

CURRICULUM VITA

1. Ross E. Cheit  
Professor  
Department of Political Science  
Watson Institute  
Brown University
  
2. 176 Terre Mar Dr.  
North Kingstown, RI 02852
  
3. Education  
  
Ph.D., Public Policy, University of California, Berkeley (1987). Dissertation topic:  
institutional analysis of health and safety regulation in the public and private sectors.  
  
J.D., Boalt Hall School of Law, University of California, Berkeley (1981)  
  
B.A. with Honors in Political Economy and coordinate major in Environmental Studies,  
Williams College (1977)
  
4. Professional appointments  
  
Professor, Political Science and Public Policy, Brown University (2012-present)  
  
Associate Professor, Political Science and Public Policy, Brown University (1994-2012)  
  
Ittleson Assistant Professor of Environmental Studies. Brown University (1989-93)  
  
Assistant Professor. Political Science and Public Policy, Brown University (1986-1993)  
  
Lecturer. Graduate School of Public Policy, UC-Berkeley. Spring Semester (1984-6)  
  
Attorney. Duane, Lyman & Seltzer; Berkeley, Cal. Criminal defense work (mostly  
appellate) and general civil practice. (September 1982 – September 1985)  
  
Law Clerk. Oregon Supreme Court. Salem, Oregon. Legal research and analysis for  
Associate Justice Hans A. Linde. (August 1981 – August 1982)

## 5. Completed publications

- Books

*The Witch-Hunt Narrative: Politics, Psychology and the Sexual Abuse of Children.* (Oxford University Press, April 2014)

*Setting Safety Standards: Regulation in the Public and Private Sectors* (University of California Press, 1990; reissued 2019)

- Chapters in books

Child Sexual Abuse in Sanders, ed., *The Oxford Handbook of Sex Offences and Sex Offenders* (Oxford University Press, 2016)(co-authored with Dana Hayward).

In Watergate's Shadow: The Iran-Contra Scandal in Angerholzer, Kitfield, Lu, and Ornstein eds., *Triumphs and Tragedies of the Modern Congress* (Praeger and Center for the Presidency and Congress, 2014).

Essay in Vocino and Killilea eds., *Befriending Death: Over 100 Essays on Living and Dying* (iUniverse, 2014).

Motivated Forgetting and Misremembering: Perspectives from Betrayal Trauma Theory, in Nebraska Symposium for Motivation, (2012) (co-authored with Anne DePrince, Laura Brown, Jennifer Freyd, Steve Gold, Kathy Pezdek, and Kat Quina).

Sensitive Issues and the Difficult to Measure: The Case of Measuring Child Sexual Abuse, in Walford, Tucker and Viswanathan eds., *The SAGE Handbook of Measurement* (SAGE Publications, 2010) (co-authored with Will Tucker).

Statutory Rape: An Empirical Examination of Claims of 'Overreaction' in Dowd, Singer and Wilson, eds., *Handbook on Children, Culture and Violence* (Thousand Oaks, Cal: SAGE Publications, 2005) (co-authored with Laura Braslow).

Beyond Memory: Child Abuse and the Statute of Limitations, in Rosenblum and Minow, eds., *Breaking the Cycle of Hatred: Memory, Law, and Repair* (Princeton, N.J.: Princeton University Press, 2002) (co-authored with Carey Jaros).

Corporate Ambulance Chasers: The Charmed Life of Business Litigation, *Studies in Law, Politics and Society*, vol. 11: pp. 119-140 (1991).

- Refereed journal articles

A Response to Articles and Commentaries on The Witch-Hunt Narrative, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, vol. 32, no. 6, pp 1002-1023 (March, 2017)

Research Ethics and Case Studies in Psychology: A Commentary on *Taus v. Loftus*, *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 29: 3245-3259 (December 2014).

Television Newsmagazine Coverage of Child Sexual Abuse: 1990-2005, *Journal of Mass Communication and Journalism*, 4(6) (May 2014) (co-authored with Yael Shavit, Aaron Q. Weinstein, and Zachary Reiss-Davis).

Judicial Discretion and (Un)equal Access: A Systematic Study of Motions to Reduce Criminal Sentences in Rhode Island Superior Court (1998-2003), *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, 8(1):24-47 (March 2011) (co-authored with Laura Braslow).

Magazine Coverage of Child Sexual Abuse, 1992-2004, *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 19: 1-19 (2010) (co-authored with Yael Shavit and Zachary Reiss-Davis).

