

**Benjamin T. Rayder**

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**Education**

- 2011-2017 University of Bamberg, Germany (Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences)  
Ph.D., Political Science  
Dissertation: *Calculated Competitors or Ideological Bedfellows? A Comparative Analysis of the Policy Similarities and Differences between the National Democratic Party of Germany (NPD) and Die Linke in the Saxon State Parliament During the 5th Legislative Period, 2009-2014.*  
Committee: Thomas Saalfeld (first adviser), Ariadna Ripoll-Servent, Johannes Marx  
Areas of Specialization: Comparative Politics, Political Extremism, European Politics
- 2010-2011 University College London, United Kingdom  
M.A., Modern European Studies, 2011  
Thesis: *The Ideological Development of the Nationaldemokratische Partei Deutschlands from 1996 to 2011*  
Adviser: Jan Vermeiren
- 2005-2009 College of the Holy Cross, Worcester, MA  
B.A., Political Science and German

**Employment**

- 2017- Executive Director, Office of Undergraduate Research and Majors Awards (OURMA),  
University of Houston, Houston, Texas  
*Responsibilities:* Advise all UH students about competitive merit awards, provide feedback and guidance to students throughout the application process, generate awareness for fellowship opportunities across campus, build capacity with academic and administrative liaisons, manage all administrative facets of assigned awards, collaborate with the Honors College Office of Communication to develop outreach materials for major awards, strategize OURMA annual budget with Honors College Business Office, design and lead information sessions about fellowship opportunities, run application workshops for select awards, write campus endorsement letters for specified awards, manage the Houston Scholars Program, coordinate the Phi Beta Kappa and Phi Kappa Phi chapters, direct the Energy Scholars Program, organize the annual Undergraduate Scholars and Major Awards Dinner, participate on Senior Honors Thesis committees, administer fellowships survey to track learning outcomes, prepare reports for campus partners, plan larger outreach initiatives for OURMA, and manage a team of full-time staff.

- 2017- Instructional Assistant Professor, Honors College, University of Houston, Houston, Texas  
*Responsibilities:* Prepare and teach 1-3 credit classes, design course syllabi, assign readings, correct assignments and provide feedback to students during designated office hours.
- 2017 Course Instructor, Honors Program, Pennoni Honors College, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
*Responsibilities:* Prepared and taught 1-3 credit classes, designed course syllabi, assigned readings, corrected assignments and provided feedback to students during designated office hours.
- 2016-2017 Assistant Director, Fellowships, Pennoni Honors College, Drexel University, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania  
*Responsibilities:* Advised undergraduate and graduate students about competitive merit awards, provided feedback and guidance to students throughout the application process, created awareness for fellowship opportunities across campus, built capacity with academic and administrative liaisons, supported the director in developing outreach strategies for various awards and partnerships, managed all administrative facets of assigned awards, wrote and distributed fellowships e-newsletter for liaisons, designed and led information sessions about fellowship opportunities, ran application workshops for core and priority awards and organized campus interview committees where necessary.
- 2013-2016 Part-time Sessional Lecturer, Department of Comparative Politics, University of Bamberg, Germany  
*Responsibilities:* Prepared and taught weekly undergraduate seminars, designed course syllabi, assigned readings, corrected assignments and discussed student needs during designated office hours.
- 2011-2014 Study Abroad Adviser, International Office, University of Bamberg, Germany  
*Scholarship Advising Responsibilities:* Advised German students about scholarship opportunities (Fulbright, DAAD and Bavarian state funding), edited scholarship applications, updated and posted all scholarship information, developed a budget for DAAD scholarship funds and submitted annual reports about certain DAAD scholarship programs.
- International Programs Responsibilities:*  
 Mentored students about traditional exchange and fee-paying study abroad options, researched new partnerships with prospective institutions, facilitated registration procedures for Erasmus Intensive Language Course applications, produced English transcripts, compiled biannual English course lists.

## **Research and Teaching Interests**

Political Extremism, European Politics, Qualitative Methods, European Union, German Politics

## **Publications**

“Early Research Program as a Pathway for Nationally Competitive Scholarships”, co-authored with Dr. Karen Weber, University of Arkansas Press, 2019.

*Ideological or Strategic Convergence? An Analysis of Policy Overlaps Between the Far Right and Far Left in Germany.* Book manuscript submitted for publication based on dissertation topic, Otto-Friedrich-Universität Press, 2017.

Review of David Patton, *Out of the East: From PDS to Left Party in Unified Germany*, *German Politics*, September 2014.

