Frank Baumgartner, Ph.D.

Richard J. Richardson Distinguished Professor, Department of Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences at UNC-Chapel Hill

Chapel Hill, NC, US

Research: public policy, agenda-setting, interest groups in American politics, the death penalty and racial profiling in traffic stops.

Frank R. Baumgartner is the Richard J. Richardson Distinguished Professor of Political Science in UNC's College of Arts and Sciences. His work focuses on public policy, agenda-setting, interest groups in American and comparative politics, the death penalty and racial profiling in traffic stops. With Bryan D. Jones, he created the Comparative Agendas Project (https://www.comparativeagendas.net/), and they continue to co-direct it, with John Wilkerson. The project collects and organizes data from various archived sources to trace changes in the national policy agenda and public policy outcomes since the Second World War. In 2008, Baumgartner's book "The Decline of the Death Penalty and the Discovery of Innocence" (Cambridge University Press, 2008, with Suzanna De Boef and Amber E. Boydstun) was awarded the Gladys M. Kammerer Award by the American Political Science Association for the best book on U.S. national policy. He remains involved in various projects relating to the death penalty including its use in the state of North Carolina. His current research projects include several items, one of which is the continued extension of the Comparative Agendas Project. Comparative policy agendas projects are underway in Australia, Belgium, Canada, Croatia, Denmark, the European Union, France, Greece, Hungary, Hong Kong, Israel, Italy, Japan, Malta, the Netherlands, Portugal, Scotland, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and for the U.S. states of Pennsylvania and Florida. Much of his current agenda has to do with studies of race, with particular focus on the death penalty and on traffic stops. With UNC colleagues Seth Kotch (American Studies) and Isaac Unah (Political Science), he is writing a book tentatively entitled "A Deadly Symbol: Race and Capital Punishment in North Carolina," focusing on the decline of the death penalty in the state, its low rate of use, but its potent racial symbolism throughout history. Other work related to the death penalty nationally focuses on rates of reversal, geographic concentration and issues of innocence. In 2011 he began a research project with graduate student Derek Epp focused on the analysis of all traffic stops in the state, based on official data collected since 2000, but never subjected to systematic analysis.

Race and Profiling, Racial Disparities, Public Policy, Death Penalty, Interest groups in American politics, Agenda-setting, Lobbying, Criminal Justice

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American Political Science Association : Vice-President 2015?16, Policy Agendas Project : Co-Director, The Scholars Strategy Network : Member

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Images of an Unbiased Interest System (2015)
The Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association

Budgeting in Authoritarian and Democratic Regimes (2015)
The Annual Meetings of the Comparative Agendas Project

The Mayhem of Wrongful Liberty: Documenting the Crimes of True Perpetrators in Cases of Wrongful Incarceration (2014)
Innocence Network Conference

The Hierarchy of Victims in Death Penalty Processing (2014)
The Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientists

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The University of Michigan
Ph.D. Political Science

The University of Michigan
M.A. Political Science

The University of Michigan
B.A. Political Science

Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Dataset Award
Awarded by the APSA Section on Comparative Politics, 2019, for the Comparative Agendas Project.

C. Herman Pritchett Best Book Award
Awarded by the Law and Courts Section of the American Political Science Association in 2019 for "Suspect Citizens."

Best book award from the International Public Policy Association
Recognizing the best book published in the English language in 2015 on any topic of public policy, 2017, for The Politics of Information.

Louis Brownlow Award for the best book in public administration
National Academy of Public Administration, 2016, for The Politics of Information

Samuel J. Eldersveld Career Achievement Award (2011)
The Samuel Eldersveld Career Achievement Award recognizes a scholar whose lifetime professional work has made an outstanding contribution to the field.

Leon D. Epstein Outstanding Book Award (2010)
The Leon Epstein Outstanding Book Award recognizes a book published in the last two calendar years that made an outstanding contribution to research and scholarship on political organizations and parties. Dr. Baumgartner won for his book "Lobbying and Political Change."

Gladys M. Kammerer Award, American Political Science Association, for the best publication in the field of US national policy (2008)
Dr. Baumgartner was granted this award for his book "The Decline of the Death Penalty."