

Daniel J.B. Hofrenning

Professor of Political Science & Environmental Studies
St. Olaf College
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EDUCATION

Ph.D., political science, University of Minnesota
M.A., public policy, Duke University
M.Div., Luther Seminary (Washington D.C. Theological Consortium, Fall 1981)
B.A., Concordia College – Moorhead, MN

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

St. Olaf College, Northfield, MN - Department of Political Science
Martin E. Marty Chair for Religion & the Academy, 2017-19
Professor, 2007-present; Associate Professor, 1996-2007; Asst. Professor, 1992-96;
Instructor, 1988, 1990-92
University of Minnesota, Instructor of Political Science, Summer 1989.
Concordia College – Moorhead, Instructor, Fall 1987, Spring 1989

HONORS & GRANTS

Mel George Faculty Recognition Award, 2023 (scholarship, teaching, and contribution to mission)
Martin E. Marty Chair in Religion and the Academy, 2016-2019
Lilly Vocational Scholar, 2007-08
Lilly Teaching Fellow (The Vocation of Politics), 2005-06
Research Award, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, 1989, 2004-05
Lutheran Academy of Scholars, Harvard University, 2004
Independent Contractor, Campaign Discourse Project, Pew Charitable Trusts, 2002
Associate, Center for Innovation in the Liberal Arts, St. Olaf College, 2002-03
Faculty Fellow, Luther Institute, Washington, DC, 2000-01
St. Olaf Release-Time Grant, Spring 2001
Joyce Foundation Teacher-Scholar Fellowship, 1993-94
Mondale Fellowship, Hubert H. Humphrey Institute, University of Minnesota, 1992-93
Hubert H. Humphrey Fellowship, University of Minnesota, 1985-86
Duke University Graduate Fellowship, 1984-85
North American Ministerial Fellowship (formerly Rockefeller Trial Year Fellowship),
Fund for Theological Education, Princeton, New Jersey, 1980-83

BOOKS

The Promise—and Peril—of American Politics, with Stefanie Chambers (New York and London, Routledge Press, 2025)

In Washington But Not of It: The Prophetic Politics of Religious Lobbyists (Philadelphia, PA: Temple University Press, 1995).

JOURNAL ARTICLES

"Experiencing New Hampshire: The Effects of an Experiential Learning Course on Civic Engagement," *Journal of Political Science Education* 3(no. 2, 2007): 191-216. (with Andrew Seligsohn and Laurel Elder)

"The Political Attitudes and Activities of Mainline Protestant Clergy in the Election of 2000: A Study of Six Denominations," *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion* 42(No. 4, 2003):515-532. (with C. Smidt et. al.)

"Into the Public Square: Origins of Religious Interest Groups," *Social Science Journal* 32 (1995):35-48.

"Human Rights and Foreign Aid: A Comparison of the Reagan and Carter Administrations," *American Politics Quarterly* 18(1990): 513-525.

OTHER ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS (*indicates undergraduate co-author)

"Experienced Legislator or Career Politician: Outsider Rhetoric in the 2016 Election," in *Conventional Wisdom, Parties, and Broken Barriers in the 2016 Election* (Lanham, MD: Lexington Books, 2017) (with Christopher Chapp, *Tyler Benning, and *Aidan Zelske)

"Religious Lobbying," in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics*, 2nd ed. (Washington, D.C.: Congressional Quarterly Press, 2006, revision of earlier entry in 1998 volume).

"Experiential Learning," *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 38(no. 03, 2005): 418-419 (with Lynda Barrow and Jocelyn Parkhurst).

"The Cataclysmic Race for the Minnesota Senate" in *Running on Empty?: Campaign Discourse in Congressional Elections*, L. Sandy Maisel, ed. (New York: Roman and Littlefield, 2004) (co-authored with *Janelle Sagness and *Julie Gunderson).

"The Political Attitudes and Activities of Lutheran Clergy," in *Pulpits and Politics: Clergy and the 2000 Presidential Election*, Corwin Smidt, ed. (Waco, TX: Baylor University Press, 2004). (co-authored with L. DeAne Lagerquist and *Janelle Sagness)

"Religious Interest Groups," in *A Research Guide to U.S. and International Interest Groups*, Clive Thomas, ed. (New York: Praeger Press, 2004).

"Minnesota Senate Race: Tragedy and Triumph in a National Headline Contest" in *Midterm Madness: The Elections of 2002*, Larry Sabato, ed. (New York: Roman and Littlefield, 2003).

"Researching the Internet," *The Political Science Educator*, 8(August 2003): 3ff.

"Pastors in Two Kingdoms: The Social Theology of Lutheran Clergy," in *Lutherans Today*, Richard Cimino, ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Eerdmans, 2003) (co-authored with Jeffrey Walz and Steven Montreal).

"Religion and Interest Groups in American Politics," in *In God We Trust? Religion and American Public Life*, Corwin Smidt, ed. (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Books, 2001).