Secret Settlements with Government as a Defendant: Do FOI Laws Counteract Court Secrecy? *Open Government: A Journal on Freedom of Information*, vol. 5, (2): 1-14 (December 2009).

Ignoring *Nina*: Avoidance and Denial in Pope, Poliakoff, Parker, Boynes, and Hudson (2009), *Trauma and Dissociation*, 10: 258-260 (2009) (co-authored with Rachel Goldsmith and Mary Wood).

Evidence of Dissociative Amnesia in Science and Literature: Culture-Bound Approaches to Trauma in Pope et al. (2007), *Trauma and Dissociation*, 10: 237-253 (2009) (co-authored with Rachel Goldsmith and Mary Wood).

The Elusive Record: On the Difficulties in Researching High-Profile Child Sexual Abuse Cases from the 1980s, *Justice System Journal*, 28(1): 79-97 (2007).

Myths of the Country Walk Case, *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 16(3): 95-117. (2007) (co-authored with David Mervis).

The Science of Child Sexual Abuse, *Science* (April, 2005), 308, 501. (co-author).

The Limitations of a Prospective Study of Memories for Child Sexual Abuse, *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 12(2): 105-111 (2003).

What Hysteria? How Newspapers Cover Accused Child Molesters, *Child Abuse & Neglect* 27(6): 607-623 (2003).

The Legend of Robert Halsey, *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 9 (3/4): 37-52 (2001). Simultaneously published as a chapter in Whitfield, Silberg & Fink, eds., *Misinformation*

*Concerning Child Sexual Abuse and Adult Survivors* (Binghamton, N.Y.: The Haworth Press 2001).

When Businesses Sue Each Other: An Empirical Study of State Court Litigation, *Law & Social Inquiry* 23(3): 789-816 (2000) (co-authored with Jacob Gersen).

Junk Skepticism and Recovered Memory: A Reply to Piper, *Ethics & Behavior* 9(4): 295-318 (1999).

Consider This, Skeptics of Recovered Memory, *Ethics & Behavior* 8(2): 141-160 (1998).

State Adoption of Model Insurance Codes: An Empirical Analysis, *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 23(4): 49-70 (1993).

- Non-refereed articles

Our Off-the-Books GISP, *Faculty Bulletin*, Brown University (May 2016)(co-authored with Caroline Karp)

Revisiting the Jordan, Minnesota Cases, *Roger Williams University Law Review* (Spring 2014)(co-authored with Andrea Matthews).

Child Abuse, in Quirk and Cunion eds., *Governing America* (Facts on File, 2010).

Child Sexual Abuse in Shweder ed., *The Child: An Encyclopedic Companion* (University of Chicago Press, 2009).

Tort Litigation, Transparency, and the Public Interest, 13 *Roger Williams U. L. Rev.* 232 (2008).

Course Blogs and Current Events, [Brown University] *Teaching Exchange* (January 2006).

The Problem of Child Sex Abuse [Response to Letters ]. *Science* (August 2005), 309, 1183-1185. (co-author)

Let's have an honest fight against child sex abuse. [Guest Commentary] *Brown University Child & Adolescent Behavior Letter*, 21(6), 8. (co-author)

Clickers in the Classroom, *The Teaching Exchange* [Sheridan Center, Brown University] (September 2005)

Racketeering Influenced Corrupt Organizations Act, in David Shultz, ed., *The Encyclopedia of the Supreme Court* (New York, N.Y.: Facts on File, Inc. 2004)

The Rhode Island Legal System in Herbert Kritzer, Ed., *Legal Systems of the World* (Clio 2002)

The Importance of Being Audited in *Handbook to Freedom of Information Issues in Rhode Island* (ACCESS/RI 2002), pp. 1-7

Child Molesters in the Criminal Justice System: A Comprehensive Case-Flow Analysis of the Rhode Island Docket (1985-1993), *New England Journal on Criminal and Confinement*, 23(2): 267-301 (1997) (co-authored with Erica Goldschmidt)

How Not to Reform Auto Insurance, *The Public Interest* 104: 57-79 (1991). Reprinted in *Consumers' Research*, 74, (11) (1991) (co-authored with Jonathan Youngwood)

The Rhode Island Credit Union Crisis, *Comparative State Politics* 12 (4): 22-29 (1991), Reprinted in *Congressional Quarterly, State Government, 1992-1993* (1992)

Competing Models of Fair Representation: The Perfunctory Processing Cases, *Boston College Law Review* 24: 1-44 (1982)

Are Sitting Judges Sitting Ducks? *California State Bar Journal* 54: 414-421. (October 1980) (co-authored with Sandra Golze)

Note, The Energy Mobilization Board, *Ecology Law Quarterly* 8 (4): 727-47 (1980).

