

VITAE
Roger W. Cobb
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PERSONAL INFORMATION

Office Address: Department of Political Science
Brown University
Providence, RI 02912
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EDUCATIONAL BACKGROUND

University of Washington B.A. (Political Science Major) 1962

UCLA, M.A. (Political Science) 1964

Northwestern University, Ph.D. (Political Science) 1967

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

University of Pennsylvania – Assistant Professor (1967-1973)

Brown University: Assistant Professor (1973-1975)
Associate Professor (1975-1981)
Professor (1981-)
Chair of the Department (1985-1988)

TEACHING INTERESTS

American Politics
Agenda Building and Issue Containment
Transportation Policy
Political Culture and Psychology

BOOKS:

International Community: A Regional and Global Study. New York: Holt, 1970 (co-authored)

Participation in American Politics; The Dynamics of Agenda Building. Boston: Allyn Bacon, 1971 (co-authored)

Second edition. Johns Hopkins University Press, 1983. (co-authored.)

The Political Uses of Symbols. Longman Press, 1983 (co-authored)

The Politics of Problem Definition: Shaping the Policy Agenda. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1994 (co-edited)

Cultural Strategies of Agenda Denial: Avoidance, Attack and Redefinition. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1997 (co-edited)

The Plane Truth: Airline Crashes, the Media and Transportation Policy. Washington DC: Brookings Institution, 2003. (co-authored)

Are Older Drivers a Road Hazard? The Social Construction of a Public Health Issue. Baltimore: MD. Johns Hopkins University Press, 2006 (co-authored)

JOURNAL ARTICLES (REFEREED JOURNALS):

“The Politics of Agenda-Building: An Alternative Perspective for Modern Democratic Theory,” Journal of Politics 33 (November, 1971), pp. 892-915

“Individual Orientations in the Study of Political Symbolism,” Social Science Quarterly, 53 (June, 1972), pp. 79-90 (co-authored)

“The Belief Systems Perspective: An Assessment of a Framework,” Journal of Politics (February, 1973), pp. 121-153.

“The Political Uses of Symbolism,” American Politics Quarterly 1 (July, 1973), pp. 305-338 (co-authored)

“Agenda-Building as a Comparative Political Process,” American Political Science Review 70 (March, 1976), pp. 126-138 9co-authored)

“Symbolic Identification and Political Behavior,” American Politics Quarterly 4 (July, 1976), pp. 305-332 (co-authored)

“Aging and Agenda Building,” Policy Studies Journal 13, 1(September, 1984), pp. 115-130 (co-authored)

“Framing and Claiming the Homelessness Problem,” New England Journal of Public Policy 8, 1 (Spring/summer, 1992), pp. 49-65 (co-authored)

“Problem Definition, Agenda Setting and Policy Choice,” Policy Studies Journal 21, 1(Spring, 1993), pp. 56-71 (co-authored)

“When is a Solution Politically Feasible? Maglev Rail and Intercity Traffic Congestion,” Public Works Management & Policy 1, 4(April, 1997), pp. 308-322 (co-authored)

“Regulating Elderly Drivers: How Are the States Coping?” Journal of Aging and Social Policy 9, 4(1997), pp. 71-87 (co-authored).

“Are Elderly Drivers a Road Hazard? Problem Definition and Political Impact,” Journal of Aging Studies, 12, 4, 1998, pp. 411-427 (co-authored)

“Can You Get There From Here? Transportation Challenges for Aging in Place,” Innovation in Aging, 1, 1999, pp. 3-5, 7 (co-authored)

“Keeping Baby Boomers Mobile,” In Transition 4, (Summer, 1999), pp. 6-9, 32-33 (co-authored)

“How Will We Get There From Here? Placing Transportation on the Aging Policy Agenda,” Journal of Aging & Social Policy 11, 2/3 (Spring, 2000), pp. 201-210 ((co-authored)

OTHER ARTICLES:

“Older Adults and Transportation: Technology’s Promise to Reinvent Paratransit,” The Public Policy and Aging Report, Spring, 1999, pp. 10-12, 15 (co-authored)

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES:

“Communication and Public Policy” in Dan Nimmo and Keith Sanders (eds.), Handbook of Political Communication. Beverly Hills: Sage, 1981 (co-authored)

“Problem Definition: An Emerging Perspective” in David A. Rochefort and Roger W. Cobb (eds.), The Politics of Problem Definition: Shaping the Policy Agenda. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1994 (co-authored)

“Instrumental vs. Expressive Dimensions in AIDS Policymaking” in David A. Rochefort and Roger W. Cobb (eds.), The Politics of Problem Definition: Shaping the Policy Agenda. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1994. (co-authored).