## **Participation in Professional Meetings**

NAFA 12<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, July 11-14, 2023.

AAC&U Conference, San Francisco, California, January 18-20, 2023.

Fulbright Institutional Training, Denver, Colorado, June 1-2, 2022.

Boren and Fulbright Program Advisor Workshop at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, March 18, 2020.

NCHC 54<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, New Orleans, Louisiana, November 6-10, 2019.

NAFA 10<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, Minneapolis, Minnesota, July 22-26, 2019.

AAC&U Conference, Atlanta, Georgia, January 23-26.

NAFA Assessment Workshop, Portland, Oregon, July 18-20, 2018.

Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs Diversity Forum Workshop, College Station, Texas, April 27, 2018.

Fulbright Institutional Training, New Orleans, Louisiana, January 22-23, 2018.

NAFA 9<sup>th</sup> Biennial Conference, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, July 19-21, 2017.

NAFA New Advisor Workshop at Tulane University, New Orleans, Louisiana, July 25-26, 2016.

NAFSA Annual Conference, San Diego Convention Center, San Diego, California, May 25-30, 2014.

## **Teaching Experience**

2018-2023     *Mapping Success*, University of Houston, Honors College

2019-2023     *E-Portfolio*, University of Houston, Honors College

2019-2023     *Your World and Your Voice*, Honors College

- 2020 *The Politics of Energy and the Environment*, University of Houston, Honors College, Spring 2020
- 2017 *History and Culture of Beer*, Drexel University, Pennoni Honors College, Spring Term
- 2015-2016 *Qualitative Methods in Comparative Politics: Political Extremism*, University of Bamberg, Winter Semester
- 2014-2015 *Qualitative Methods in Comparative Politics*, University of Bamberg, Winter Semester, Course Taught in German
- 2013-2014 *Beefsteaks Revisited: Comparing the Ideological Similarities Between the Far Right and the Far Left in Contemporary Germany*, Winter Semester

### **Language Competence**

English (native), German (fluent), French (basic)

### **Software Competence**

Microsoft Office (advanced), MAXQDA (advanced), NVivo (basic), ATLAS.ti (basic), Stata (basic), PeopleSoft (basic)

### **Professional Associations**

Council on Undergraduate Research (CUR)  
The National Association of Fellowships Advisors (NAFA)

### **Professional Service**

Phi Beta Kappa, Chapter Coordinator, 2022, 2023  
Phi Kappa Phi, Chapter Coordinator, 2022, 2023  
exCITE Talks Judge, 2023  
CLASS Honors Committee, Member 2022, 2023  
Honors Co-Curricular Committee, Co-Chair, 2022, 2023  
HCCE Advisory Board, Member, 2022, 2023  
Learning Abroad Scholarship Committee, Member, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023  
Institute of Global Engagement Assistant Director Search Committee, Member, 2022  
Luce Scholars National Selection Committee, Member, 2022, 2023  
Human Situation Faculty Search Committee, Chair, 2022  
Honors College Dean's Search Committee, Member, 2022  
International Education Week Committee Member, 2020  
University of Houston COVID and Racism Proposal Review, Committee, 2020  
Boren Awards Scholarship to Latin America National Selection Committee, 2020  
Honors College Faculty Award Selection Committee, 2019  
Phi Beta Delta, President-Elect and President, 2019-2021  
Fulbright ETA Program to Germany National Selection Committee, 2018, 2019, 2020  
Critical Language Scholarship National Selection Committee, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020  
Alternative Spring Break Staff Advisor at Drexel University, Spring 2017

Global Engagement Scholar Mentor at Drexel University, 2017

### **Awards**

Regents Academic Excellence Award, 2021

Commencement Speaker at the Language and Culture Center Graduation Ceremony, 2019

Jane and Ron Lerner Fellowship, 2019, 2020

Wong Faculty Engagement Award, 2018, 2020, 2022

Phi Beta Delta, University of Houston Chapter, 2018

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Research Ambassador, 2017

Staff Award for Campus and Community Engagement, Lindy Center for Civic Engagement, Drexel University, 2017

Three-year full PhD scholarship at the Bamberg Graduate School of Social Sciences, 2014

Fulbright ETA, Duisburg, Germany, 2009

Austrian-American Educational Commission, Bregenz, Austria, 2009

### **Certificates**

Cougar Chair Leadership Academy, University of Houston, 2019-2020

Supervisory Certificate Program, Drexel University, 2016