

# Felicity A. Vabulas

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## Current Academic Appointments

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Harris School of Public Policy Studies, Chicago, IL:** 2013-present

**Post-doctoral Lecturer:** U.S. Foreign Policy, International Organizations; Director of the Writing Program

**NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, School of Professional Studies, Chicago, IL:** 2012-present

**Adjunct Professor:** Master of Public Policy (Research Methods, Intergovernmental Relations, Capstone)

## Research Interests

International Relations, International Organizations, International Political Economy, International Law, U.S. Foreign Policy, Diplomacy, Lobbying, Democratization, Development, NGOs, Research Design.

## Education

**UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Harris School of Public Policy Studies, Chicago, IL**

**Ph.D. in Public Policy: 2013**

*Dissertation:* When and Why do Intergovernmental Organizations Grant Consultative Status to NGOs?

*Committee:* Duncan Snidal (Chair), Jon Pevehouse, William Howell

**M.P.P. with Honors, 2007**

*Thesis:* “There’s No Place Like Home: Remittances as a Bottom-Up External Impact on Democratization.”

**UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS, Champaign-Urbana, IL**

**B.S. in Business Admin., magna cum laude, 2000;** Study Abroad, University of Warwick, UK, 1998 – 1999

## Published Work

**“Organization Without Delegation: Informal Intergovernmental Organizations (IIGOs) and the Spectrum of Intergovernmental Arrangements,” (with Duncan Snidal). 2013. Review of International Organizations, Vol. 8 (2).**

*This paper contrasts with the growing IO literature on formal IGOs by theorizing why states might sometimes work through informal IGOs—institutions that are subject to no formal treaty and/or have no permanent secretariat. We undertake a theoretical exploration to show how a state’s choice along the spectrum of intergovernmental arrangements is related to the distribution of power. An empirical investigation of an original dataset includes important IIGO examples such as the G-groups.*

**Also published in The Law and Politics of International Organizations International Law series, 2015. Kenneth W. Abbott and Jack E. Brown (ed.), Edward Elgar: Northampton.**

**“Consultative and Observer Status of NGOs in Intergovernmental Organizations,” Bob Reinalda (ed.) Handbook of International Organization 2013, Routledge: London.**

*This chapter provides a state-of-the-art overview of NGO consultative status in IGOs. It provides evidence of the growing trend, reviews existing theoretical explanations, and then provides an original unifying argument that helps explain variation both between units and across time.*

**“Does the G-8’s suspension of Russia actually matter?” The Washington Post: Monkey Cage blog.** <https://www.google.com/webhp?sourceid=chrome-instant&ion=1&espv=2&ie=UTF-8#q=felicity%20vabulas%20washington%20post>

*I argue that while Russia’s suspension from the G-8 is in many ways “sui generis”, patterns from history show that IGO suspension can be a powerful tool of international diplomacy because being shunned marks a state as a pariah rather than a key part of a (valuable) international club.*

**“The BRICS and the Future of ‘Informal’ IGOs.” February 2014. The International Relations and Security Network blog.** <http://www.isn.ethz.ch/Digital-Library/Articles/Detail/?lng=en&id=176226>

*I argue that states are increasingly seeing the value of informal IGOs vs. because they provide diplomatic flexibility, rapid crisis response, and an unquestioning respect for national interests.*

### **Forthcoming**

**Informal Organizations in IPE. Oxford Handbook of International Political Economy (Oxford Handbook of International Relations series), Jon Pevehouse and Leonard Seabrooke (ed.)**

*Sovereign states are increasingly interacting through “non-traditional” international organizations. This chapter pushes beyond their mere existence to look at the actors inside these entities and the outputs they create. It addresses how international political economy is negotiated, formed, and maintained in non-traditional setups and analyzes how (and when) legitimacy is obtained in the field.*

**Transnational Administration in Informal International Organizations. Handbook on Global Policy and Transnational Administration (Oxford University Press). Kimberly Moloney and Diane Stone (ed.)**

