathway for Nationally Competitive Scholarships”, co-authored with Dr. Karen Weber, University of Arkansas Press, 2019.

Ideological or Strategic Convergence? An Analysis of Policy Overlaps Between the Far Right and Far Left in Germany. Book manuscript submitted for publication based on dissertation topic, Otto-Friedrich-Universität Press, 2017.

Review of David Patton, *Out of the East: From PDS to Left Party in Unified Germany*, *German Politics*, September 2014.

Participation in Professional Meetings

Phi Beta Kappa Triennial, Baltimore, Maryland, August 1-3, 2024.

HERU Conference, Lexington, Kentucky, May 20-23, 2024.

HSRU Summit, Arlington, Texas, March 25-27, 2024.

NAFA 12th Biennial Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, July 11-14, 2023.

AAC&U Conference, San Francisco, California, January 18-20, 2023.

HERU Conference, Houston, Texas, June 1-4, 2022.

Fulbright Institutional Training, Denver, Colorado, June 1-2, 2022.

Honors Education at Research Universities, Houston, Texas, May 31 – June 2, 2022.

Boren and Fulbright Program Advisor Workshop at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 18, 2020.

NCHC 54th Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 6-10, 2019.

NAFA 10th Biennial Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 22-26, 2019.

AAC&U Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, January 23-26.

NAFA Assessment Workshop, Portland, Oregon, July 18-20, 2018.

Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs Diversity Forum Workshop, College Station, Texas, April 27, 2018.

Fulbright Institutional Training, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 22-23, 2018.

NAFA 9th Biennial Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 19-21, 2017.

NAFA New Advisor Workshop at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, July 25-26, 2016.

NAFSA Annual Conference, San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, California, May 25-30, 2014.

Teaching Experience

2018-2024 *Mapping Success*, University of Houston, Honors College

2019-2024 *E-Portfolio*, University of Houston, Honors College

2019-2024 *Your World and Your Voice*, Honors College

2020 *The Politics of Energy and the Environment*, University of Houston, Honors College, Spring 2020

2017 *History and Culture of Beer*, Drexel University, Pennoni Honors College, Spring Term 2017

2015-2016 *Qualitative Methods in Comparative Politics: Political Extremism*, University of Bamberg, Winter Semester

2014-2015 *Qualitative Methods in Comparative Politics*, University of Bamberg, Winter Semester, Course Taught in German

2013-2014 *Beefsteaks Revisited: Comparing the Ideological Similarities Between the Far Right and the Far Left in Contemporary Germany*, Winter Semester

Language Competence

English (native), German (fluent), French (basic)

Software Competence

Microsoft Office (advanced), MAXQDA (advanced), NVivo (basic), ATLAS.ti (basic), Stata (basic), PeopleSoft (basic)

Professional Associations

Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR)

The National Association of Fellowships Advisors (NAFA)

Professional Service

UH Faculty Senator, Undergraduate Committee, 2024-2025

Fulbright Program Advisor Mentor, 2024-2025

Honors College Faculty Awards Committee, 2024

Phi Beta Kappa, Chapter Coordinator, 2022-2024

Phi Kappa Phi, Chapter Coordinator, 2022-2024

Honors Co-Curricular Committee, Co-Chair, 2022-2024

HCCE Advisory Board, Member, 2022-2024

Learning Abroad Scholarship Committee, Member, 2020-2024

exCITE Talks Judge, 2023

CLASS Honors Committee, Member 2022, 2023
Luce Scholars National Selection Committee, Member, 2022-2024
Institute of Global Engagement Assistant Director Search Committee, Member, 2022
Human Situation Faculty Search Committee, Chair, 2022
Honors College Dean's Search Committee, Member, 2022
International Education Week Committee Member, 2020
University of Houston COVID and Racism Proposal Review, Committee, 2020
Boren Awards Scholarship to Latin America National Selection Committee, 2020
Honors College Faculty Award Selection Committee, 2019
Phi Beta Delta, President-Elect and President, 2019-2021
Fulbright ETA Program to Germany National Selection Committee, 2018-2020
Critical Language Scholarship National Selection Committee, 2017-2020
Alternative Spring Break Staff Advisor at Drexel University, Spring 2017
Global Engagement Scholar Mentor at Drexel University, 2017

Awards

Regents Academic Excellence Award, 2021
Commencement Speaker at the Language and Culture Center Graduation Ceremony, 2019
Jane and Ron Lerner Fellowship, 2019, 2020
Wong Faculty Engagement Award, 2018, 2020, 2022
Phi Beta Delta, University of Houston Chapter, 2018
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Research Ambassador, 2017
Staff Award for Campus and Community Engagement, Lindy Center for Civic Engagement, Drexel University, 2017
Three-year full PhD scholarship at the Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, 2014
Fulbright ETA, Duisburg, Germany, 2009
Austrian-American Educational Commission, Bregenz, Austria, 2009

Certificates

Cougar Chair Leadership Academy, University of Houston, 2019-2020
Supervisory Certificate Program, Drexel University, 2016