“Agenda-Setting and the Denial of Agenda Access” in Roger W. Cobb and Marc H. Ross (eds.), Cultural Strategies of Agenda Denial: Avoidance, Attack and Redefinition. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1997 (co-authored)

“Denying Agenda Access: Strategic Considerations” in Roger W. Cobb and Marc H. Ross (eds.), Cultural Strategies of Agenda Denial: Avoidance, Attack and Redefinition. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1997 (co-authored).

“Agenda Denial: The Power of Competing Symbolic Definitions” in Roger W. Cobb and Marc H. Ross (eds.), Cultural Strategies of Agenda Denial: Avoidance, Attack and Redefinition. Lawrence, KS: University Press of Kansas, 1997 (co-authored).

“How Will We Get Here from There?” in Francis Caro, Robert Morris and Jill Norton (eds.), Advancing Aging Policy as the 21st Century Begins. New York: Haworth Press, 2000 (co-authored)

“Projecting Policy into the Next Century: The Elderly, Transportation and Political Agenda-Setting” in William Crotty (ed.), The State of Democracy in America. Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2001 (co-authored)

“Keeping an Older America on the Move: Transportation Policy for an Aging Society” in Transportation for an Aging Society, Special Report 218 Update. Washington D. C.: National Academy Press, 2004, pp.275-289. Note: while a chapter in an edited volume, this piece has been through three separate review cycles.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS:

A study of traffic congestion in four major cities. How severe is the problem? What are the responses from the private and public sector? To what extent are various strategies viable? (public transit especially light rail, congestion pricing, pay to drive access lanes) Can cities control congestion through other strategies such as zoning and residential development?

An analysis of newspaper coverage of big rig crashes in various localities. How severe is the problem? What has been the response of local, state and federal authorities? Has the trucking industry provided solutions? Are different sectors framing the problem in different ways? Has the issue attained a place on the political agenda?

NEWSPAPER ARTICLES

“Traveling public pays price for FAA’s slow decisions,” USA Today, February 19, 2004, p. 13A (co-authored)

“Learn from the TSA’s shortcomings,” The Hill, June 15, 2004, p. 14 (co-authored)

TEACHING MATERIALS

Course syllabus included in Marjorie Hershey (ed.), Political Science Course Syllabi Collection: American Government and Politics. American Political Science Association, 1991.

AWARDS

Recipient of the Theodore Lowi Award for the best article in Policy Science Journal for the year 1993. Awarded by the Policy Studies Organization in New York City in September, 1994.

Recipient of the 1998 Aaron Wildavsky Enduring Contribution Award honoring a book published in the last twenty years which continues to influence the study of public policy.

Awarded for Participation in American Politics by the Organized Section on Public Policy of the American Political Science Association.

Recipient of the William G. McLoughlin Award for Teaching Excellence in the Social Sciences for 2001-2002.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION SINCE 1990:

Participant in a Roundtable on “Agenda Setting: Taking Stock,” at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, April 5-7, 1990.

“Organized Anarchy and Aging Politics,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in San Francisco, August 30-September 2, 1990.

“Public Problems/Private Preserves: Applying Schattschneider to an Evolving Area of Problem Definition,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Convention in Boston, November, 14-16, 1996.

“The Politics of Agenda Denial,” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington D.C., August 27-30, 1997.

“When Does a Private Concern Become a Public Problem? The Politics of Naming, Blaming and Claiming” Paper presented at a Conference on “American Democracy Entering the 21st Century” at Northeastern University, October 24, 1997.

Yesterday Today and Tomorrow: Policy Innovation and Evolution Governing Older Drivers” Paper presented at a conference on Transportation and the Aging Society, sponsored by the National Academy of Sciences and the National Institute of Health, Bethesda, MD, November 7-9, 1999.

INVITED LECTURES

“What are the Limits on the Expansive Model of Conflict with Reference to Public Health Issues?” At the Harvard School of International Public Health, April 9, 1996.

“Issue: Suppression: How to Keep Issues Deserving of Attention off the Public Agenda” at the Brown Humanities Institute (Breakfast Program) on November 19, 1996.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Member, Board of Editors, Journal of Policy Studies, 1997-2000.

