

# Joseph Francesco Cozza

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## APPOINTMENTS

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### Rice University

Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Political Science	July 2023 to Present
Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Political Science	July 2023 to Present
Associate Director, Program in Politics, Law and Social Thought	July 2023 to Present
Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science	July 2022 to June 2023

## EDUCATION

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### The University of Texas at Austin

August 2022

Ph.D., Department of Government

**Subfields:** Public Law and Comparative Politics

**Dissertation Title:** Authorizing Revolutionary Constitutional Change: Constituent Power, Legitimacy, and the Revolutionary Constitutional Amendment

**Dissertation Co-Chairs:** Dr. Zachary Elkins and Dr. Gary Jacobsohn

**Additional Committee Members:** Dr. Daniel Brinks, Dr. Ran Hirschl, Dr. Zeynep Somer-Topcu, and Dr. Stephen Tierney

### The London School of Economics and Political Science

November 2015

Master of Science in Comparative Politics.

Specialization: Comparative Political Institutions.

Honors: Graduated with Merit.

### Villanova University

December 2012

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Minor in Communication.

Honors: Graduated Summa Cum Laude, member of Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society.

## PUBLICATIONS

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Blake, William D., Joseph Francesco Cozza, David A. Armstrong II, and Amanda Friesen. 2023. "Social Capital, Institutional Rules, and Constitutional Amendment Rates." *American Political Science Review*, 1-9

Cozza, Joseph Francesco. 2021. "Authorizing Revolutionary Constitutional Change: The Approximation Thesis." *Constitutional Studies* 7: 157-192

Cozza, Joseph Francesco, Zachary Elkins, and Alexander Hudson. 2021. "Reverse Mortgages and Aircraft Parts: The Arcane Referendum and the Limits of Citizen Competence." *Electoral Studies* 74

Cozza, Joseph Francesco and Zeynep Somer-Topcu. 2021. "Membership Vote for Party Leadership Changes: Electoral Effects and the Causal Mechanisms Behind." *Electoral Studies* 71: 1 – 12

## BOOK PROJECTS

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Authorizing Revolutionary Constitutional Change: Legitimacy, Constituent Power, and the Revolutionary Constitutional Amendment, *Under Review – Oxford University Press*

The Social Foundations of Constitutional Innovation, *Under Contract – Cambridge University Press*  
*Co-Authors:* William Blake, David Armstrong, and Amanda Friesen

Explaining Cross-National Differences in Political Interest: The Role of Partisan and Ideological Cues  
*Co-Authors:* Seonghui Lee and Randolph Stevenson

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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Trust the Process: Citizen Participation, Procedural Legitimacy and Democratic Decision-Making in Constitutional Change, *Revise and Resubmit*

A Rainbow Ceiling? Sexual Orientation and Party Leader Legitimacy, *Under Review*  
*Co-Authors:* Andrea Aldrich, Gonzalo Di Landro, and Zeynep Somer-Topcu

How Gender Presentation Shapes Voter Evaluations of Queer Cabinet Ministers  
*Co-Authors:* Amanda Friesen, Claire Gothreau, Philip Jones

The Effects of Competition on Party Leadership Evaluations  
*Co-Authors:* Gonzalo Di Landro and Zeynep Somer-Topcu

Gender and Legitimacy in Party Leadership Selection  
*Co-Authors:* Andrea Aldrich, Gonzalo Di Landro, and Zeynep Somer-Topcu

Escaping the Iron Cage of Article V: A Punctuated Equilibrium Approach to U.S. Constitutional Amendments  
*Co-Authors:* William Blake, David Armstrong, and Amanda Friesen

## GRANTS, AWARDS, and FELLOWSHIPS

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Undergraduate Career Champion Award	Spring 2023
Inquiry-based Learning Teaching Grant, <i>Rice University</i> (\$1,000)	Spring 2023
Texas Politics Project Research Grant (\$2,500)	Fall 2021
University Graduate Continuing Fellowship, <i>University of Texas at Austin</i> (\$44,000)	Fall 2021-Summer 2022
APSA Committee on the Status of LGBT Individuals in the Profession Travel and Accessibility Grant, <i>American Political Science Association</i> (\$300)	Fall 2021
Government Department Fellowship, <i>University of Texas at Austin</i> (\$5,000)	Fall 2017-Spring 2021
Summer Dissertation Fellowship, <i>University of Texas at Austin</i> (\$5,000).	Summer 2021
Clark Center for Australia and New Zealand Studies Research Grant (\$7,000)	Fall 2019
Pre-Dissertation Fellowship, <i>University of Texas at Austin</i> (\$3,500)	Summer 2018 and 2019
Texas Politics Project Research Grant (\$2,500)	Fall 2018