*States are progressively administering a global order through interactions between domestic regulatory bodies, non-governmental agencies, and even executive appointees. This chapter analyzes what these different kinds of patrons bring to the bargaining table, how their varied backgrounds influence policy outcomes, and how internal actors interface with external stakeholders to strike bargains that stick.*

### **Under Review**

**“Suspensions from Intergovernmental Organizations”**

*Suspension from an IGO is an important threat to encourage states to comply and to punish violators. Despite this theoretical importance, we know very little about actual suspensions. This paper uses an original dataset to show that suspensions are rare and unevenly invoked because of the high costs on remaining members. Suspension is most likely when it does not impose large negative externalities.*

**“The Punishment Phase: IGO Suspensions After Political Backsliding” (with Inken von Borzyskowski)**

*While many IGOs espouse democratic commitments and vouch to suspend member states for political regressions, enforcement of these standards is uneven. We argue that suspensions involve significant collective action by other member states to come to fruition and thus IGOs are more likely to suspend violating states when its members are willing and able to mobilize for this common cause.*

**“Bypassing Domestic Political Constraints through IIGOs” (with Duncan Snidal)**

*The expanded role of domestic political actors in international issues creates new challenges—but also new opportunities—for states. We show that executives use Informal Intergovernmental Organizations (IIGOs) to bypass domestic veto points. IIGOs create focal points favoring the Executive, do not require ratification, and are hard for domestic actors to influence with budgetary and oversight controls.*

### **Selected Working Papers**

**“Withdrawing from Intergovernmental Organizations: Understanding When and Why States Exit”**

*Since WWII, there have been over 225 member state withdrawals from international organizations but scholars have paid scant attention to these exits. This paper examines the conditions under which member states are more likely to withdraw. I show that institutional design, power politics (including motives of pariah states), and changing preferences predict when and why states withdraw from IOs.*

### **“NGOs as State Allies: Granting Consultative Status at ECOSOC”**

*NGOs are increasingly playing a formal role in the operations of many IGOs. While many scholars have begun to note this general trend, we have very little understanding of the kinds of NGOs that get formal access. Using a novel identification strategy and a quantitative analysis of NGO accreditation in UN ECOSOC, I show that member states are shrewd and give access to NGOs that will act as “allies”.*

### **“Who Lobbies: Analyzing the Drivers of Foreign Lobbying in the U.S.”**

*Foreign governments pay millions of dollars to hire U.S. lobbying firms to promote their interests. Who lobbies? Using an original dataset, we support an information-based argument. Enduring rivals increase lobbying efforts when their overseas rivals increase lobbying. Second, countries with weaker diplomatic connections lobby more to obtain information not provided via institutional relationships.*

### **“Foreign and Ethnic Lobbies in American Foreign Policy: Information versus Elections in Tariff Policy.” (with Jon Pevehouse)**

*There exists almost no systematic evidence on the scope or influence of “foreign agents” on American foreign policy. This paper fills this theoretical and empirical void. We distinguish between the muddled concepts of ethnic and foreign lobbies. We then use an original dataset of sixty years of FARA contributions to show that more lobbying by international actors lowers US trade barriers.*

### **“The Informational Role of Foreign Lobbying in U.S. Foreign Aid: Is U.S. Assistance for Sale?” (with Jon Pevehouse)**

*Myriad anecdotal examples show that foreign lobbyists have successfully negotiated better U.S. foreign aid deals, even after scathing domestic events such as coups or human rights abuses. We leverage an original dataset of FARA contributions to systematically show that recipient countries can indeed influence the level and terms of their foreign assistance by lobbying from abroad.*

### **“Foreign Lobbying and Human Rights Ratings.” (with Jon Pevehouse)**

*We examine whether foreign governments influence the final language of U.S. human rights reports through lobbying efforts in order to tilt ratings in their favor. By comparing annual U.S. State Department reports to Amnesty International reports from 1976-2006, we show that more lobbying leads to more favorable U.S. reporting on human rights.*