"Religious Lobbying," in *Encyclopedia of Religion and Politics* (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press, 1998)

MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

- "Trump's tenuous win in New Hampshire," *MinnPost*, June 29, 2024
- "A conservative case for reparations," *StarTribune*, June 18, 2023
- "Tax, spend, elect. Repeat," *StarTribune*, June 4, 2023
- "Is Minnesota the New Mississippi?," *MinnPost*, June 11, 2021
- "The Return of the Limousine Liberal," *StarTribune*, January 1, 2021.
- "Did Amy Klobuchar's legislative prowess hurt her?" *StarTribune*, March 8, 2020.
- "In this campaign, big money has met its match," *StarTribune*, February 12, 2016.
- Contributed to blog, "Oles on the Campaign Trail," *StarTribune*, January 2016. (other contributors were my students in an off-campus interim class in New Hampshire and South Carolina. They wrote about their experience working for presidential candidates. The blog received 26,000 page hits.)
- "Inauguration brought out a paradox about religion in America's public life," *MinnPost*, January 28, 2009.
- Contributed to blog, "Oles in '08," *StarTribune*, January 2008. (other contributors were my students in an off-campus interim class in New Hampshire and South Carolina. They wrote about their experience working for presidential candidates. The blog received 15,000 page hits.)
- "Track back to 1976: What if Ford had Won," *StarTribune*, January 5, 2007.
- "The nation's changing Catholic vote," *StarTribune*, February 7, 2006.
- "The Social Security bait and switch," *StarTribune*, April 5, 2005.
- "Social Security is insurance, not a diversified investment," *StarTribune*, December 23, 2004.
- "Better management' isn't the way to rally voters to your campaign," *StarTribune*, November 7, 2004.
- "His Achilles heel was also his most compelling quality," *StarTribune*, October 28, 2004
- "Going after the political agnostics," *StarTribune*, September 4, 2004.
- "Dean must confront political perils of an anti-war candidacy," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, January 26, 2004.
- "Democrats have shown duplicity on race, too," *StarTribune*, December 30, 2002.
- "The Uncertain Politics of Mourning," *StarTribune*, October 29, 2002.
- "Voters responded to Ventura's message," *StarTribune*, June 26, 2002.
- "Generals without an Army," *StarTribune*, October 7, 1999.
- "ER and the Gospel," *The Lutheran*, May 1999. (originally a chapel talk at St. Olaf, Fall 1998)
- "It's an uphill battle for any third party to endure," *StarTribune*, November 11, 1998.
- "There's a way to use primaries yet strengthen parties' role as well," *StarTribune*, September 18, 1998.
- "On abortion, citizens favor an ethics of ambiguity," *StarTribune*, February 9, 1998.
- "Irony permeates debate over stadium," *StarTribune*, October 14, 1997.
- "Capital punishment may increase violence," *StarTribune*, June 19, 1997.
- "Of two minds about government," *StarTribune*, May 13, 1997.
- "The shrewdness of the Christian Right," *StarTribune*, February 12, 1997.
- "Government and Gospel," *The Lutheran*, October 1996.
- "Market does not solve all problems," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, September 15, 1996.
- "Religious Lobbying," *Sojourners*, 24(November-December 1995): 38-39.
- "Jesus is not a Republican (or a Democrat)," *The Lutheran*, February 1995. (originally a chapel talk at St. Olaf, Fall 1994)
- "Party endorsees reflect broadly held views in state," *StarTribune*, July 10, 1994.
- "Caucus system flawed, but it's democratic," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, June 16, 1994.
- "Ranking the College of the Church", *Lutheran Partners*, March/April 1994. (originally a chapel talk at St. Olaf, Spring 1991)
- "Crashing a Party", Review of *The Democrats' Dilemma: Walter Mondale and the Liberal Legacy* (Columbia University Press, 1992), *Sojourners*, May 1993.
- "Events show Bush is actor-president," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, July 19, 1992.

"Overturning Roe v. Wade could have unforeseen effects," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, February 21, 1992.

"When a lawmaker asks for leniency," *StarTribune*, July 3, 1990.

"Expand Moynihan's Social Security Plan," *St. Paul Pioneer Press*, April 12, 1990.

RADIO AND TELEVISION COMMENTARY

Radio Commentary: Minnesota Public Radio, BBC World Service, WCCO (Minneapolis), WCAL (Northfield, MN), KIRO (Seattle, WA), WSMN (Nashua, NH), WXXL (Concord, NH), K-96 (Minneapolis), NRK Norwegian National Radio, KPSI (Palm Springs, CA)

Television Commentary: NBC Nightly News, BBC Worldwide Television, CNN, tpt: Political Science Panel on *Almanac* (St. Paul), KARE11 (Twin Cities), FOX9 (Twin Cities), KSTP (Twin Cities) KAAL-TV (Rochester-Austin).

