

## Curriculum Vitae

Steven M. Sylvester  
Department of History & Political Science  
Utah Valley University  
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### Academic Employment

#### **Utah Valley University, Orem, UT**

Assistant Professor, August 2016 – Present

### Education

#### **University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS**

Ph.D. in Political Science, 2016

Major Fields: American Politics and Public Policy

Minor Fields: Public Administration

*Dissertation: "Putting the Public into Public Health: Health Policy Related Opinion and Public Policy"*

#### **California State University Chico, Chico, CA**

M.A. in Political Science, 2012

#### **California State University Chico, Chico, CA**

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science 2008

Minor: Business Administration

### Research: Peer Reviewed Publications

Callaghan, Timothy, Matthew Motta, **Steven M. Sylvester**, Kristin Lunz-Trujillo, and Christine Blackburn. Forthcoming (Available Online). "Parent Psychology and the Decision to Delay Childhood Vaccination." *Social Science & Medicine*.

Callaghan, Timothy and **Steven M. Sylvester**. Forthcoming (Available Online). "Private Citizens as Policy Entrepreneurs: Evidence from Autism Mandates and Parental Political Mobilization." *Policy Studies Journal*.

Callaghan, Timothy and **Steven M. Sylvester**. 2019. "Autism Spectrum Disorder, Politics, and the Generosity of Insurance Mandates in the United States." *PLOS ONE*. 14(5): e0217064.

Joslyn, R. Mark and **Steven M. Sylvester**. 2019. "The Determinants and Consequences of Accurate Beliefs about Childhood Vaccinations." *American Politics Research* 47(3): 628-649.

Motta, Matthew, Timothy Callaghan, and **Steven M. Sylvester**. 2018. "Knowing Less but Presuming More: Dunning-Kruger Effects & the Endorsement of Anti-Vaccine Policy Attitudes." *Social Science & Medicine* 211(1): 274-281.

- Winner of the Elsevier Atlas Award – given to the single article across all Elsevier journals determined most likely to significantly alter lives around the world.
- 2<sup>nd</sup> highest Altmetric score in the history of SSM's 7,600-plus published articles.

Doan, Alesha E., Carolina Costa-Coda, and **Steven M. Sylvester**. 2018. We Are the Visible Proof: Legitimizing Abortion Regret Misinformation through Activists' Experiential Knowledge" *Journal of Law & Policy* 40(1): 33-56.

**Sylvester, M. Steven** and Donald P. Haider-Markel. 2016. "Buzz Kill: State Adoption of DUI Interlock Laws, 2005-2011." *Policy Studies Journal*. 44(4): 491-509.

### **Research: Grants, Contracts, and Funded Research**

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**Project Title:** Political Identity Development and Consequences for Participation

**Investigator Status:** PI

**Funding Source:** National Science Foundation

**Project Dates:** Pending

**Total Funding:** \$185,801

**Project Title:** Anxiety, School Security Measures and Public Opinion on School Shootings in the U.S.

**Investigator Status:** PI

**Funding Source:** Office of Undergraduate Research, Utah Valley University

**Project Dates:** 5/6/19-8/9/18

**Total Funding:** \$13,234

**Project Title:** Surveying Sexuality: Political Attitudes of LGBT Individuals

**Investigator Status:** PI

**Funding Source:** Office of Undergraduate Research, Utah Valley University

**Project Dates:** 5/9/18-8/10/18

**Total Funding:** \$10,963

**Project Title:** Identifying Strategies to Correct Misinformation about the Vaccine-Autism Link in the American Public

**Investigator Status:** PI

**Funding Source:** Office of Engaged Learning, Utah Valley University

**Project Dates:** 7/1/18-6/30/19

**Total Funding:** \$8,000

**Project Title:** The Politics of Autism: Services, Social Construction, and Attitudes

**Investigator Status:** PI

**Funding Source:** Office of Engaged Learning, Utah Valley University

**Project Dates:** 7/1/17-6/30/18

**Total Funding:** \$6,780

**Project Title:** The Politics of Autism: Services, Social Construction, and Attitudes

**Investigator Status:** PI

**Funding Source:** The Melisa Nellesen Center for Autism, Utah Valley University

**Project Dates:** 7/1/17-6/30/18

**Total Funding:** \$4,000

### **Research: Book Chapters**

**Sylvester, M. Steven.** Forthcoming. "Drunk Driving in America: A Battle for the Hearts and Minds of the Public." In *Legislating Morality in America*. Ed. Donald P. Haider-Markel. Santa Barbara, CA: ABC-CLIO.