- Book reviews

Secrets and Scandals, *Public Integrity* 17 (2015).

The Downfall of Cardinal Law, *Providence Journal* (February 15, 2004).

Rhode Island Politics, *Publius: The Journal of Federalism* 32 (3): 1410-143 (2002)

Scams and Schemes, *Brown Alumni Monthly* (May 1997)

Traffic Safety Reform, *Policy Currents* (February 1992)

Risk and Culture, *Ecology Law Quarterly* 11 (2): 241-263 (1983)

- Reports

*Statutory Rape: A Study of Rhode Island Superior Court Cases: 1985 to 2002* (December 2005)

*Quasi-Public Agencies and the Open Meetings Act: A Preliminary Study of Compliance in Rhode Island* (August 2003)

*Public Courts, Private Records: Accessibility and Confidentiality in the RI Court System*, (October 2000)

*Open or Shut: Access to Information in Rhode Island's Cities & Towns*, (April 1999)

*Access to Public Records: An Audit of Rhode Island's Cities and Towns*, (March 1998)  
This report received awards from Common Cause of Rhode Island (September 1998) and from the Society of Professional Journalists (November 1998)

*Carved in Sand: Gregorian Commission Report on the Collapse of RISDIC*, (April 1991)  
(Primary author on regulatory subjects)

- Web Sites

*The Keating Five*. <[www.KeatingFive.org](http://www.KeatingFive.org)> Site created for PPAI 1700T (Good Government) with a former student of the course. Launched in October 2011.

*Understanding the Iran-Contra Affairs* <[www.IranContra.org](http://www.IranContra.org)> Site created through UTRA project and launched in September 2010.

*The Recovered Memory Project*. <[www.RecoveredMemory.org](http://www.RecoveredMemory.org)> Site launched in conjunction with a panel presentation at the American Psychological Association Annual Meetings (Chicago; August 25, 1997)

- Invited lectures (recent selection)

Keynote address, Wilbanks Child Endangerment & Sexual Abuse Clinic Conference, University of Georgia Law School (January 28, 2017).

The Witch-Hunt Narrative, Endowed Lecture, Towson University; Towson, Maryland (November 14, 2016).

The Witch-Hunt Narrative, Keynote, 21st Annual Northern New England Conference on Child Maltreatment; Freeport, Maine (October 16, 2016).

Keynote, Conference by the Liu Post Social Work Department/School of Health Professionals and Nursing; Brookville, New York (April 15, 2016).

Keynote, National Children's Alliance Annual Conference, Washington D.C. (June 1, 2015). Justice and Accountability in US Rape Culture, Panel sponsored by the Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University (February 6, 2015).

Keynote, Children's Justice Conference; Seattle, Washington (May 11, 2015).

The Witch-Hunt Narrative, Plenary Session, 29<sup>th</sup> Annual San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment (January 26, 2015)

The Witch-Hunt Narrative, Book Discussion sponsored by the Gender Violence Program, Harvard Law School (October 22, 2014).

“Exonerating” the Guilty, Keynote address at the Twelfth International Conference on Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma (Denver, Colorado; September 21, 2014)

The Strange Politics of Child Sexual Abuse, Keynote address at the Child Maltreatment Symposium, Ann & Robert Lurie Children’s Hospital of Chicago (September 26, 2013).

Politics and Child Abuse, The Fifteenth Annual Matthew Eappen Lecture, Boston Children’s Hospital (June 6, 2012).

#### Papers read and conference participation (2007-2018)

“An Empirical Examination of Non-Judicial Recusals at the State and Local Levels in Rhode Island (2009-2013),” Northeast Political Science Association Meetings; Montreal, Canada (November 16, 2018)

“Public Policy and the American Seafood Diet,” Brown Conference on Seafood and Sustainability; Providence, Rhode Island (March 16, 2018)

“Farm Politics and Fish Politics: A Comparative Analysis of Federal Disaster Relief Programs,” Northeast Political Science Association; Philadelphia, Pa (November 11, 2017)(with Kayla Weststeyn)

“Politics, Psychology, and the Sexual Abuse of Children,”62<sup>nd</sup> Annual Conference of the of the American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry; New York, New York (October 29, 2016).