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

-Chair, Department of Environmental Studies, 2019-2022

-Founding Director, Institute for Freedom, Equality, and Community, 2014-2017 (term ended with sabbatical award)

Program that focuses on exploring public affairs in a civil way from a range of perspectives.

Designed and implemented programs including lectures, conferences, dialogue groups, visiting fellows and new courses.

-Associate Dean of the Social Sciences, 2009-2015 (six-year term limited position)

Budget and personnel planning for social science departments; mentoring faculty; collaborative engagement with department chairs to further the academic mission; chaired strategic planning groups for internships, academic civic engagement, and classroom design.

-Interim Director of Academic Civic Engagement, 2013-2016.

Led transition of the program to the academic division.

-Interim Director, Center for Innovation in the Liberal Arts, 2005-06, 2010-11

Planned a range of programming including teaching workshops, new chairs' program, new faculty orientation, mentoring programs, book discussion groups.

-Coordinator, CILA Program for Department Chairs, 2005-2009 (With support from a Bush Foundation grant, I developed a small program for department chairs that included summer workshops, two luncheon seminars per semester, and a mentorship program for new department chairs.)

-Chair of Political Science, 1998-2004 (term as chair included self-study, external review, curriculum revision, extensive hiring, faculty mentoring, and office remodeling)

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Section Head, Research on Teaching, Midwest Political Science Association, 2019-20

Treasurer, Religion & Politics section, American Political Science Association, 2003-2008

President, Minnesota Political Science Association, 2001-2003

Treasurer, Minnesota Political Science Association, 1999-2001

Reviewer: *Political Research Quarterly*, *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*, *Politics and Religion*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Sociological Focus*, *International Studies Quarterly*, University of Minnesota Press.

External Reviewer-Political Science Departments: University of Portland, Bemidji State University, Meredith College, Lake Forest College (Access Chicago Program)

COLLEGE SERVICE

College-wide committees and responsibilities:

Faculty Governance Committee: 2017-19 (Chair, 2018-19), 2020-2022.
Strategic Resource Allocation Project (SRAP), 2017-19
 Faculty Representative, SRAP Steering Committee, 2018-19
 Faculty Representative, Credits Tag Team, 2018-19
 Faculty Governance Committee Representative, Instructional Review Group, 2017-18
Academic Space Committee, 2017-18
Chair, Internship Strategic Plan Group, 2011-12
Organizer, Provost's Theme Year: Global Citizenship and the Liberal Arts, Spring 2008
Faculty Advisory Board, Center for Experiential Learning, 2006-2010
Review & Planning Committee, 2006-2008 (Chair, 2007-08)
Faculty Development Committee, 1992-94, (Secretary 1992-93), 2005-06 (ex officio)
Framework Planning Committee, 2002-2003
Athletic Committee, 1998-2000, 2002-2004
Academic Review Committee, 2001-2003
Ellefson Endowment Committee, 2000-2005 (Chair, 2001-2004)
Internship Task Force, Spring 2001
Review and Planning Subcommittee on Governance, Summer 2000
Wrote St. Olaf grant for faculty workshop: "Designing a Public Policy Curriculum,"
 Summer 2000
Chair, Institutional Review Board-Human Subjects Committee, 1993-1996
Chair and founder, Pre-Public Policy Committee, 1993-1996
Chair, College Judiciary, 1993-95
Faculty Representative-Truman Scholarship, 1993-2016
Environmental Concerns Committee, 1992-94
Committee on the Status of Women, 1991-93

Department administrative responsibilities:

Wrote St. Olaf grant for faculty workshop: "Charting the Future of Environmental Studies," 2020
Wrote St. Olaf grant for faculty workshop: "Revising the Political Science Major," 2000
Wrote St. Olaf grant for faculty workshop: "Computing in Political Science," 1992
Advisor, Pi Sigma Alpha, 1990-93
Advisor, Political Science Student Association, 1990-93
Liaison to Information and Instruction Technology Office , 1991-1996, 2006-2009

November 6-9, 1995: Together with Carleton College and the Jefferson Center (a non-partisan think tank in Minneapolis), I organized a Citizens Jury that focused on the economic and environmental aspects of hog farming. Students selected the jury, publicized the event, and organized the proceedings. The event generated much interest in Rice County and across the state. There were over twenty-five newspaper articles and several radio interviews on the event.

1994, 2001: Originated idea and helped plan a Tree Planting Ceremony during the Inaugural Weeks of St. Olaf College's 9th and 10th Presidents

MEMBERSHIPS: American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, Minnesota Political Science Association.

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Board, Clean River Partners, 2015-2021

Co-Coordinator, Northfield US Masters Swim Club, 2017-2021

Northfield Charter Commission, 2012-2015

Board, Northfield Hockey Association, public relations chair, 2008-2010

Member and Chair (09-10), District Education Policy Advisory Committee, Northfield School District, 2007-2010.