Anonymous reviewer for manuscripts for the following journals in the past year:

Policy Studies Quarterly
Journal of Policy Studies
Social Science Quarterly

DEPARTMENT SERVICE (SINCE 1995):

1995-1996:

Graduate Level:

Member, thesis committee for Diane Heith

Undergraduate Level:

Adviser to five students in American Politics subfield

1996-1997:

Graduate level

Member thesis committee for Diane Heith

Member of Examining Board for Richard Francis in Ph.D. qualifying exams

Undergraduate Level:

Member, Undergraduate Committee

Adviser to three students in American Government subfield

1997-1998:

Graduate level

Member of Examining Board for Brett Clifton in Ph.D. qualifying exams

Member thesis committee for Brett Clifton

Adviser to two graduate students (Joe Coleman, Brett Clifton)

Undergraduate level

Adviser to four students in American Government subfield

1998-1999:

Graduate level:

Member thesis committee for Brett Clifton

Adviser to two graduate students (Catherine , Brett Clifton)

Undergraduate level:

Adviser to three students in American Government subfield

1999-2000:

Member, International Relations Search Committee

Graduate level:

Member thesis committee for Brett Clifton

Adviser to Brett Clifton

Undergraduate level:

Sophomore adviser to two students

Adviser to five students in American Government subfield.

2000-2001:

Member, International Relations Search committee

Member, Graduate Executive Committee

Graduate level:

Member thesis committee for Brett Clifton

Adviser to Brett Clifton

Undergraduate level;

Adviser for four students for American Government subfield

2001-2002:

Graduate level:

Member, graduate Committee

Member thesis committee for Brett Clifton

Adviser to Brett Clifton

Undergraduate level:

Advisor to five undergraduate students

2002-2003

Department level:

Member, Senior Search for American Politics position

Graduate level:

Member, Graduate Committee

2003-2004:

Department level:

Member, Senior Search for American Politics or Comparative Politics position

Member, Undergraduate Committee

2004-2005:

Department level

Member, Undergraduate Committee

2005-2006

Department Level

Member, Undergraduate Committee

Teaching (since 1994):**1994-1995:**

Fall: Political Science 1: 60 students

Fall: Political Science 182X: 9 students

Spring: Political Science 225: 1 graduate student
Spring Political Science 106: 14 students
Directed honors thesis by An Chi Pham

1995-1996: On sabbatical leave

1996-1997:

Fall: Political Science 1: 40 students
Fall: Political Science 182-23: 3 students
Spring: Political Science 226: 2 graduate students
Spring: Political Science 100: 6 students
Directed two honors theses by Gabrielle Vidal and Karen Dunn

1997-1998:

Fall: Political Science 1: 50 students
Fall: Political Science 182-23: 3 students
Spring: Political Science 226: 4 students
Spring: Political Science 106: 7 students
Directed one honors thesis by David Primo

1998-1999:

Fall: Political Science 1: 42 students
Fall: Political Science 182-23: 5 students
Spring: Political Science 226: 2 graduate students
Spring: Political Science 106: 3 students
Co-directed on honors thesis by Robert Taylor (public policy)

1999-2000:

Fall: Political Science 31 students
Fall: Political Science 182-23: 4 students
Spring: Political Science 106: 8 students
Spring: Political Science 226: 0 students

2000-2001:

Fall: Political Science 1: 30 students
Fall: Political Science 182-23: 5 students
Spring: Political Science 226: 2 students
Spring: Political Science 100: 8 students
Directed honors thesis by Elisabeth Preis

2001-2002:

Fall: Political Science 1: 37 students
Fall: Political Science 182-23: 4 students
Spring: Political Science 106: 14 students
Spring: Political Science 226: 2 students

2002-2003:

Fall: On sabbatical leave

Spring: Political Science 106: 10 students

Spring: Political Science 182-23: 5 students

2003-2004:

Fall: Political Science 1: 22 students

Fall: Political Science 182-23: 8 students

Spring: Political Science 108: 8 students

Spring: Political Science 226: 4 students

Directed honors theses by Ingrid Helen and Olivia Mahoney

For most of spring semester, served as thesis director for Ferve Ozturk

Served as co-thesis director on honors thesis of Elena Lesley

2004-2005:

Fall: Political Science 1: 26 students

Fall; Political Science 182-23: 4 students

Spring: Political Science 108:9 students

Spring: Political Science 226; 3 students

2005-2006:

Fall: Political Science 1: 13 students

Fall: Political Science 82: 8 students

Directing honors thesis by Melissa Riess