“Politics, Psychology, and the Sexual Abuse of Children,” Panel on The Legal Treatment of Child Sexual Abuse: US and International Perspectives, XXXIV International Congress on Law and Mental Health; Vienna, Austria (July 17, 2015).

Roundtable, Speaking of Sex Offenders: Contrasting Policies, Practices, and Narratives. Law & Society Association Annual Meetings; Minneapolis, Minn. (May 29, 2014).

Roundtable, Translating Society for Law and Policy, Law & Society Association Annual Meetings; Boston, Mass. (May 30, 2013).

“Revisiting the Jordan, Minnesota Cases,” Roger Williams University Law School Symposium on Child Witnesses in Sexual Abuse Cases (February 22, 2013).

Food Politics (across the subfields): Access, Crisis, and Social Justice, Panel discussant at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association; Washington, D.C. (September 3, 2010).

Methodological Issues in Analyzing Transcripts, Panel participant at the annual meetings of the Law and Society Association; Chicago, Illinois (May 27, 2010).

TV Newsmagazine Coverage of Child Sexual Abuse (1990 - 2005), Paper presentation at the New England Political Science Association; Providence, R.I. (April 26, 2008).

Motions to Reduce Sentence in the Rhode Island Criminal Court System: An Empirical Examination of Judicial Discretion in Post-Sentencing Relief. Poster presentation at the Empirical Legal Studies Conference, New York University Law School (November 2, 2007).

## 6. Research Grants

- a. Current grants: none
- b. Completed grants:
  - i. Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching (\$5,000) (2003)
  - ii. National Freedom of Information Coalition (\$10,000) (2001-02)
- c. Proposals submitted
  - i. Salomon Faculty Research Grant (2004)

## 7. Service

### A. University and Department

Faculty Executive Committee (Vice-Chair 2018; chair 2019)

Graduate Council (2013-2015)

Director of Graduate Studies, Political Science (2013-)

President's Committee on Slavery and Justice (2003-06)

Truman Selection Committee (2004-06, 2010, 2011, 2013-2015)

Faculty Advisory Board, Swearer Center for Public Service (1994-06)

Undergraduate Committee, Political Science Department. (2001-2011)



Computing Advisory Board (2006-07)

Affirmative Action Monitoring Committee (1997-98)

Search Committee for Vice-President for Development (1997-98)

Commencement Speaker Selection Committee (1993-95)

## B. Profession

Reviewed manuscripts for: American Journal of Political Science; Child Abuse & Neglect; Congressional Quarterly; Georgetown University Press; Law and Social Inquiry; Law and Society; Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law; Journal of Policy Analysis and Management; Social Problems; Oxford University Press; Cambridge University Press.

Law & Society Association, Graduate Workshop Committee (2014)

Law & Society Association, Committee for Best Dissertation in 2002 (2003)

## C. Community

Participant, Task Force to Identify and Recommend Policies and Procedures to Improve the Accuracy of Eyewitness Identification (2010)

Commissioner, Rhode Island Ethics Commission (2005- ) (Chair since 2011)

Board of Directors, ACCESS/RI (1996-2011)

Board of Directors, Rhode Island Rape Crisis Center [Now called Day One] (1994-2000)

Rhode Island Supreme Court's Ethics Commission (Fall, 1991)

## 8. Academic honors, fellowships

Elizabeth Hurlock Beckman Award (2018)

Distinguished Service Award for Excellence in Written Media, awarded by The Leadership Council on Child Abuse and Interpersonal Violence and the Institute on Violence, Abuse and Trauma (2014)

Teaching with Technology Award, CIT (2013)

Karen T. Romer Advising Prize (2010)

Public Service Award, Rhode Island for Community and Justice (November 2007)

Best of WebCT [Social Sciences] (January 2005)

Public Service Award, Common Cause/Rhode Island (November 1999)

William G. McLoughlin Jr. Award for Excellence in Teaching in the Social Sciences  
(April 1998)

Faculty Fellow, Ethics and Public Administration Program, University of Rhode Island  
(1994-97)

Presidential Fellowship, Salzburg Seminar in American Studies (Summer 1993)

Fellowship, Harvard Program in Ethics and the Professions (1990-91)

Fellowship, Henry Wriston Merritt (Brown University, 1990)

Barrett Hazeltine Teaching Citation (Brown University, 1989)

9. Teaching (2015-18)

Ethics and Public Policy (lecture course)

The Politics of Food (lecture course)

Fars, Fisheries, and Politics (seminar)

Honors Colloquium, Public Policy