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**ATHENA M. KING**

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**Research Fields:**

|          |                             |            |                    |
|----------|-----------------------------|------------|--------------------|
| Primary: | U.S. Racial/Ethnic Politics | Secondary: | Political Parties  |
|          | Public Policy               |            | Public Opinion     |
|          | African-American Politics   |            | Electoral Behavior |

**Dissertation Title:** *The Geometry of Racial Politics: The Role of Policy Entrepreneurs in Fostering Triangulation among U.S. Racial and Ethnic Groups*, directed by Professor Todd Shaw

**Committee:** Professor Todd Shaw (Chair - USC), Professor Laura Woliver (USC), Professor Lee Walker (USC), Dr. Delores Pluto (SC Dept. of Education, formerly of USC)

**Abstract:** Several versions of racial and ethnic triangulation among different groups in the United States are examined. Racial/ethnic triangulation is a racial or ethnic stratification phenomenon that occurs when a least favored group is juxtaposed to a greatly favored group, with a third group being “triangulated” between the two. Generally, the triangulated relationship is created on purpose when the greatly favored group seeks to retain an economic advantage over the other groups. The triangulated relationship is enforced when public policies pit the third group against the least favored group, and retains the ostensible superiority of the favored group. I also examine the role of policy entrepreneurs (“PEs”) in the creation of said triangulated relationships. I argue that in each case of triangulation, PEs serve as active proponents of racial and ethnic policies which promote the most favored group; as members of this group, they have a vested interest in obtaining or maintaining the economic advantage for that group. Therefore, PEs seek policy changes which encourage or augment economic advancement of the favored group.

**Education:**

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Ph.D. (ABD) - Political Science  | 2005-present |
| University of South Carolina – Columbia, South Carolina                  |              |
| Masters of Public Administration   | 2004         |
| University of South Carolina - Columbia, South Carolina<br>(With Honors) |              |
| Diploma - Paralegal Studies  | 1995         |
| South University - Columbia, South Carolina                              |              |

**PUBLICATIONS:**

King, Athena M., Todd Shaw and Lester Spence. “Hype, Hip Hop and Heartbreak: The Rise and Fall of Kwame Kilpatrick”, in *Whose Black Politics? Cases in Post-Racial Black Leadership* (Andra Gillespie, Ed.) (Routledge Press, Fall 2009)

**PRESENTATIONS:**

“Testing ‘The Dirty Little Secret...: Black Mayors, Electoral Mobilization, and Grassroots Dilemmas’”. Presented with Professor Todd Shaw at the Midwest Political Science Conference, Chicago, IL, April 2, 2009.

“State of Dissatisfaction: Factors Influencing State Filing of the “No Child Left Behind” Lawsuit in Federal Court”. Presented at the South Carolina Political Science Association Conference, Furman University, Greenville, SC; Saturday, February 28, 2009.

**RELEVANT EXPERIENCE:**

**Research**

**Research Assistant**, University of South Carolina, Columbia, 2005-2008. Responsible for researching and compiling information regarding:

- U.S. racial and ethnic policies (2008)
- African-American politics in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century (2008)
- Precinct-level voter turnout data in the state of North Carolina (2007)
- Post-Hurricane Katrina information regarding education and public health information (2007)
- Bill introduction and passage in the U.S. 56<sup>th</sup> and 62<sup>nd</sup> House and 58<sup>th</sup> Senate sessions (2007)
- Information concentrated on state/local government for inclusion the 7<sup>th</sup> (2007) edition of *State and Local Government*, Bowman, Ann O'M. and Richard C. Kearney, Eds. (2006)
- Relationship of the U.S. Presidency to foreign policy during the Carter administration (2006)
- Public Administration datasets (2005).