### **“Rising Powers and Forum Shopping: the Use of Informal IGOs as Alternatives to Formal Institutional Constraints.” (with Duncan Snidal)**

*Informal Intergovernmental Organizations (IIGOs) are increasingly used as tools of global governance by both strong and weak states. In particular, weak-but-rising-power states are utilizing IIGOs to work around institutional constraints that favour existing great powers. This paper explores how weak-but-rising-power states leverage IIGOs in the areas of international trade and global climate change.*

### **Grants/ Awards**

- International Summer Policy Institute: Bridging the Gap project, *American University School of International Service, June 2015*
- International Studies Association Travel Grant, *February 2015*
- National Science Foundation Grant 1023967 (PI: Jon Pevehouse): Foreign Interest Groups and American Foreign Policy, *August 2010*
- Journeys in World Politics, *2011 Workshop, November 17-120 2011*
- P.E.O Scholar Award, P.E.O. International, *August 2011-June 2012*
- PIPES Workshop Coordinator (Program on International Politics, Economics, and Security) 2009-11
- New Era Foreign Policy Conference: Bridging the Gap project, George Washington University: *Fellow, February 2011*
- University of Chicago Harris School of Public Policy: *Teaching Assistant of the Year, 2010-11, 2009-10*

- University of Chicago, Center for Teaching and Learning: *Teaching Consultant 2010-2011*
- Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM), Summer Institute at the University of Chicago: *Graduate Student Coordinator, Summer 2011*
- Tools for Text: National Science Foundation Conference: *Attendee, Univ. of Washington, June 2010*
- University of Chicago: *Doolittle-Harrison Conference award, March 2011, November 2009*
- University of Chicago: *Program on Political Institutions Conference Award, March 2011, Sept. 2009*
- Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM), Summer Institute at the University of Michigan: *Graduate Fellow, 2009*
- University of Chicago: *Program on Political Institutions, Graduate Fellow, 2008-2009*
- Harris School of Public Policy Studies: *Women in Public Policy Conference Fund Grant, Spring 2008, Fall 2009, Spring 2010, Winter 2011, Spring 2012*
- University of Chicago: *Program on Political Institutions, Research Grant (with Boris Shor), 2007*
- University of Illinois Campus Honor Program (Chancellor's Scholar); *Top Ten Senior; Deans List all eight semesters of undergraduate study*

### **Prior Work Experience**

#### **CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, Washington, D.C.**

##### **Graduate Fellow, Office of Transnational Issues, 2006, 2007**

- Researched and briefed timely questions on political issues for key policy-makers. Conducted statistical analysis, case study comparison, and synthesized expertise from country analysts.
- Assisted in coordinating conferences to solicit information from academic experts and a forum to share information with policy-makers on key policy questions. Following the conference, synthesized the information and applied it to timely questions for key policy-makers.

#### **CHICAGO COUNCIL ON GLOBAL AFFAIRS, Chicago, IL**

##### **Intern, Studies Department, 2005-2006**

Supported the Studies Department's 2006 biennial Public Opinion Survey: "The United States and the Rise of China and India." Aggregated survey data to better understand trends in public opinion.

#### **ACCENTURE, Chicago IL**

##### **Manager, Retail & Consumer Goods Practice, Supply Chain Consulting, 2000-2005**

### **Teaching**

#### **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO, Harris School of Public Policy Studies MPP courses, Chicago, IL**

- U.S. Foreign Policy: Fall 2013, Winter 2014, Winter 2015
- International Organizations in Theory and Practice: Spring 2012, Spring 2013, Winter 2014, Spring 2015
- International Policy Practicum: "Foreign Aid, Health Care, and Development in Cambodia," Fall 2009

#### **NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY, School of Continuing Studies MPPA courses, Chicago, IL**

- Research Methods: Winter 2013, Summer 2013, Fall 2013, Winter 2014, Winter 2015, Spring 2015, Summer 2015, Winter 2015
- Intergovernmental Relations: Summer 2013, Winter 2014, Fall 2014, Winter 2015
- Capstone: Spring 2015, Fall 2015

