

CAMERON J. ARNZEN, PH.D.

Assistant Professor of Political Science, North Central College • 30 N. Brainard Street,
Naperville, IL 60540

carnzen@noctrl.edu • www.CameronArnzen.com

APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Political Science, North Central College (2026 -)

- Research Affiliate, Annenberg Institute (Education Policy)

Postdoctoral Researcher, Brown University (2024 – 2026)

- Affiliate, Annenberg Institute (Education Policy)
- Affiliate, Realizing Rights Lab (Political Science)
- Affiliate, Watson School of International & Public Affairs

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Politics & Education, Columbia University (2024)

- Dissertation: *Education for Democracy: Essays Interrogating the Relationship Between Education & Voting*

M.Phil. in Politics & Education, Columbia University (2023)

M.A. in Political Science, Duke University (2018)

B.A. in Political Economy, College of Idaho (2017)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer Reviewed Publications

Arnzen, C. & Cohodes, S. 2026. “Education and the Gender Gap in Presidential Elections.” *Electoral Studies*.

- Media Coverage: [“Is the Diploma Divide Really a Gender Gap?” Coverage in *The Chronicle of Higher Education*](#)

Arnzen, C. 2026. “An Education in Devolution: The Political Consequences of The Elimination of the U.S. Department of Education.” *Publius: The Journal of Federalism*.

- Accompanying [Opinion Editorial in *Governing*](#)

Arnzen, C. & Jacobsen, R. 2026. “Neighborhood Democracy: The Politicization of School Boards and Implications for Democratic Education.” *AERA Open*.

- Media Coverage: [Thinking in the Midst, Podcast Episode](#)

Arnzen, C. 2026. “Education and the Unequal Costs of Voting: Administrative Burdens and Democratic Participation.” *Policy Studies Journal*.

- Media Coverage: [Interview with *The Brown Daily Herald*](#)

Núñez, M.; **Arnzen, C.**; Rosenstein, H.; Collins, J.; and Moffitt, S. 2026. “Administrative Designs and Access to Political Arenas in Public Education.” *Governance* 39(1).

Arnzen, C. & O'Neill, C. 2025. "Teaching About Schooling: Integrating Education Politics into Political Science Curricula." *Journal of Political Science Education*.

Brezicha, K.; **Arnzen, C.**; Childs, J.; Germain, E.; Horsford, S.; Jenkins, D.A.; & LoBue, A. 2023. "Political Polarization of Education Politics and its Implications for Democratic Education." *Peabody Journal of Education*, 98(5): 467- 471.

Arnzen, C. & Houston, D. 2023. "Who Should Control Education Now? Revisiting Preferences for Local Control of Educational Decision-making." *Peabody Journal of Education*, 98(5): 526-532.

Book Chapters

Arnzen, C. "Decentralized Spending & Divergent Priorities: State-Level Determinants of Education Investment in the United States." In Ken Wong's (Ed.) *Research Handbook on Federalism and Education Policy* (Forthcoming 2027)

Almes, J. & **Arnzen, C.** "Political Partisanship in Decentralized Education Systems: The Case of United States School Districts." In Ken Wong's (Ed.) *Research Handbook on Federalism and Education Policy*. (Forthcoming 2027)

Arnzen, C. (Forthcoming). "Are Rural Voters Exceptional in a Polarized Education Landscape?" In Chad Lochmiller's (Ed.) *The 'Red' Schoolhouse: Conservative Education Policy in the United States*.

- *EdWorkingPaper*: 26-1481. <https://doi.org/10.26300/dp6h-fg33>

Manuscripts – In Revision, Under Review, & Working Papers

Almes, J. & **Arnzen, C.** "A National Measure of School District Partisanship for the 2016 to 2024 Presidential Elections" (Under Review at *Political Analysis*).

Arnzen, C.; Kaler, L.; Natividad, B.; Contreras, A.; Stull, N.; & Moffitt, S. "The Politics of Administrative Ease: Access to Special Education Information." (Under Review at *Educational Evaluation & Policy Analysis*).

- *EdWorkingPaper*: 26-1447. <https://doi.org/10.26300/s2br-zh02>

Arnzen, C. & Jacobsen, R. "The Influence of Partisanship in Local School Board Elections: Evidence from Exit Polls in Two States." (Under Review at *American Journal of Education*)

- *EdWorkingPaper*: 25-1360. <https://doi.org/10.26300/tn30-pf15>

Houston, D.; **Arnzen, C.**; Duff, M.; & Mangla, A. "The Politics of Educational System Change." **Chapter Being Prepared** for *The Oxford Handbook on Transforming Systems in Education*.