**Teaching**

**Adjunct Instructor**, Midlands Technical College, Columbia, SC: PSC PSC-205 (Politics and Government), Fall 2009

**Adjunct Instructor**, Midlands Technical College, Columbia, SC: PSC-201 (American Government), Fall 2009

**Adjunct Instructor**, Midlands Technical College, Columbia, SC: PSC-201 (American Government), July-August 2009 (Summer II)

**Instructor**, University of South Carolina, Columbia: POLI 360 (American Political Parties), June 2009 (Summer I)

**Adjunct Instructor**, Midlands Technical College, Columbia, SC: PSC-201 (American

Government), Spring 2009

**Adjunct Instructor**, Midlands Technical College, Columbia, SC: PSC-205 (Politics and Government), Fall 2008

**Teaching Assistant**, University of South Carolina, Columbia.

- American National Government: Fall 2009 (Prof. Finocchiaro)
- American Political Parties: Spring 2009 (Prof. Darmofal)
- Introduction to Public Administration: Fall 2008 (Prof. Woods)
- American Local Government: Spring 2008 (Prof. Bowman)
- Congress and the Presidency: Fall 2007 (Prof. Finocchiaro)
- American Political Parties: Spring 2007 (Prof. Darmofal)
- American National Government: Fall 2005-Fall 2006 (Prof. Briggs).

### **Other**

**Research Assistant-Prevention Research Center, School of Public Health**, University of South Carolina, Columbia, Summer-Fall 2007. Research and compile information related to policy diffusion and childhood nutrition/obesity legislation in all 50 states and all South Carolina school districts.

### **AWARDS:**

**Scholar, African-American Professors Program, University of South Carolina.** Academic Year 2009-10.

**Institute for African American Research, University of South Carolina.** Research/Creative Project Awards for minority graduate students, Summer 2009.

**Commission on Higher Education, State of South Carolina.** Graduate Incentive Fellowship for minority graduate students attending South Carolina universities, 2005-2008.

**Faculty of Political Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia.** Graduate School Tuition Supplement for selected students, 2005-2008.

**Pi Alpha Alpha, University of South Carolina Chapter, Columbia.** Public Administration Honor Society, Spring 2004.

**Department of Political Science, University of South Carolina, Columbia.** Samuel H. Carter Fellowship Award for outstanding master's degree students in public administration employed outside of the university, Spring 2002 and 2003.

**Who's Who Among Students in American Colleges and Universities – Coker College,** Hartsville, SC, Spring 1990.

### **ACADEMIC SERVICE:**

**Judge - Student Presentations, 2008 SCAS/SCJAS Annual Meeting – Spring 2009**  
South Carolina Junior Academy of Science – Columbia Convention Center

**Judge - Student Presentations, 2008 SCAS/SCJAS Annual Meeting – Spring 2008**  
South Carolina Junior Academy of Science – Furman University

**Graduate Student Representative – Academic Year 2007-08**  
Public Administration Faculty Candidate Recruitment Committee  
University of South Carolina - Columbia

**Judge - Graduate Student Day Presentation – Spring 2008**  
University of South Carolina - Columbia

**Member, International Emergency Management Student Association (IEMSA) – Fall 2007**

**Judge - Graduate Student Day Presentation – Spring 2007**  
University of South Carolina - Columbia

**Judge - Undergraduate Student Day Presentation – Spring 2007**  
University of South Carolina - Columbia

**Vice-President, Graduate Student Association – Academic Year 2006-07**  
University of South Carolina – Columbia

#### **WORKS IN PROGRESS:**

“Model of Policy Innovation: Diffusion Pathways for State Adoption of Medical Marijuana Laws” (2009)

“Social Capital and Political Participation in the U.S.: Challenges to Putnam’s *Bowling Alone* Thesis” (2007)

“The Voting Rights Act: Does Applicability of the Extended Provisions Now Favor Hispanics?” (2007)

“The Coalescence of Asian American Identity and Political Participation: Racial Triangulation and Median Voter Status.” (2006)

“Harbingers of Change - The Role of Southern States in the 1994 House Turnover.” (2006)

#### **MEMBERSHIPS:**

American Political Science Association  
Midwest Political Science Association

#### **SKILLS:**

- Quantitative Data Analysis
- Multilevel Modeling (Using STATA 10)
- Qualitative Data Analysis

#### **REFERENCES:**

Available upon request