

Dear PDA Committee,

I am pleased to report that I had a very productive and enjoyable time this past spring semester while on professional development assignment (PDA). I very much thank the committee for allowing me this opportunity. In the paragraphs below, I have outlined the work that I accomplished during my PDA.

Manuscripts Written: As detailed in my proposal, my main goal during my PDA was to complete manuscripts from data that I have already collected and send them off for publication. I am quite happy with the progress that I was able to make on this front. My paper titled, “Of Two Minds, But One Heart: A Good ‘Gut’ Feeling Moderates the Effect of Ambivalence on Attitude Formation and Turnout” is currently under review at *Journal of Politics*, after being revised and resubmitted. My paper with Anna Talley (former UM graduate student) titled, “The Social Roots of Public Action: The Effect of Homophily on Mobilization of Women” is now under review at *Political Behavior*. I also submitted an invited manuscript titled, “Competing Motives in a Polarized Electorate: Policy Responsiveness, Identity Defensiveness, and the Rise of Partisan Antipathy” to the editor of *Advances in Political Psychology*.

I was hoping to submit my manuscript titled, “What Motivates Reasoning? A Theory of Goal-Driven Political Evaluation” to the *American Political Science Review* earlier this spring. Unfortunately, my co-author (Yanna Krupnikov, Stony Brook University) fell quite ill during my professional development assignment, which delayed our submission. Nonetheless, we made significant progress (thanks in part to multiple presentations of this work that I will describe below), and we now plan to have that paper submitted by the end of summer. I actually think the paper is better for this forced delay.

While waiting for my co-author to recover from her illness, I shifted my focus to drafting another co-authored paper (also with Yanna Krupnikov and Tracy Goodwin) titled, “The Politics of ‘Political Correctness’: Motivated Reasoning and Accusations of Racism in the Age of Polarization.” We presented this paper at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association this past spring. We are currently preparing to collect more data and present our paper again at the end of the summer at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. This paper is part of my larger project on motivated reasoning, with Yanna Krupnikov. We hope to get these papers through the publication process and begin shopping our book manuscript to publishers within the next two years.

Presentations: Perhaps the single most valuable opportunity afforded by my PDA was the chance to present my work to a number of audiences and make numerous new professional connections, which I suspect will be invaluable in the coming years.

In January, I organized the Political Parties Section for the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, and presented my paper now titled, “What Motivates Reasoning? A Theory of Goal-Driven Political Evaluation.”

In February, while in residence at Stony Brook University, I presented my paper titled, “Does Ideology Divide Us? The Righteousness of Minds, the Virtuousness of Counterfactuals, and the

Nature of Belief Systems” at their department workshop. Stony Brook University is widely regarded as one of the world’s great hubs for research on political psychology, so getting to take up residence there for the entire month of February was a wonderful opportunity. I believe I made good use of this time, not only by accomplishing a good deal of work, but also building my professional network.

As mentioned above, my co-authored paper titled, “The Politics of ‘Political Correctness’: Motivated Reasoning and Accusations of Racism in the Age of Polarization” was presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in April.

Later that month, I presented my co-authored paper titled, “What Motivates Reasoning? A Theory of Goal-Driven Political Evaluation,” at the New York Area Political Psychology Spring Meeting held at Columbia University. Only three papers were selected to be presented to the small and prestigious audience in attendance at this meeting, so this was an excellent opportunity to publicize my work, attain feedback, and develop professional networks.

In May, I had the opportunity to present the same paper at the University of Michigan’s Center for Political Studies at the Institute for Social Research. This is another prestigious location, which afforded an excellent opportunity to publicize my work and get additional feedback.

Early on in my professional development assignment, I co-organized the Political Psychology Section for the American Political Science Association’s Annual Conference, which will be held in August. I plan to attend the conference and present my co-authored paper titled, “The Politics of ‘Political Correctness’: Motivated Reasoning and Accusations of Racism in the Age of Polarization.”

Grant Proposals: My co-author (Yanna Krupnikov) and I recently submitted a \$320,000 grant proposal to the National Science Foundation. Unfortunately, we were informed this spring that our proposal would not be funded this cycle. Nonetheless, our reviews were quite positive and offered useful feedback. We plan to scale the grant proposal back somewhat and re-apply for the January 2018 cycle.

Research Conducted: As mentioned at the start of this document, my main objective was to complete papers from data that I had already collected. Nonetheless, I did collect new data for my co-authored paper titled, “The Politics of ‘Political Correctness’: Motivated Reasoning and Accusations of Racism in the Age of Polarization.” I am currently preparing the IRB proposal for our next data collection, which we plan to execute later this summer. This paper is part of my larger project on motivated political reasoning with Yanna Krupnikov.


I also conducted new research, using publicly available survey data, for my invited paper titled, “Competing Motives in a Polarized Electorate: Policy Responsiveness, Identity Defensiveness, and the Rise of Partisan Antipathy.” This paper has been pre-accepted for an issue of *Advances in Political Psychology* that will be published in January 2018.

Finally, while in residence at Stony Brook University in February, I became acquainted with Mark Pickup, a political scientist from Simon Fraser University, in Canada, who was also in

residence at Stony Brook. Along with his colleague, Erik Kimbrough, in the Department of Economics at Simon Frasier, we are developing a behavioral economics-type experiment to examine the interplay between economic self-interest, group interest, and partisan interest. We plan to field this experiment in fall 2017. Recent work has shown that American laborers are willing to work at a discounted rate for co-partisans compared to opposition partisans. The authors of the study interpret this as evidence of partisan polarization run amok. Our study will test the limits of this effect by examining whether partisan biases can be offset by other interests.

Again, I sincerely thank the committee for selecting my proposal and thus affording me this opportunity. Without a professional development assignment, I certainly would not have been able to accomplish so much.

Best,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Eric Groenendyk". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Eric Groenendyk
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