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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**Assistant Teaching Professor/Visiting Assistant Professor, Rice University** July 2022 to Present

- United States Constitutional Law, Structures and Powers: *Fall 2022, 2023, 2024*
- United States Constitutional Law, Civil Rights and Liberties: *Spring 2024, 2025*
- World Constitutions: *Fall 2022, 2023, 2024*
- World Legal Systems: *Spring 2023, 2024*
- Political Parties in Western Democracies: *Spring 2025*
- Applied Research Methods: *Spring 2023*

**Assistant Instructor, University of Texas at Austin** January 2020 to May 2021

- US Constitutional Design in Comparative Perspective: *Spring 2021*
- Comparative Legal Systems co-taught with Dr. Daniel Brinks: *Fall 2021*
- Political Internship: *Summer 2020*
- American Government: *Spring 2020*

## SERVICE

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**Rice University, Department of Political Science**

Social Sciences Advisor, Sid Richardson College	August 2023 to Present
Chair, SOPA Transition Committee	February to April 2024
Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee	July 2023 to Present
Member, Hudspeth Speaker Series Committee	July 2023 to Present
Member, Visiting Assistant Professor Search Committee	Spring 2023
<b>University of Texas at Austin, Department of Government</b>	
Co-Founder/Co-Organizer, UT Queer in Political Science	February 2020 to July 2022
Graduate Student Coordinator, UT Comparative Speaker Series	August 2021 to July 2022
Member, UT Admitted Students Visiting Day Planning Committee	February 2020 to March 2020
Co-Organizer, University of Texas Graduate Conference in Public Law	May 2019 to October 2019

## CONFERENCES and INVITED TALKS

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- American Political Science Association: *Philadelphia, Pennsylvania*** September 2024
- Panel: Rainbow Elections, Rainbow Parties  
Presenting: “How Gender Presentation Shapes Voter Evaluations of Queer Cabinet Ministers”  
*with* Amanda Friesen, Claire Gothreau, Philip Jones
- European Conference on Politics and Gender: *Ghent, Belgium*** July 2024
- Presenting: “How Gender Presentation Shapes Voter Evaluations of Queer Cabinet Ministers”  
*with* Amanda Friesen, Claire Gothreau, Philip Jones
- European Political Science Association: *Cologne, Germany*** July 2024
- Presenting: “The Effects of Competition on Party Leadership Evaluations”  
*with* Zeynep Somer-Topcu and Gonzalo Di Landro
- Midwest Political Science Association: *Chicago, Illinois*** April 2024
- Panel: Agenda Setting and Punctuated Equilibrium Theory II  
Presenting: “Escaping the Iron Cage of Article V: A Punctuated Equilibrium Approach to U.S. Constitutional Amendment”  
*with* William Blake and Amanda Friesen
- Invited Talk: Center for Constitutional Democracy, Indiana University Maurer School of Law**
- Presenting: The Social Foundations of Constitutional Innovation October 2023
- Gender and Party Politics in Advanced Democracies: *Austin, Texas*** September 2023
- Presenting: “Gender, Participation, and Legitimacy in Party Leadership Selection”
- Midwest Political Science Association: *Chicago, Illinois*** April 2023
- Panel: Substantive Representation  
Presenting: “Social Capital and the Equal Rights Amendment”  
*with* William Blake and Amanda Friesen
  - Panel: Law and Regulatory Policy  
Presenting: “Escaping the Iron Cage of Article V: A Punctuated Equilibrium Approach to U.S. Constitutional Amendment”  
*with* William Blake, David Armstrong and Amanda Friesen
- Global Summit on Constitutionalism: *Austin, Texas*** March 2023
- Presenting: “Social Capital, Institutional Rules, and Constitutional Amendment Rates”  
*with* William Blake and Amanda Friesen
- Law & Society Association: *Lisbon, Portugal*** July 2022
- Presenting: “Social Capital and the Equal Rights Amendment”  
*with* William Blake and Amanda Friesen