Haider-Markel, Donald P., and **Steven M. Sylvester**. 2015. "Changing Policies/Changing Hearts and Minds: The Evolution of the LGBT Movement, In *Interest Groups Politics*, 9<sup>th</sup> ed. Eds. Allan J. Cigler, Burdett A. Loomis, and Anthony J. Nownes. Washington, DC: CQ Press. Pp. 68-89.

### **Research: Papers under Review or in Preparation for Submission**

Haeder, Simon, **Steven M. Sylvester**, and Timothy Callaghan. "Fifty Shades of Gray: Public Attitudes about Medicaid Beneficiaries and Work Requirements." (Under Review *Millbank Quarterly*).

**Sylvester, Steven M.**, Simon Haeder, and Timothy Callaghan. "Just Say No? Attribution Paper and Public Attitudes about the Opioid Epidemic." (Under Review *Journal of Health Politics and Policy*)

Lunz-Trujillo, Kristin, Matthew Motta, Timothy Callaghan, and **Steven M. Sylvester**. "Misinformation about the MMR Vaccine: Identifying Psychological Risk Factors and Effective Corrective Communication Strategies." (In Preparation for Submission).

Jagers, Sverker, Felicia Robertson, Matthew Motta, Timothy Callaghan, **Steven M. Sylvester**, and Kristin Lunz-Trujillo. "Are Conditional Cooperation and Personal Cost Factors Significantly Driving People's Willingness to Abstain from Using Antibiotics?" (In Preparation for Submission).

**Sylvester, M. Steven.** "Can We Place the Candidates Correctly? The Affordable Care Act, Political Perceptions, and Presidential Elections." (In Preparation for Submission).

**Sylvester, M. Steven.** "Threat and Loathing in a (Un)Vaccinated World: The Role of Perceived Threat in Public Support for Restrictive Vaccination Policies." (In Preparation for Submission).

**Sylvester, M. Steven.** "Anxiety and Loathing on the Trail of an Epidemic? The Link Between Anxiety, Confidence, and Restrictive Policy." (In Preparation for Submission).

**Sylvester, M. Steven.** "Do Legislators Listen to the Public? Policy Responsiveness and State Resistance to the Affordable Care Act." (In Preparation for Submission).

### **Research: Other Publications**

Motta, Matthew, **Steven M. Sylvester**, and Timothy Callaghan. 2018 "Why Vaccine Opponents Think They Know More Than Medical Experts." *The Conversation*.

<https://theconversation.com/why-vaccine-opponents-think-they-know-more-than-medical-experts-99278>

- Over 190,000 reads and republished in Newsweek, Houston Chronicle, San Antonio Express-News, St. Louis Post-Dispatch, and many other outlets.

Joslyn, R. Mark, and **Steven M. Sylvester** 2018. "Why Educated Republicans are Still Less Likely to Trust Childhood Vaccination than Educated Democrats." LSE USAPP.

<http://blogs.lse.ac.uk/usappblog/2018/04/10/why-educated-republicans-are-still-less-likely-to-trust-childhood-vaccinations-than-educated-democrats/>

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### **Research: Fellowships and Awards**

Walter Thompson Scholarship, Department of Political Science, University of Kansas, June 2015.  
Supervisor: Donald P. Haider-Markel. Project: Public Attitudes and Counterterrorism Policies.

Walter Thompson Scholarship, Department of Political Science, University of Kansas, June 2014.  
Supervisor: Donald P. Haider-Markel. Project: LBGT Political Representation: An Updated View.

Walter Thompson Scholarship, Department of Political Science, University of Kansas, June 2013.  
Supervisor: Elaine Sharp and Donald P. Haider-Markel. Project: Minority Representation on School Boards.

