
Steven J. Balla

Associate Professor of Political Science, Public Policy and Public Administration, and
International Affairs

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Department of Political Science

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Education

Ph.D., 1995, Political Science, Duke University

M.A., 1992, Political Science, Duke University

B.A., 1989, Government and Economics, Franklin & Marshall College

Fellowships

2015-2016. Fulbright Senior Scholar

Zhou Enlai School of Government

Nankai University, Tianjin

2008-2009. Fulbright Senior Scholar

School of Government

Peking University, Beijing

Foreign Language

Mandarin (advanced)

Teaching

Contemporary Research on American Political Institutions (Graduate)

Executive Branch Politics (Graduate)

Politics and Public Policy (Graduate)

Politics of Regulation (Undergraduate)
Scope and Methods of Political Science (Undergraduate)

Administrative Appointment

Co-Director, George Washington University Regulatory Studies Center

Research Interests

American Politics

Chinese Politics

Transparency, Participation, and Responsiveness in the Policymaking Process

Regulation

Technology and Politics

Publications

2023. “Beyond Republicans and the Disapproval of Regulations: A New Empirical Approach to the Congressional Review Act.” With Bridget C.E. Dooling and Daniel R. Perez. *Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*, Vol. 20, No. 2, <https://doi.org/10.1111/jels.12347>.

2023. “The Durability of Governance Reform: A Two-Wave Audit of Notice and Comment Policymaking in China.” With Zhoudan Xie. *Regulation & Governance*, Vol. 17, No. 2, pp. 549-569.

2022. “Lost in the Flood?: Agency Responsiveness to Mass Comment Campaigns in Administrative Rulemaking.” With Alexander R. Beck, Elizabeth Meehan, and Aryamala Prasad. *Regulation & Governance*, Vol. 16, No. 1, pp. 293-308.

2022. “Responding to Mass, Computer-Generated, and Malattributed Comments.” With Reeve Bull, Bridget C.E. Dooling, Emily Hammond, Michael Herz, Michael Livermore, and Beth Simone Noveck. *Administrative Law Review*, Vol. 74, No. 1, pp. 95-160.

2021. “Online Consultation and the Institutionalization of Transparency and Participation in Chinese Policymaking.” With Zhoudan Xie. *China Quarterly*, Vol. 246, pp. 473-496.

2020. “Consultation as Policymaking Innovation: Comparing Government Transparency and Public Participation in China and the United States.” With Zhoudan Xie. *Journal of Chinese Governance*, Vol. 5, No. 4, pp. 525-545.

2019. "Where's the Spam?: Interest Groups and Mass Comment Campaigns in Agency Rulemaking." With Alexander R. Beck, William C. Cubbison, and Aryamala Prasad. *Policy & Internet*, Vol. 11, No. 4, pp. 460-479.

2017. *Bureaucracy and Democracy: Accountability and Performance*. With William T. Gormley, Jr. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Fourth Edition. (2012, Third Edition; 2008 Second Edition; 2007, Chinese Edition, Fudan University Press; 2004 First Edition)

2017. "Is Consultation the 'New Normal?': Online Policymaking and Governance Reform in China." *Journal of Chinese Political Science*. Vol. 22, No. 3, pp. 375-392.

2015. "Government Consultation and Political Participation on the Chinese Internet." In *China's Contested Internet*, ed. Guobin Yang. Copenhagen, DK: NAIS Press.

2015. *The Oxford Handbook of Classics in Public Policy and Administration*. With Martin Lodge and Edward C. Page, eds. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

2015. "Procedural Control, Bureaucratic Discretion, and Public Commenting on Agency Regulations." *Public Administration*. Vol. 93, No. 2, pp. 524-538.

2015. "Salience, Complexity, and State Resistance to Federal Mandates." With Christopher J. Deering. *Journal of Public Policy*. Vol. 35, No. 3 (December), pp. 459-476.

2015. "What Makes a Classic?: Identifying and Revisiting the Classics of Public Policy and Administration." With Martin Lodge and Edward C. Page. In *Oxford Handbook of the Classics of Public Policy and Administration*, eds. Steven J. Balla, Martin Lodge, and Edward C. Page. Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.

2014. "Health System Reform and Citizen Feedback on the Chinese Internet." *China Information*, Vol. 28, No. 2, pp. 214-236.

2013. "Online Consultation and Citizen Feedback in Chinese Policymaking." With Zhou Liao. *Journal of Current Chinese Affairs*. Vol. 42, No. 3, pp. 101-120.

2013. "Police Patrols and Fire Alarms: An Empirical Examination of the Legislative Preference for Oversight." With Christopher J. Deering. *Congress & the Presidency*. Vol. 40, Issue 1 (January-April), pp. 27-40.