- Midwest Political Science Association: *Chicago, Illinois*** April 2022
- Panel: Rights, Rhetoric, and Legitimacy  
Presenting: “Trust the Process: Citizen Participation, Procedural Legitimacy and Democratic Decision-Making in Constitutional Change”
- Deciphering the Genome of Constitutionalism Workshop: *UT Austin and Richman University***
- Panel Chair: U.S. Constitutionalism November 2021
- Global Law and Politics Workshop Series** November 2021
- Presenting: “Social Capital, Institutional Rules, and Constitutional Amendment Rates”  
*with William Blake and Amanda Friesen*
- American Political Science Association: *Seattle, Washington*** September 2021
- Presenting: “Social Capital, Institutional Rules, and Constitutional Amendment Rates”  
*with William Blake and Amanda Friesen*
- European Political Science Association: *Prague, Czech Republic*** June 2020
- Presenting: “Membership Vote for Party Leadership Changes”  
*with Zeynep Somer-Topcu*
  - Did not attend due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
- Midwest Political Science Association: *Chicago, Illinois*** April 2020
- Panel: Who’s Who and How it Matters: Party Membership and Leadership  
Presenting: “Membership Vote for Party Leadership Changes”  
*with Zeynep Somer-Topcu*
  - Round Table: Voting on Constitutional Change in the States
  - Did not attend due to the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic
- Conference on Constitution Making and Constitutional Change: *Austin, Texas*** January 2020
- Panel: Legitimacy, Public Participation, and Process  
Presenting: “Trust the Process? Procedural Legitimacy and Democratic Decision-Making in Constitutional Change”
- Midwest Political Science Association: *Chicago, Illinois*** April 2019
- Panel: State & Intergovernmental Politics  
Presenting: “Reverse Mortgages and Aircraft Parts: Referenda and the Limits of Citizen Competence”  
*with Zachary Elkins and Alexander Hudson*
- Invited Talk: *Texas State University*** March 2019
- Presenting: “Ireland’s Quiet Revolution: Exploring the role of Popular Sovereignty and Constituent Power in Constitutional Revolutions”
- Southern Political Science Association: *Austin, Texas*** January 2019
- Panel: Democracy, Parties, and Mobilization  
Presenting: “Reverse Mortgages and Aircraft Parts: Referenda and the Limits of Citizen Competence”  
*with Zachary Elkins and Alexander Hudson*
- Graduate Conference in Public Law: *University of Texas at Austin*** October 2018
- Panel: Constitutional Theory  
Presenting: “Ireland’s Quiet Revolution: Exploring the role of Popular Sovereignty and Constituent Power in Constitutional Revolutions”
- 2018 Bergen Exchanges: *University of Bergen*** August 2018
- Panel: Abortion Lawfare  
Presenting: “Ireland’s Quiet Revolution: Exploring the Role of Constituent Power and Popular

Sovereignty in Constitutional Revolutions.”

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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**Senior Data Science Advisor** June 2023 to Present

- Developing survey instruments to examine consumer perceptions of significant political issues for use by corporate partners.
- Analyzing data and developing reports based on the results of our survey experiments.

**Legislative Assistant, Delaware State Senator Harris B. McDowell III** June 2016 to July 2017

- Conducted in-depth research into critical issues to develop and draft proposed legislation.
- Spearheaded the research, development, drafting, introduction, and passage of Delaware's conversion therapy ban (SB 65).
- Led a small team that worked to author a comprehensive report on Delaware's property reassessment system. This report recommended and proposed the creation of a new, state-wide reassessment system.
- Researched, developed, and drafted speeches, articles, letters, and other printed communication.
- Served as liaison and provided assistance to state agencies and federal and local government offices.
- Represented Senator McDowell at committee meetings, community gatherings, and other forums.

**Consultant for Two Delaware Political Campaigns** December 2015 to June 2016

- Assisted in the development and implementation of campaign communication strategies.
- Drafted press releases, media advisories, opinion editorials, and email blasts.
- Coordinated initial campaign messaging, voter targeting, and volunteer recruitment strategies.

## MEDIA PUBLICATIONS

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- “Wisconsin and Michigan Power Grabs: Lame Duck Lawmakers are Threatening Democracy Itself.” December 2018. *USA Today*