

Winston C. G. Berg

Department of Political Science, the University of Chicago
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Conspiracy theories, misinformation, public opinion, political epistemology, American politics

EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Department of Political Science 2017 — Present
Doctor of Philosophy

Dissertation: *Secrets Known Only to Inner Elites: the Epistemic Politics of QAnon*
Committee: Lisa Wedeen (Chair), William Howell, Joseph Masco, Kathleen Belew

University of Chicago, Committee on International Relations 2014 — 2016
Master of Arts in International Relations

George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs 2010 — 2013
Bachelor of Arts in International Affairs

PUBLICATIONS

Berg, Winston. “The Origins of the ‘Deep State’ Trope.” Forthcoming, *Critical Review*.

SELECTED WORKS IN PROGRESS

“The Infrastructure of Conspiracy Theory: how QAnon conspiracy theorists hack elite messaging.” Working paper.
“Exposure Without Trust: QAnon conspiracy theorists’ media consumption behaviors.” Working paper.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

“MAGA” and “Conspiracy Theories and the 2020 Election,” in *The Encyclopedia of American Political Parties and Elections*, 3rd Edition. Infobase Publishing. 2022.

TEACHING

Instructor, Undergraduates

Conspiracy Theories and the Social Sciences (Winter 2024)
Power and the Presidency (Summer 2021)
Self, Culture and Society III (Spring 2021, two sections)
Power and the Presidency (Summer 2020)
Self, Culture and Society I (Fall 2020)

Teaching Assistant

Self, Culture and Society (Fall 2019, Winter & Spring 2020)

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Provost’s Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Social Science Division, University of Chicago 2023 (\$5000)
Grodzins Prize Lectureship, University of Chicago 2023 (\$2000)
Data & Democracy Exploratory Grant, Center for Effective Government, University of Chicago 2023 (\$10000)
Best Graduate Student Paper, Ideas, Knowledge and Politics Section, APSA 2022
Social Sciences Fellowship, University of Chicago, 2017-present
Rebecca A. Boylan and Thomas W. Sidlik Fund Grant, University of Chicago, 2015-2016
Committee on International Relations Second-Year Specialization Fellowship, 2015-2016

PRESENTATIONS

“Exposure Without Trust: QAnon conspiracy theorists’ media consumption behaviors.” the Politics of Misinformation, MPSA 2024

- “Knowing (with) the Enemy: How QAnon Conspiracy Theorists Hack Elite Messaging.” Information and Democracy, APSA Virtual Meeting 2024
- “The Infrastructure of Conspiracy Theories” Colloquium for the European Society of Criminology Working Group on Radicalization, Extremism, and Terrorism 2024
- “Expertise and Epistemic Strategy in the QAnon Community,” Extreme Political Groups and their Online Networks, MPSA 2023
- “The ‘Deep State’ Trope and the Origins of Conspiracy Culture,” The Late-20th Century Organization and Interrelation of Right and Far Right Ideology, OAH 2023
- “Knowing with the Enemy: Epistemic Strategy Beyond Belief in the QAnon Community,” Political Theory Workshop, University of Chicago 2023
- “The Ideological Origins of Deep State Conspiracy Theories,” The Coherence of Political Beliefs & Ideologies, APSA 2022
- “Conspiracy Theory Is Political Theory,” Theoretical Encounters With Democracy, MPSA 2022
- “The QAnon Archipelago,” U.S. Locations Workshop, University of Chicago 2022
- “Belonging and Identity in Far-Right Webforums.” 20th Annual Chicago Ethnography Conference, University of Chicago 2018
- “Cycle.” Scaling Forms: Dialogues Across Disciplines, University of Chicago 2016

SERVICE

Webmaster, Interpretive Methodologies and Methods, APSA Related Group, 2023 — Present
 Awards Committee Member, Ideas, Knowledge and Politics Organized Section, APSA 2023

EMPLOYMENT

Senior Analyst, Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism, University of Chicago, 2016 — 2017

SKILLS

Programming: Python, R, L^AT_EX
Languages: Marathi

REFERENCES

Prof. Lisa Wedeen
Department of Political Science
University of Chicago
 lwedeen@uchicago.edu

Prof. William Howell
Department of Political Science
University of Chicago
 whowell@uchicago.edu

Prof. Joseph Masco
Department of Anthropology
University of Chicago
 jmasco@uchicago.edu

Prof. Linda Zerilli
Department of Political Science
University of Chicago
 lmgzerilli@uchicago.edu