

103 Professional Building  
Department of Political Science  
University of Missouri  
Columbia, MO 65211

Contact: 812-603-4002  
Email: buicem@missouri.edu  
melissabuice.weebly.com

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## EDUCATION

University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
Ph.D. in Political Science

May 2013

Major Field: Comparative Government

Cross-field Concentration: Political Economy

Dissertation: *Indigenous Women, the State, and Policy Change: Evidence from Bolivia 1994-2012*.

Committee: Dr. Jana Morgan (Chair); Dr. Yang Zhong, Dr. Ian Down, and Dr. Jon Shefner

University of Tennessee, Knoxville  
M.A. in Political Science

December 2009

Major Field: Comparative Government. Minor Field: International Relations

Lambuth University

August 1997

B.S., Magna Cum Laude

Major: Political Science

## PUBLICATION

“Latin American Attitudes toward Women in Politics: The Influence of Elite Cues, Female Advancement, and Individual Characteristics.” *American Political Science Review* 107 (4) (with Jana Morgan).

## TEACHING INTERESTS

### *Primary Teaching Interests*

Introduction to Political Science, Comparative Politics, European Politics, Area Studies of Developing Regions, International Relations, International and Comparative Political Economy, Intersectional Politics (Race, Gender, Class)

### *Secondary Teaching Interests*

Politics of Development, Introduction to American Politics, Political Behavior, Methods

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**TEACHING EXPERIENCE***University of Missouri, Upper Division Courses*

Instructor of Record, European Political Systems, Fall 2013 (Enrollment 25)

Instructor of Record, Political Systems of the European Union, Fall 2013  
(Enrollment 27)

*University of Missouri, Lower Division Courses*

Instructor of Record, European Democracies, Fall 2013 (Enrollment 23)

*University of Tennessee, Upper Division Courses*

Instructor of Record, Comparative Politics, Spring 2013 (Enrollment: 23), Fall 2012  
(Enrollment: 20), Fall 2011 (Enrollment: 35)

Instructor of Record, Political Change in Developing Areas, Summer 2012 (Enrollment:  
25), Spring 2011 (Enrollment: 35)

Instructor of Record, Politics of Western Democracies, Fall 2010 (Enrollment: 50)

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Latin American Politics and Government, Fall 2008  
(Enrollment: 35)

*University of Tennessee, Lower Division Courses*

Instructor of Record, Introduction to Political Science, Spring 2009 (2 sections,  
Enrollment: 50 each section), Fall 2009 (2 sections, Enrollment: 50 each section), Spring  
2010 (2 sections, Enrollment: 50 each section)

**RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Comparative Political Economy—Politics of the Informal Economy. Gender, Ethnicity  
and Social Movements; Religion and Politics.

**ONGOING RESEARCH**

“The Effects of Indigenous Protest on Neoliberal Policies: a Cross-country Comparison  
among Latin American States.”

“Race, Ethnicity, and Gender: Intersectionality in Public Support for Women in  
Politics” (with Jana Morgan)

“Indigenous Women’s Social Movement Victories in Mexico: The Case of Oaxaca.”

## **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant to Dr. Jana Morgan.  
Department of Political Science  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

May 2010-August 2010

Duties: collected secondary data relating to gender relations in indigenous religions, coded and organized data, draft writing (in progress)

Temporary Research Assistant  
The Cornerstone Foundation, Knoxville, TN

October 2007-December 2007

Duties: Conducted a wide-range, intensive literature review of social capital, city planning, demographic, and community development research for a philanthropic organization in order to assist Director Laurens Tullock complete a bi-annual board report.

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

Melissa Buice and Amanda Sanford. “What Happened in Rwanda? Women’s Socio-Political Roles in Post-Crisis Recovery.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Tennessee Political Science Association, April 21, 2012, Nashville, TN.

Melissa Buice. “Teaching Latin American Politics: Lessons and Challenges in the Contemporary Political Landscape.” Paper prepared for the Midwest Model United Nations Faculty Conference, February 15-18, 2012, St. Louis, MO.

Jana Morgan and Melissa Buice. “Latin American Attitudes about Women in Politics: Gendered Cues, Social Structures, and Individual Experiences.” Invited presentation at the Miami Consortium for Latin American and Caribbean Studies, Conference on Marginalization in the Americas, University of Miami and Florida International University, October, 2011, Miami, Florida. (Presentation made by Jana Morgan)

Melissa Buice. “Is Voting ‘Gay’? The Determinants of Voting Among LGB Voters.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, March 31-April 2, 2011, Chicago, IL.

Jana Morgan and Melissa Buice. “Latin American Attitudes about Women in Politics: Gendered Cues, Social Structures and Individual Experiences.” Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 22-25, 2010, Chicago, IL.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Graduate Senate Representative to Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgendered Chancellor’s Commission (appointed), 2012-2013

Comparative Government and Politics Representative, Political Science Graduate Student Association (elected), 2009-2013

Invited Speaker, POLS 594, Teaching Political Science, Fall 2009, Fall 2010

Volunteer Speaker, FYS 129, First Year Studies, Sex on Campus, Spring 2013

### **OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE**

Graduate Assistant to Dr. Michael Handelsman May 2010  
Department of Modern Foreign Languages  
University of Tennessee, Knoxville

Duties: Organized and facilitated annual Latin American Film Institute, provided technical support and event coordination

Lived and traveled throughout Mexico August 2003-December 2006

Studied under various private Spanish tutors and developed conversational fluency in the language

### **AWARDS**

Departmental Teaching Award for Graduate Teaching Associates 2012

McClure Fellowship for Study Abroad 2011

Received \$4700 from university-wide fellowship for preliminary field research in La Paz, Bolivia

Political Science grant for field research in Latin America 2011

Received \$1000 from Department of Political Science for field research in La Paz, Bolivia

### **MEMBERSHIPS IN PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

American Political Science Association

Midwest Political Science Association

### **OTHER SKILLS**

Fluency in Spanish (reading, writing, and conversation)

Proficiency in statistical data computing software: SPSS and STATA