

Thomas Choate

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Academic Positions	The George Washington University, School of Business Department of Strategic Management & Public Policy Teaching Assistant Professor , August 2021 – Present Duke University, Department of Political Science Postdoctoral Associate , August 2019 – July 2021	
Education	Stanford University Ph.D. in Business Administration (Political Economy) , 2019 <i>Dissertation committee: Ken Shotts (adviser), Jonathan Bendor, Keith Krehbiel</i> Vanderbilt University B.A. in Economics (with highest honors) and Mathematics , 2014 <i>magna cum laude</i>	
Research Interests	American Political Institutions, Political Economy, Formal Theory, Legislative Process, Federalism, Separation of Powers, Public Finance	
Published Works	Choate, T., J.A. Weymark, and A.E. Wiseman. 2020. “Legislative Bargaining and Partisan Delegation.” <i>Journal of Theoretical Politics</i> , Vol. 32(2), 289–311. Choate, T., J.A. Weymark, and A.E. Wiseman. 2019. “Partisan Strength and Legislative Bargaining.” <i>Journal of Theoretical Politics</i> , Vol. 31(1), 6–45. Choate, T. 2018. “State Leviathan and Tax Competition under a Federal Constitution.” In <i>Exploring the Political Economy and Social Philosophy of James M. Buchanan</i> , 165–189. Aligica, Paul Dragos, Christopher J. Coyne & S. Haeffele, eds. London: Rowman & Littlefield International.	
Working Papers	“Textual Ambiguity in the Legislative Process” <i>Revise & resubmit at Journal of Theoretical Politics</i> I construct a model to examine the <i>intra</i> -legislature causes of ambiguous laws. Unlike prior theories, which consider ambiguity as a tool for delegation, this approach explains the frequency of <i>inefficient</i> ambiguities in laws. “Policy Conflict and the Distribution of Government Capacity” Linking work on diversity, political development, and federalism, I model how policy conflict constrains the absolute level and hierarchical distribution of state capacity. “Optimal Voting Rules on Multiple Dimensions” I show that a standard model of ethnic fractionalization and public goods provision implies super-majority voting rules are optimal under general conditions. “Bad-Reputation Agents” Employing a simple model of moral reputation, I examine under what conditions a principal may choose an agent who is known to be a “bad” actor.	

Work in Progress	<p>“Constitutional Constraints and Government Capacity”</p> <p>“Ambiguous Regulation”</p>
Teaching	<p>Instructor, The George Washington University, School of Business Markets and Politics (undergraduate), <i>Fall 2021</i></p> <p>Instructor, Duke University, Department of Political Science Congressional Policy-Making (undergraduate and graduate), <i>Spring 2020</i></p> <p>Course Assistant, Stanford Graduate School of Business Ethics in Management (MBA): <i>Prof. Ken Shotts, 2017 & 2018</i> People Management Strategy (MBA): <i>Prof. Katherine Shaw, 2018</i> Strategy Beyond Markets (MBA): <i>Prof. David Broockman & Dana Foarta, 2017</i></p> <p>Teaching Assistant, Vanderbilt University, Managerial Studies Department Financial Accounting (undergraduate): <i>Prof. Brent Trentham, 2012 & 2013</i></p>
Select Talks	<p>American Political Science Association Conference, online, October 2021 <i>Presented “Policy Conflict and the Distribution of Government Capacity”</i></p> <p>Intl. Conference on Social Choice & Voting Theory, online, June 2021 Sponsored by Kellogg Center for Philosophy, Politics, and Economics, Virginia Tech <i>Presented “Optimal Voting Rules on Multiple Dimensions”</i> <i>Chair for Democracy, Voting, and Juries session</i></p> <p>Midwest Political Science Association Conference, online, April 2021 <i>Presented “Policy Conflict and the Distribution of Government Capacity”</i> <i>Chair and discussant for Legislative and Judicial Institutions session</i></p> <p>APSA Formal Theory Section Virtual Workshop, Zoom, October 2020 <i>Presented “Textual Ambiguity in the Legislative Process”</i></p> <p>Public Choice Society Meeting, Charleston, SC, March 2018 <i>Presented “Legislative Bargaining and Partisan Delegation”</i></p> <p>Econometric Society North American Meeting, St. Louis, MO, June 2017 <i>Presented “Partisan Strength and Legislative Bargaining”</i></p>
Awards, Grants & Fellowships	<p>PhD Fellowship, Stanford Graduate School of Business (2014 – 2019)</p> <p>Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies (2016 – 2019)</p> <p>Adam Smith Fellowship, The Mercatus Center at George Mason Univ. (2015 – 2017)</p> <p>Finegan Prize for Best Honors Thesis in Economics, Vanderbilt University (2014)</p>
University and Other Service	<p>Undergraduate Programs Core Faculty & Staff Committee, GWSB (2021 – Present)</p> <p>Referee for <i>International Economic Review</i> (2020), <i>Journal of Politics</i> (2020), <i>Quarterly Journal of Political Science</i> (2020), <i>The Independent Review</i> (2018)</p>