

Debra Horner

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CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, Ann Arbor, Michigan

Center for Local, State, and Urban Policy, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy

Senior Program Manager for the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS), Fall 2008- present
Coordinates biannual statewide survey of Michigan local government officials. Responsibilities include high level leadership for all phases of the research, from initial survey planning through field operations, data management, archiving, analysis and dissemination; survey planning and questionnaire design; gathering, processing and managing data and related documentation; overseeing interactions with respondents and stakeholders; conducting data analysis and authorship of memos, briefs, and reports; and making presentations on survey findings to a wide variety of stakeholders.

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN, Ann Arbor, Michigan

PhD, Department of Political Science, August 2007

Major Field: American Politics

Focus on Political Participation, Political Psychology, and Public Opinion

First Minor Field: Public Policy

Focus on Organization Theory and Policy Implementation

Second Minor Field: Research Methods

Quantitative and Qualitative Methodologies

Dissertation Title: *Rethinking Political Interest & Its Role in Participation*

Dissertation Committee: Dr. Vincent Hutchings and Dr. Martha Feldman (co-chairs), Dr. Gregory Markus, Dr. Lloyd Sandelands (external member, Department of Psychology)

FLORIDA STATE UNIVERSITY, Tallahassee, Florida

Master of Science in Political Science, December 1992

DUKE UNIVERSITY, Durham, North Carolina

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and History, May 1991

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

PS399 UM Political Science Department's Political Internship Program. Winter, Summer, and Fall terms, 2007 - present. Coordination with community organizations, political, and judicial/legal offices statewide to place and supervise undergraduates in internship positions. Full responsibility for course content, instruction, and grading.

PS496 Michigan Politics and Policy. Fall 2018 and Fall 2016. Developed new course on Michigan Politics, crosslisted with Ford School of Public Policy. Full responsibility for course content, instruction, and grading.

PubPol578 Applied Policy Course in the Master's Program for the Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy. Fall 2009. Full responsibility for course content, instruction, and grading.

PS311 American Political Processes: Public Opinion and Elections in the U.S. Winter 2004. Full responsibility for course content, instruction, and grading.

ENG125 Freshman Writing Course entitled "Political Participation." Winter 2002. Full responsibility for course content, instruction, and grading. Emphasis on the teaching of collegiate writing skills.

PROFESSIONAL PAPERS AND WORK IN PROGRESS

Extensive series of 100+ policy reports from 2009-present, co-authored with other CLOSUP staff as part of the Michigan Public Policy Survey (MPPS) research program: <https://closup.umich.edu/michigan-public-policy-survey/publications>

Recent examples include:

[Half of Michigan local law enforcement agencies say they are underfunded, while most local governments are satisfied with their appropriations \(January 2025\)](#)

[Michigan local leaders' views on policing co-response and alternative response teams \(February 2025\)](#)

[Michigan local government leaders report significant increases in police surveillance technology, uncertainty about AI introduction \(April 2025\)](#)

[More Michigan communities using policies to improve police-community relations \(May 2025\)](#)

[Michigan local government and law enforcement leaders' nuanced views on police accountability issues \(July 2025\)](#)

[A majority of Michigan local officials continue to say the state is on the wrong track, reflecting partisan affiliation and growing uncertainty \(July 2025\)](#)

[Many Michigan communities concerned about the loss of federal and state funding, but uncertain how to prepare \(August 2025\)](#)

Horner, Debra. "Expanding the Measurement of Political Interest." paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2005.

Feldman, Martha, Kaj Skoldberg, Ruth Nicole Brown, Debra Horner. 2004. "Making Sense of Stories: A Rhetorical Approach to Narrative Analysis." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory*, 14:2, pp.147-170.

Horner, Debra. "Understanding the Meaning(s) of Political Interest." paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2004.

Feldman, Martha, Nicole Ruth Brown, and Debra Horner. "Change and Changing: How Change Processes Give Meaning to Change Plans" paper presented at the 8th National Public Management Research Conference, October 2003.

Horner, Debra. "You've Got My Attention: Campaign Messages and Political Interest." paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2002.

Horner, Debra. "What Do You Mean By Political Interest?" paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 2001.

Horner, Debra. "Critiquing Measures of Political Interest: The Separate Dimensions of Interest in Local and National Politics," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 2000.

Horner, Debra. "Marginalization, Indifference, or Protest?: White Constituents' Response To Majority-Minority Congressional Districts," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 1999.

ADDITIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Political Interest Study, Spring and Summer 2004

Designed and directed nationwide telephone survey conducted by local public opinion firm as part of primary data collection for dissertation research.

Rhetorical Analysis of Political Stories with Martha Feldman, Fall 2000-Summer 2002

Collaborated on analysis of interview data in the study of organizational change and helped to develop innovative method for analyzing qualitative data.

Detroit Area Study (DAS), Interviewer, Winter 2000

Conducted CAPI interviews in respondents' homes as part of the DAS study containing embedded experiments on media effects and turnout recall.

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Data Analysis, Inc. *Project Director.* Bloomfield Hills, MI. May 1992- September 1996.

Created and developed a variety of telephone and mail survey instruments. Wrote and tested CATI code on proprietary software. Trained and supervised telephone interviewers. Analyzed statistical data and generated reports for clients at Ford Motor Company. Collaborated in the development of an internal "best practices" manual for variety of survey research methods.

CIVIC AFFAIRS

City of Birmingham's Permanent Environmental Sustainability Committee, 2025-present

Vice Chair, City of Birmingham's Ad Hoc Environmental Sustainability Committee, 2023-2024

Voter Service volunteer and Voter Guide Coordinator, League of Women Voters Oakland Area (LWVOA), 2004-present