**PUBLIC
WRITING &
COMMENTARY**

Kaler, L.; **Arnzen, C.**; Falon, J.; Stull, N; and Moffitt, S. “Governance Disrupted: The Effects of Closing the Department of Education on the Educational Ecosystem”

Arnzen, C. “How Education Drives LGBTQ+ Political Participation.” Working Paper.

O’Neill, C. & **Arnzen, C.** “Defining Citizenship: A Participatory-Content Typology of U.S. State-Level Civic Education Policies.” Working Paper.

Arnzen, C. 2026. “Should Idaho’s top educator have to pick a party?” *Idaho Ed News*. October 21.

Arnzen, C. 2026. “Education and the Consequences of Federal Fragmentation” *Governing*. September 3.

Arnzen, C. Various Entries in An Encyclopedia of Youth Activism in America (Forthcoming 2026). Bloomsbury.

Arnzen C.; Ahmed, L.*; Lispector, B.*; Sfinarolakis, T.*; & Melzer, M.* 2025. *The Influence of Partisanship in Rhode Island School Board Elections*. Annenberg Institute at Brown University Policy Brief.

Arnzen, C.; Hammerly, I. O.; O’Brachta, W., O’Neill, C. B.; Tan, Rebecca G.; Wood, J. Forthcoming 2025. “Career Preparation in the Political Science Curriculum.” *Political Science Today*.

Arnzen, C. & Jacobsen, R. 2025. “Local Elections, National Tides: The Role of Partisanship in School Board Elections.” *APSA Educate: Reflections on the 2024 U.S. Election*.

Arnzen, C.; Falabella, L.; Jackson, J.; Foster Shoaf, N.; & Victor K. 2023. “Rethinking the Political Science Major: Recruitment, Retention, and Careers.” *Political Science Today*, 3(3): 5-15.

Arnzen, C. 2019. “Legislators need to confront local funding as they consider rewriting the state funding formula.” *Idaho Ed News*. November 7.

Edge, S. & **Arnzen, C.** 2019. “One third of Idaho districts protect LGBTQ employees with policies.” *Idaho Ed News*. August 19.

Edge, S. & **Arnzen, C.** 2019. “Most districts come close to complying with Idaho’s transparency laws.” *Idaho Ed News*. July 29.

ONGOING RESEARCH PROJECTS

The Politics of Administrative Ease in Education Policy (with Lindsey Kaler & Susan Moffitt)

Measuring & Understanding School District Partisanship (with Josh Almes)

Political Attitudes & Behaviors of Individuals with Disabilities (with Susan Moffitt).

Partisan Attitudes Toward School Boards & Local Control of Education Policy.

The Growth & Death of the Federal Education Bureaucracy (with Lindsey Kaler, Niamh Stull, and Susan Moffitt)

Contentious School Board Politics & Democratic Education of Youth (with Rebecca Jacobsen, Melissa Arnold Lyon, and Sandy Frost-Waldron)

AWARDS & HONORS

Emerging Education Policy Fellow - The Thomas B. Fordham Institute and the American Enterprise Institute (2026-2027)

G.O.L.D. Alumni Award (*Outstanding Graduate of the Last Decade*) – The College of Idaho (2024)

The Campbell Award (*Exceptional Leadership & Columbia Spirit*) – Columbia University Alumni Association (2024)

Academic Honors - *Pass with Distinction*: Politics & Education Comprehensive Exams

Shirley Chisholm Trailblazer Award Nominee (*Outstanding contributions to the TC community*) – Teachers College, Columbia University (2023)

Shirley Chisholm Trailblazer Award Nominee (*Outstanding contributions to the TC community*) – Teachers College, Columbia University (2022)

Nicholas Piccolo Outstanding Senior Award (*Student who leaves a lasting impact on The College of Idaho, voted by administration*) – The College of Idaho (2017)

Thomas A. Shearer Award (*Student who leaves a lasting impact on The College of Idaho, voted by student body*) – The College of Idaho (2017)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic Advisor, The College of Idaho (2017 – 2019)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Academic Year 2026 - 2027
Association of Public Policy Analysis & Management - Boston, MA

- Almes, J. & Arnzen, C. "A National Measure of School District Partisanship."
- Bertrand, A.; Arnzen, C.; & Jacobsen, R. "The Influence of Endorsements in Local School Board Elections"

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting - Boston, MA

- O'Neill, C. & C. Arnzen. "Defining Citizenship: A Typology of U.S. State-Level Civic Education Policy."
- Arnzen, C.; Kaler, L.; Fallon, J.; & Moffitt, S. "The Political Economy of Information Access"
- Almes, J. & Arnzen, C. "A National Measure of School District Partisanship."

