

LESLIE K. FINGER

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS
Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2020-

HARVARD UNIVERSITY
Lecturer on Government and Social Studies, 2017-2020

EDUCATION HARVARD UNIVERSITY, Cambridge, MA
Ph.D., Government, 2017
Dissertation: "Group Power and Policy Change in Education."
*Awarded the 2018 Charles Sumner Prize by the Harvard Government
Department for the Best Dissertation from "the legal, political, historical,
economic, social, or ethnic approach."*
M.A., Government, 2012

PACE UNIVERSITY, New York, NY
M.S.T., Childhood Education, 2009

STANFORD UNIVERSITY, Stanford, CA
B.A., International Relations, Latin American Studies minor, 2007
Departmental Honors, Phi Beta Kappa

ACADEMIC JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS Leslie K. Finger and David Houston. 2022. "Public Goods, Private Goods, and School Preferences." *Harvard Educational Review*. Forthcoming.

Hartney, Michael T. and Leslie K. Finger. 2022. "Politics, Markets, and Pandemics: Public Education's Response to COVID-19." *Perspectives on Politics*. 20(2): 457-473.

Finger, Leslie K. and Carlos Lastra-Anadón. 2022. "Advocates For Hire: How Government Contracting Shapes Politics." *Governance*. 35(1): 187-208.

Finger, Leslie K. and Sarah Reckhow. 2021. "Policy Feedback and the Polarization of Interest Groups." *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*: 1-26.

Finger, Leslie K., Thomas Gift, and Andrew Miner. 2021. "DCPS or Sidwell Friends? How Politician Schooling Choices Affect Voter Evaluations." *American Politics Research*.

Finger, Leslie K. and Michael T. Hartney. 2021. "Financial Solidarity: the Future of Unions in the post-Janus Era." *Perspectives on Politics*. 19(1): 19-35.

Finger, Leslie K. 2019. "Interest Group Influence and the Two Faces of Power." *American Politics Research*. 47(4): 852-886

Finger, Leslie K. 2018. "Giving to Government: The Policy Goals and Giving Strategies of New and Old Foundations." *Interest Groups & Advocacy*. 7(3): 312-345.

Finger, Leslie K. 2018. "Vested Interests and the Diffusion of Education Reform across the States." *Policy Studies Journal*. 46(2): 378-401.

Chambers-Ju, Christopher and Leslie K. Finger. 2016. "Teachers' Unions in Mexico: The Politics of Patronage." In Terry Moe & Susanne Wiborg, Eds., *The Comparative Politics of Education: Teachers Unions and Education Systems Around the World*, Cambridge University Press. With Christopher Chambers-Ju.

Finger, Leslie K. and Julián Gindin. 2015. "From Proposal to Policy: Social Movements and Teachers' Unions in Latin America." *Prospects: Quarterly Review of Comparative Education*. 45(3): 365-378.

BOOK REVIEWS Finger, Leslie K. 2021. "Review of *Making Social Welfare Policy in America: Three Case Studies since 1950*, Edward D. Berkowitz." *Political Science Quarterly*. 136(2): 385-387.

Finger, Leslie K. 2018. "*Citizens by Degree: Higher Education Policy and the Changing Gender Dynamics of American Citizenship*. By Deondra Rose. New York: Oxford University Press, 2018. 308p. 99.00cloth,29.95 paper." *Perspectives on Politics*. 16(4): 1187-1189.

WORKING
PAPERS

"Private School Choice and the Politics of Education in Rural America"

"Tweeting for Members: How Teachers? Unions Adapt their Strategy and Rhetoric"

"Advocacy Groups, Policy Subsidies & Policy Change: The Case of Teacher Evaluations"

OTHER
PUBLICATIONS
AND MEDIA

Finger, Leslie K., Thomas Gift, and Andrew Miner. 2021. "Voters prefer candidates who send their children to public over private school." *London School of Economics USAPP - American Politics and Policy*. October 1, 2021. [link](#)

Finger, Leslie K. 2021. "The Politics of School from Home." *The Science of Politics* podcast. January 13, 2021. [link](#)

Finger, Leslie K. and Michael T. Hartney. 2020. "What determined if schools reopened? How many Trump voters were in a district." *The Washington Post*. November 20, 2020. [link](#)

Finger, Leslie K. and Michael T. Hartney. 2020. "Remote or In-Person Reopening Decisions Are Linked to Trump 2016 Vote Share, Catholic School Presence, a New Study Finds." *Education Next*. October 29, 2020. [link](#)

Finger, Leslie K. and Sarah Reckhow. 2019. "Walmart Heirs Shift From Red To Purple: The Evolving Political Contributions Of The Nation's Richest Family." *HistPhil*. June 3, 2019. [link](#)

Finger, Leslie K. and Thomas Gift. 2019. "Some People Want Lottery-Based Admissions. That's a Terrible Idea." *The Chronicle of Higher Education*. April 1, 2019. [link](#)

Finger, Leslie K. 2019. "Interest groups' influence on policy comes through the presence of faithful legislative allies – not gifts to their campaigns." *London School of Economics USAPP - American Politics and Policy*. February 28, 2019. [link](#)

Finger, Leslie. K. 2019. "How Teach for America Shapes State Education Policy." *The Education Exchange: An EducationNext Podcast*. Episode 75. January 19, 2019. [link](#)

Finger, Leslie K. 2018. "Giving To Government: Foundation Grants To State Education Agencies." *HistPhil*. November 19, 2018. [link](#)

Finger, Leslie K. 2018. "Do Strikes Signal Union Strength?" *Education Next*. March 21, 2018. [link](#)