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### **Research: Conference Presentations**

2018. "Just Say No? Attribution Theory and Public Attitudes About the Opioid Epidemic." Co-authors: Simon Haeder and Timothy Callaghan. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, September.

2018. "Dunning-Kruger Effects & the Endorsement of Anti-Vaccine Policy Attitudes." Co-authors: Timothy Callaghan and Matthew Motta. Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April.

2018. "Parents as Policy Entrepreneurs: Autism Diagnosis and Political Mobilization." Co-authors: Timothy Callaghan. Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April.

2017. Autism, Politics, and the States: Variation in the Regulation of Autism Services in America." Co-authors Timothy Callaghan. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, September.

2017. Do Vaccines Cause Autism? The Determinants and Consequences of Misinformation about Child Vaccinations. Co-authors Mark R. Joslyn. Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April.

2016. "Public Attitudes Toward Vaccinations: A Case of Parental Rights or Public Safety." Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April.

2016. "The Influence of Legislative Threats on Membership Levels in the NRA." Co-authors Justin A. Tucker and Chelsie L. Bright. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, September.

2015. "The Role of Anxiety and the Evolving Balance between American Support for Civil Liberties vs. Extensive Counterterrorism Policies." Co-authors Donald P. Haider-Markel. Presented at the State of Surveillance Symposium at the University of Kansas, Lawrence, October.

2015. "Experts, Ideologues, and the Dissemination of Misinformation in Abortion Policy." Co-authors Alesha Doan and Carolina Costa Candal. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, September.

2015. "The Battle Against the Housing Problem: Variation in Affordable Housing Spending in U.S. Municipalities." Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April.

2014. "Political Ideology or Citizen Need? An Analysis of State Resistance to the Patient Protection Affordable Care Act." Presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, April.

2014. "Staying in Class: Race, Representation and Student Punishment." co-authors Elaine Sharp, Donald P. Haider-Markel, and Chelsie Bright. Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, August.

## **Teaching**

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### **Courses Taught**

- Course Instructor, POLS 1100: Introduction to American Government
- Course Instructor, POLS 3300: Introduction to Public Administration
- Course Instructor, POLS 3310: Introduction to Public Policy
- Course Instructor, POLS 4250: Public Health Organization and Policy
- Course Instructor, MPS 6000: Seminar: Public Service Administration (Graduate Level)
- Course Instructor, MPS 6010: Finance and Budgeting for Public Service (Graduate Level)
- Course Instructor, MPS 6020: Public Services Policy and Evaluation (Graduate Level)
- Course Instructor, POLS 3220: Interest Group Politics
- Course Instructor, POLS 629: Health Policy & Politics in America
- Course Instructor, POLS 3000: Political Analysis I

### **Training**

- APSA – Teaching and Learning Conference, Fall 2018; Fall 2019
- Utah Valley University – Foundations of Inclusions Workshop, Spring 2018
- Utah Valley University – Great Teachers Summit, Fall 2017
- Utah Valley University – Fall Teaching Conference, Fall 2017
- Utah Valley University – Fall Teaching Conference, Fall 2016

## **Service**

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### **Profession**

- Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association: Discussant 2015, 2016, 2017; Chair 2016, 2017
- Reviewer for *Policy Studies Journal*; *Publius: Journal of Federalism*; *Social Science & Medicine*; *SAGE CQ Press*; *Pearson Publishing*; *W.W. Norton*
- Reader, AP Government and Politics Exam, 2019

### **Department**

- Search Committee Chair, History & Political Science Department, Utah Valley University
- Curriculum Chair, History & Political Science Department, Utah Valley University, August 2017 to July 2018

**University**

- Member, Graduate Council, Utah Valley University, August 2019 to Present.
- Member, MPS Graduate Committee, Utah Valley University, January 2018 to Present.
- Member, Strategic Planning Committee for CHSS, Utah Valley University, May 2017 to Present.
- Member, Re-Envisioning GE Committee, Utah Valley University, January 2018 to May 2019.
- Member, Autism Initiative Council, Utah Valley University, August 2016 to August 2018.