Academic Year 2025 - 2026

Tenth Annual Conference on Citizenship & Education - Muenster, Germany

- O'Neill, C. & C. Arnzen. "Defining Citizenship: A Typology of U.S. State-Level Civic Education Policy."

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting - Vancouver, Canada

- Arnzen, C. & R. Jacobsen. "The Influence of Partisanship in School Board Elections."
- Arnzen, C. "How Education Shapes LGBTQ Political Participation."

Academic Year 2024 - 2025

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference - Chicago, IL

- Arnzen, C. "Civic Returns to State Education Policy Investments."

American Political Science Association Teaching & Learning Conference - Alexandria, VA

- Arnzen, C. & C. O'Neill. "Teaching About Schooling: Integrating Education Politics into the Political Science Curriculum."

Southern Political Science Association Conference – San Juan, Puerto Rico

- Arnzen, C. "The New Literacy Tests: Education & The Administrative Burdens of Voting."

American Political Science Association Annual Conference – Philadelphia, PA

- Arnzen, C. "The New Literacy Tests: Education & The Administrative Burdens of Voting."
- Arnzen, C. & C. O'Neill. "Empowering Future Citizens: Integrating Education Politics into Political Science Curricula."

Academic Year 2023 - 2024

Midwest Political Science Association Conference – Chicago, IL

- Arnzen, C. "The Link between Education & Voting: The Role of Administrative Burden."
- Arnzen, C. "Quantity vs. Quality of Education: Expanding Our Understanding of How Education Causes Voting."

American Education Research Association Conference – Philadelphia, PA

- Arnzen, C. "The Political Polarization of Education Politics: Implications for Democratic Education."

- Arnzen, C. “Quantity vs. Quality of Education: Expanding Our Understanding of How Education Causes Voting.”
American Political Science Association Annual Conference – Los Angeles, CA
- Arnzen, C. “The Link between Education & Voting: The Role of Administrative Burden.”
- Arnzen, C. & D. Houston. “Rural Attitudes Toward Education & Education Policy.”

Academic Year 2022 - 2023

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management Annual Conference – Washington, D.C.

- Arnzen, C. & S. Cohodes. “Understanding How Education, School Type, & Gender Influence Civic Participation: Evidence from Massachusetts.”
American Political Science Association Annual Conference – Montreal, Canada
- Arnzen, C. & D. Houston. “Revisiting Preferences for Local Control in Education.”

TEACHING

North Central College (Assistant Professor)

- American Political Systems (FA 2026; SP 2027)
- Public Opinion & Political Behavior (FA 2026)
- The Politics of Public Policy (SP 2027)

Brown University (Instructor/Co-Instructor)

- Introduction to Statistics & Programming - The Undergraduate Research Fellows for Social Science and Public Policy (SU 2025)

Teachers College, Columbia University (Adjunct Assistant Professor)

- American Politics & Education – Teachers College (1 Semester)
- Politics of Centralization & Decentralization – Teachers College (2 Semesters)
- Politics & Public Policy – Teachers College (2 Semesters)
- Politics & Education Thesis Capstone – Teachers College (1 Semester)

Columbia University (Teaching Assistant)

- Political Behavior – Barnard College (2 Semesters)
- Empirical Methods in Political Science – Barnard College (1 Semester)
- Introduction to American Politics – Columbia University (1 Semester)
- Politics of Centralization & Decentralization – Teachers College (1 Semester)
- Data Analysis for Policy & Decision Makers II – Teachers College (2 Semesters)
- Politics & Public Policy – Teachers College (1 Semester)

The College of Idaho (Adjunct Professor)

- Data Analysis for Public Policy (1 Semester)

- Internship Practicum (6 Semesters)
- Politics of Education (2 Semesters)
- First Year Seminar - Political Ideologies in Contemporary American Politics (3 Semesters)