### **Thesis Advising**

#### **UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO**

- **Michael Lopate:** A Story of Prestige: What Motivates Developing States to Build Satellite Launch Capabilities?
- **Chris Coppel:** The Changing Nature of Foreign-Imposed Regime Change
- **Libby Marden:** Working Together to Go It Alone: The Development and Diffusion of the International Anti-Corruption Movement

## **NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY**

- **Tina Seaman:** Protecting America's Farmland: The Role Northeastern Illinois Land Trusts Are Playing to Promote Easement Adoption Through Policy Incentives
- **Hannah Burgwyn:** The Effectiveness of the Americans with Disabilities Act in Transportation Policy
- **Rory O'Toole:** "Education for All? An Evaluation of Cambodia's Progress Toward Achieving International Goals"
- **Shannon Ferguson:** "Regulation of Foreign-Funding to NGOs: Evaluating the Effects on Comparative Human Rights Policies"
- **Nisha Choski, Soheil Hussain, Christopher Bangham, Sarah Jane Jones** (forthcoming)

### **Harris School Teaching Assistant (MPP courses)**

- Practical Tools for Public Policy, Prof. Joseph Harris, Winter 2013, Spring 2013
- State-building and State Failure, Prof. Joseph Harris, Spring 2013
- Writing Program TA, Prof. Joseph Harris, Fall 2012, Winter 2013, Spring 2013
- International Policy Practicum, Prof. Charlie Wheelan
  - "The Role of Institutions in Balancing Development and Political Freedom: Rwanda and Madagascar", Fall 2010
  - "Turkey as a Bridge Between East and West," Fall 2008
  - "America, Jordan, and the Future of the Middle East," Fall 2007
- Political Economy of Public Policy, Prof. Ethan Bueno de Mesquita, Fall 2010, Fall 2009
- Political Institutions in Public Policy, Prof. Christopher Berry, Winter 2010, Spring 2010
- Political Economy of Weakly Institutionalized Settings, Prof. Duncan Snidal and Jon Pevehouse, Winter 2009, Winter 2010
- International Policy in the Real World (with Chicago Council on Global Affairs' Tom Wright), Fall 2009

### **Center for Teaching and Learning Workshops**

- Crafted pedagogy class for 20 Harris School PhD students with Prof. Robert Michael (Fall 2010)
- Making the Most of Your Presentations (Jean-luc Doumont, Principiae) (Winter 2011)
- Teaching in the College (Summer 2009)
- How Students Learn (Summer 2009)
- Seminar on Teaching Portfolios (Summer 2009); Workshop on Teaching Portfolio (Spring 2011)
- Seminar on Course Design (Summer 2009); Workshop on Course Design (Spring 2011)

### **Journal Refereeing**

- International Organization (IO)
- Journal of Conflict Resolution (JCR)
- Review of International Organizations (RIO)
- Journal of Peace Research (JPIO)
- International Studies Quarterly (ISQ)
- International Studies Review (ISR)
- International Studies Perspectives (ISP)
- International Theory (IT)
- Political Studies (PS)
- European Journal of Political Research (EJPR)

### **Professional Affiliations/ Other**

- Top Security Clearance
- Political Economy of International Organizations (PEIO): Conference Attendee/ Presenter

- International Political Economy Society (IPES): Member & Conference Attendee/ Presenter
- American Political Science Association (APSA): Member & Annual Conference Attendee/ Presenter
- Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA): Member & Annual Conference Attendee/ Presenter
- International Studies Association (ISA): Member & Annual Conference Attendee/ Presenter
- Chicago Council on Global Affairs (CCGA): Member & program attendee
- National Strategy Forum (Chicago): Member & program attendee
- Political Economy Round Table (PERT)

## **References**

### **Duncan Snidal**

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 Nuffield College  
 University of Oxford  
 Oxford, UK OX1 1NF  
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### **William Howell**

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