2012. "Information Technology, Political Participation, and the Evolution of Chinese Policymaking." *Journal of Contemporary China*. Vol. 21, Issue 76 (July), pp. 655-673.

2012. "Neighborhood Information Systems as Intermediaries in Democratic Communities." With Sungsoo Hwang. In *Connecting Democracy: Online Consultation and the Flow of Political Communication*, eds. Stephen Coleman and Peter M. Shane. Cambridge, MA: The MIT Press. Pp. 97-121.
2012. "The Politicization of Administration." *Georgetown Journal of Law and Public Policy*, Vol. 10, No. 2, pp. 357-358.
2011. "Institutional Design and the Management of Regulatory Governance." In *Handbook on the Politics of Regulation*, ed. David Levi-Faur. Cheltenham, UK: Edward Elgar. Pp. 70-83.
2011. "Outside Communications and OIRA Review of Agency Regulations." With Jennifer M. Deets and Forrest Maltzman. *Administrative Law Review*. Vol. 63 (Special Edition), pp. 149-177.
2009. "Municipal Environments, Nonprofit Entrepreneurs, and the Development of Neighborhood Information Systems." *I/S: A Journal of Law and Policy for the Information Society*. Vol. 5, No. 1, pp. 111-134.
2007. "Information Technology and Public Commenting on Agency Regulations." With Benjamin Daniels. *Regulation & Governance*. Vol. 1, No. 1 (March), pp. 46-67.
2005. "Between Commenting and Negotiation: The Contours of Public Participation in Agency Rulemaking." *I/S: A Journal of Law and Policy for the Information Society*. Vol. 1, No. 1 (Winter), pp. 59-94.
2005. "Unifying Rulemaking Information: Recommendations for the New Federal Docket Management System." With Cary Coglianese and Stuart Shapiro. *Administrative Law Review*. Vol. 57, No. 2 (Spring), pp. 621-646.
2003. "Consensual Rulemaking and the Time it Takes to Develop Rules." With John R. Wright. In *Politics, Policy, and Organizations: Frontiers in the Scientific Study of Bureaucracy*, eds. George A. Krause and Kenneth J. Meier. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. Pp. 187-206.
2002. "Partisanship, Blame Avoidance, and the Distribution of Legislative Pork." With Eric D. Lawrence, Forrest Maltzman, and Lee Sigelman. *American Journal of Political Science*. Vol. 46, No. 3 (July), pp. 515-525.

2001. "Interest Groups, Advisory Committees, and Congressional Control of the Bureaucracy." With John R. Wright. *American Journal of Political Science*. Vol. 45, No. 4 (October), pp. 799-812.

2001. "Interstate Professional Associations and the Diffusion of Policy Innovations." *American Politics Research*. Vol. 29, No. 3 (May), pp. 221-245.

2000. "Can Advisory Committees Facilitate Congressional Oversight of the Bureaucracy?" With John R. Wright. In *Congress on Display, Congress at Work*, ed. William T. Bianco. Ann Arbor, MI: University of Michigan Press. Pp. 167-187.

2000. "Legislative Organization and Congressional Review of Agency Regulations." *Journal of Law, Economics, and Organization*. Vol. 16, No. 2 (Fall), pp. 424-448.

2000. "Legislative Success and Failure and Participation in Rulemaking." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*. Vol. 10, No. 3 (July), pp. 633-653.

2000. "Political and Organizational Determinants of Bureaucratic Responsiveness." *American Politics Quarterly*. Vol. 28, No. 2 (April), pp. 163-193.

2000. "Position Taking, Legislative Signaling, and Non-Expert Extremism: Cosponsorship of Managed Care Legislation in the 105th House of Representatives." With Christine L. Nemacheck. *Congress & the Presidency*. Vol. 27, No. 2 (Fall), pp.163-188.

1999. "Markets, Governments, and HMO Development in the 1990s." *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*. Vol. 24, No. 2 (April), pp. 215-238.

1998. "Administrative Procedures and Political Control of the Bureaucracy." *American Political Science Review*. Vol. 92, No. 3 (September), pp. 663-673.

Research in Progress

"In the Midnight Hour: Stakeholder Participation in Regulatory Policymaking During Presidential Transitions." With Christopher Carrigan, Colin Emrich, and Sean Paul.

"Transparency, Participation, and Responsiveness in Hong Kong Consultative Policymaking." With Huang Chen and Yat To Yeung.

"Notice the Comment?: Chinese Government Responsiveness to Public Participation in the Policymaking Process." With Andrew Wan, Zhoudan Xie, Yat To Yeung, and Geng Zhai.

“Polarization and Public Commenting in Agency Rulemaking.” With Mark Febrizio.