INVITED TALKS & LECTURES

“The Politics of American Education” The College of Idaho - Schools & Society Seminar (2026)

“The Politics of K12 Education in America.” North Central College (2025)

“National Politics Comes to Town: Evidence from School Board Elections.” DePaul University (2025)

“The Politics of Civic Education: Lessons for Future Educators.” California State University, Chico (2025)

“Crucibles of Democracy: The Politicization of School Boards.” Brown University – Annenberg Institute (2025)

“Education for Democracy: Politics, Policy, and Schools.” Northeastern University - Department of Political Science (2025)

“Education Politics & Policy.” The College of Idaho - Schools & Society Seminar (2025)

“Education for Democracy: Politics, Policy, and Schools.” University of California Riverside - School of Public Policy (2024)

“The Costs of Voting.” The University of Houston - Politics & Policy Undergraduate Seminar (2024)

“Education Politics & Policy.” The College of Idaho - Schools & Society Seminar (2024)

“Education Politics & Policy.” The College of Idaho - Schools & Society Seminar (2023)

“Education for Democracy: Politics, Policy, and Schools.” Grinnell College - Department of Political Science (2025)

“Education Politics & Policy.” The College of Idaho - Schools & Society Seminar (2022)

“The Evolving Federal Role in Education.” The College of Idaho - Schools & Society Seminar. (2021)

MEDIA ENGAGEMENT

“Common Core & The Federal Role in Education.” The College of Idaho - Schools & Society Seminar. (2020)

Interview with *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 2026. “Is the diploma divide a gender gap?”

Guest, *Thinking in the Midst (Podcast)*, 2026. Episode on School Boards & Democracy.

Interview with *Brown Daily Herald*, 2026. “Administrative burden disproportionately discourages less-educated individuals from voting, Brown study finds.”

RESEARCH FUNDING

Grants

Co-Principal Investigator, “The Children are Watching: Contentious School Board Politics and Democratic Education for Youth.” Spencer Foundation, Large Research Grants. Invited Submission. \$500,000 (2026: Finalist – Under Review)

Principal Investigator, “Building a Political Leadership Pipeline for Underrepresented Youth: How Serving as a Student School Board Member Increases Political Efficacy and Ambition.” Spencer Foundation. \$50,000 (2025: Not Funded)

Co-Principal Investigator, “The Children are Watching: Contentious School Board Politics and Democratic Education for Youth.” The Russell Sage Foundation, Social, Political, and Economic Inequality in Political Institutions and the Democratic Process. \$500,000 (2025: Not Funded)

Co-Principal Investigator, “Building a Political Leadership Pipeline for Underrepresented Youth: How Serving as a Student School Board Member Increases Political Efficacy and Ambition.” William T Grant Foundation. \$50,000 (2025: Not Funded)

Research & Fellowships

Kearns Research Fellowship (*Supports Dissertation Writing & Research*) – \$17,000, Teachers College, Columbia University (2023-2024)

Weinberg Research Fellowship (*Supports Dissertation Writing & Research*) – \$8,300, Teachers College, Columbia University (2023-2024)

Doctoral Research Fellow, Teachers College, Columbia University (2020 – 2023)

Competitive Travel Awards

American Political Science Association - Fall Conference Travel Grant - \$150 (2023)

American Political Science Association - Teaching & Learning Conference Grant - \$200 (2023)

Teachers College, Columbia University - Provost's Grant for Conference Presentation - \$500 (2024)

EPSA Research & Travel Award - \$1,000 (2024)

Teachers College, Columbia University - Provost's Grant for Conference Presentation - \$500 (2023)

Teachers College, Columbia University - EPSA Research & Travel Award - \$500 (2023)

Teachers College, Columbia University - Provost's Grant for Conference Presentation - \$500 (2022)

Teachers College, Columbia University - EPSA Research & Travel Award - \$500 (2022)

TRAININGS & CERTIFICATES

Teaching & Learning Conference: American Political Science Association (2025)

- *Track:* Career Preparation in Political Science

Teaching & Learning Conference: American Political Science Association (2023)

- *Track:* Rethinking Political Science Education

"Certificate of Teaching Development" Columbia University (2023)

"Fundamentals of Grant Writing I" The University of Georgia (2022)

"Teaching All Students in the College Classroom" Columbia University (2021)

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association (APSA)