Finger, Leslie K. 2016. "How Friedrichs Saved Public Sector Unions - But Not In The Way You Think." *Education Next*. April 6, 2016. [link](#)

Gindin, Julián and Leslie K. Finger. 2014. "Promoting Education Quality: The Role of Teachers' Unions in Latin America." Background paper commissioned for the *EFA Global Monitoring Report 2013/14, Teaching and learning: Achieving quality for all*. UNESCO. [link](#)

Finger, Leslie K. 2011. "Bônus de SP não deve morrer com o de NY," [São Paulo's teacher bonus shouldn't die with New York's] Op-ed published in the *Folha de São Paulo*. August 5, 2011. [link](#)

SELECTED AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE. SEPTEMBER 2021 (VIRTUAL). AUGUST 2019 PRESENTATIONS (WASHINGTON, D.C.), AUGUST 2018 (BOSTON), SEPTEMBER 2017 (SAN FRANCISCO), SEPTEMBER 2016 (PHILADELPHIA).

Program on Education Policy and Governance (PEPG). February 2020.

American Educational Research Association (AERA) Conference. April 2019 (Toronto). April 2018 (New York).

Center on Philanthropy and Civil Society Junior Scholars Forum. Stanford. June 2018.

Association for Research on Nonprofit Organizations and Voluntary Action (ARNOVA) Annual Conference, Grand Rapids, MI. November 2017.

Workshop on the Political Economy of Education Reform, Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), Mexico City. February 2017.

Politics of Education Workshop, University of Konstanz, Germany. 2016.

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Conference, Chicago. 2014.

Workshop on Methodological Approaches to the Study and Evaluation of Social Policy and Programs at the Local Level, Havana, Cuba. 2012

RESEARCH GRANTS Lemann Brazil Research Fund, Harvard University, 2017- , with Emmerich Davies, Jonathan Phillips, and Julia Coyoli

GSAS Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University, 2016-2017

Committee on General Scholarships Traveling Fellowship, Harvard University, 2014

Institute for Quantitative Social Sciences Research Grant, Harvard University, 2014

Center for American Politics Seed Grant, Harvard University, 2014

Pedro Pick Fellowship, Harvard University, 2013

Kenneth Maxwell Summer Research Travel Grant, Harvard University, 2011

Tinker Field Research Grant, Harvard University, 2011

PRIZES AND
AWARDS

Best Public Policy Paper Award, awarded to the best paper on Public Policy presented at the 2021 APSA Annual Meeting, for “Politics, Markets, and Pandemics: Public Education’s Response to COVID-19”

Charles Sumner Dissertation Prize, awarded by Harvard Government Department, 2018

Bok Center Certification of Distinction in Teaching, Fall 2012, Spring 2018, Fall 2018 (x2 - awarded for both seminars), Fall 2019 (x2 - awarded for both seminars)

Americorps grant for masters in education, 2008 and 2009

Teacher of the Month, Middle School 322, June 2008 and September 2008

Grants for classroom materials, Teacher’s Aid Program and DonorsChoose.org, 2009

Firestone Medal for Excellence in Undergraduate Research, awarded for thesis, “Transitions, Tactics and Ideology: The Strategic Moderation of the Chilean Socialist Party,” 2007

Community Writing Project Prize, for excellence in writing for public service, for “Education in East Palo Alto,” 2005

COURSES

UNIVERSITY OF NORTH TEXAS

PSCI 2316: Honors U.S. and Texas Government, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2022

PSCI 3300: Political Science Research Methods, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022

PSCI 4490: Education Politics & Policy, Spring 2022

HARVARD UNIVERSITY

GOV 93c: Public Policy Practicum, Spring 2020

SOC-STD 98QB: Democracy and Education in America, Fall 2017, 2018, 2019

GOV 94LF: Philanthropy, Non-Profits and the Politics of Education in America, Fall 2017, 2018, 2019

GOV 97: The Sophomore Tutorial, Spring 2018, 2019, 2020 (designed and managed course with Prof. Enos; also taught in 2018 and 2019)

ADVISING
EXPERIENCE

Senior Thesis Advisor, Harvard Social Studies Committee, 2013-2014, 2016-2020

Senior Thesis Advisor, Harvard Government Department, 2012-2013, 2017-2019

Masters Thesis Advisor, Harvard Extension School, 2018-2019

Resident Tutor, Harvard Dudley Co-op undergraduate residence, 2013-2014, 2015-2018

SERVICE TO
THE
PROFESSION

Founder and Co-Chair of the WPSA Virtual Community on Education Politics and Policy, 2022-

President Emeritus of the American Political Science Association (APSA) Education Politics and Policy Section, 2022-

President of the American Political Science Association (APSA) Education Politics and Policy Section, 2021-2022

President-Elect of the American Political Science Association (APSA) Education Politics and Policy Section, 2020-2021

Founder and Chair of the APSA Education Politics and Policy Related Group (first-ever APSA organized group for scholars interested in the politics of education), 2017-2019

Founder and Coordinator of the Program on Education Policy and Governance (PEPG) Research and Writing Colloquia, 2016-2020

Harvard Department of Government Equity, Diversity and Inclusion Committee Task Force, 2019-2020

Harvard Department of Government Climate Change Committee, Subcommittee on Teaching and Training, 2018-2019

Reviewer for: *American Educational Research Journal*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Politics Research*, *Educational Policy*, *Journal of Comparative Politics*, *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, *Journal of School Choice*, *Latin American Politics & Society*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Policy Sciences*, *Sociology Compass*, *State Politics & Policy Quarterly*, *Sociological Methods and Research*