- *Subgroups:* Education Politics & Policy; State & Local Politics, Civic Engagement; Public Opinion & Elections, LGBTQ Politics & Policy, Teaching & Learning Conference

American Educational Research Association (AERA)

- *Subgroups:* Division L: Education Policy & Politics; Politics of Education Association

Association for Public Policy Analysis & Management (APPAM)

**SERVICE TO
ACADEMIA**

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

Positions

Chair, Division L: Education Policy & Politics; Section 1: Governance, Politics & Legal Issues, American Education Research Association (2027 – 2028)

Co-Coordinator, Western Political Science Association Virtual Community on Education Politics & Policy (2026 -)

Education Policy Fellow, American Institute for Research & Fordham Institute (2027-2028)

Journal Reviewer

- *New Political Science* (1)
- *The Journal of Public Policy* (2)
- *Policy Studies Journal* (3)
- *Peabody Journal of Education* (3)
- *Journal of Public Economics* (1)
- *Education Policy Analysis Archives* (1)
- *Political Behavior* (1)

Grant Reviewer

- *National Science Foundation* (2)

Conference Proposal Reviewer

- Division L: Education Policy & Politics (2024, 2025, 2026)
- Democratic Citizenship in Education, American Education Research Association (2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)
- Civic Education Section, American Education Research Association (2023)
- Politics & Education SIG, American Education Research Association (2023, 2024, 2025, 2026)

Scholarly Committee & Panel Participation

Discussant, “State Power, Social Policy: Institutions, Inequality, and Implementation” American Political Science Association Annual Conference (2026)

Chair, Best Poster Award Committee, American Political Science Association (2024 -2025)

Member, Outstanding Civic Engagement Project Award Committee, American Political Science Association Civic Engagement Section (2024 - 2026)

Chair & Discussant, “Education, Skills, and Development.” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (2025).

Chair, “Perspectives on School Board Power and Political Activism.”
Conference Session at American Education Research Association Conference
(2024)

Discussant, “Racial Equity, Justice, and Democratic Education in the U.S.”
Conference Session at American Education Research Association Conference
(2024)

Guest Editor, *Peabody Journal of Education* Special Issue on Politics of
Education. (2022 – 2024)

Publications Committee Member, American Education Research Association,
Politics & Education Association SIG Publication Committee (2021 – Present)

MENTORSHIP

Letters of Recommendation

For Undergraduates

Jobs/Internships - 5
Scholarships - 2
Graduate Programs - 2

For Graduates

Jobs/Internships - 1
Graduate Programs - 2

Mentee Placements

- Columbia University PhD Program - 2
- University of Maryland PhD Program - 1
- Central Intelligence Agency - 1

Honors Thesis Advisor

- Brown University – 3 (1 Best Public Affairs Award-Winning Thesis)

**SERVICE TO
CAMPUS**

Brown University

Member, Brown University Truman Scholarship Review Committee (2024 -
2026)

Columbia University

Member, Teachers College Accreditation Preparation Committee – Mission &
Goals Committee; Governance, Leadership, & Administration Committee (2023
- 2025)

Executive Chair (previously Associate Chair), Columbia Rural Education &
Healthcare Coalition (2020-2023)

Search Committee Member, for Professor of Politics & Education/Program
Director (2022 – 2023)

Search Committee Member, for Assistant Director of Graduate Student Life (2022-2023)

Vice President (previously EPSA Senator), Teachers College Student Senate (2020-2023)

Vice Chair of Administration (previously Teachers College Representative), Columbia University Ph.D. Council (2020-2022)

Duke University

Member, University Judicial Board (2018-2019)

Political Science Representative, Graduate Student Council (2018-2019)

The College of Idaho

Member, Graduate Program in Public Policy Exploratory Task Force (2024 – 2025)

Member, Pandemic Academic Affairs Task Force (2020)

Member, Campus Committee on Freedom of Expression (2017-2018)

Student Body President, Associated Students of The College of Idaho (2016-2017)

Search Committee Member, for Vice President of Academic Affairs & Dean of Faculty (2016-2017)

REFERENCES

Susan Moffitt, John Hazen White Professor of Public Policy & Political Science
Department of Political Science, Brown University

Jeffrey Henig, Professor Emeritus of Political Science & Education
Department of Education Policy & Social Analysis, TC, Columbia University

Michael G. Miller, Associate Professor and Chair of Political Science
Barnard College, Columbia University