

Christopher Pearson

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Christopher Pearson is a PhD candidate at the University of Washington in the Jackson School of International Studies. He studies Japanese Politics, with a focus on electoral cooperation since the 1994 electoral law reforms. More broadly his research interests include Japan's political-economy, electoral systems, and rational choice theory.

EDUCATION

University of Washington, PhD Candidate in International Studies (Japanese Politics), 2014-Present

- Writing dissertation on pre-election cooperation in Japanese politics
- Research interested include political economy of Japan, electoral systems and rational choice theory
- Primary research field: States, Markets & Societies
- Secondary Research Field: Peace, Violence & Security

New York University, MA in East Asian Studies (Japan Studies), 2011-2013

- Wrote MA Thesis on contemporary Japanese politics—in particular the 2005 and 2012 elections
- Studied the 3-11 nuclear crisis in Japan, nuclear proliferation, and East Asian metropolises
- Also studied political economy and selectorate theory

Trinity College, BA in Philosophy with Honors, 2003-2007

- Wrote undergraduate thesis on the Leibniz-Newton debate on the nature of space
- Focused on Greek, Rationalist and Analytic Philosophy
- Completed the Guided Studies Program in European Civilization

SKILLS

Statistical Software

- R-Studio, STATA and SPSS

Productivity Software

- Power Point, Excel, Microsoft Word and Zotero

Languages

- Japanese (Advanced—Passed Japanese Proficiency Test N2), Chinese (intermediate)

Social Media

- Can use them effectively if necessary, but view as distractions

REFEREES

Professor Robert Pekkanen

- Dissertation Committee Chair from the Jackson School of International Studies
- E-Mail: pekkanen@uw.edu

Professor Donald Hellmann

- Dissertation Committee Member from the Jackson School of International Studies
- E-Mail: hellmann@uw.edu

Professor Edgar Kiser

- Dissertation Committee Member from the Sociology Department
- E-Mail: kiser@uw.edu

CURRENT RESEARCH

- Christopher Pearson is writing his dissertation on electoral cooperation in Japan since 1994. He is looking to answer how and why political parties cooperate in Japan. His research primarily aims to take a historical approach similar to Ray Christensen (1999) and Steven Johnson (2000) that also incorporates insights from the theoretical literature on electoral

cooperation. Christopher Pearson uses a mixed methods approach, primarily employing qualitative methods for exploring how and why political parties cooperate, while using quantitative methods for measure how effective this cooperation has been.

PRIOR RESEARCH

- For his Master's Thesis at New York University, Christopher Pearson wrote on the popularity of third party candidates in the 2012 election, and their relationship to the popularity of PM Junichiro Koizumi from the Liberal Democratic Party. His research found that third party candidates were more popular in districts where the Liberal Democratic Party's performance had improved under Koizumi.
- While at New York University, Christopher Pearson also studied the 3-11 Fukushima Nuclear Crisis, with a focus on causes, risk assessment, and the trade-offs associated with nuclear energy.

FURTHER RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Interested in the interplay between campaign organization and populism. Half of the study would look at cases where these two forces are opposed: comparing the susceptibility of districts where large shares of the vote are organized vs districts where only a small share is. The second part will look at cases where they are working together: looking at how populism helps build these organizations and the extent of any synergy between the two.
- Would like to revisit early research on nuclear energy in Japan—looking at the effect of shuttering Japan's nuclear plants on energy prices and greenhouse emissions; the expansion of geothermal, solar and wind energy; changes in nuclear energy practices; the changed politics of plant construction and the new politics of plant restarts.

TEACHING

- Has worked as an English Teacher in Japanese and Korean public schools
- Has also worked at a private English School in Taiwan where he tutored a student with severe attention deficit syndrome
- Was a teaching assistant at Trinity College for a Modern European History course

FUNDING

- Recipient of the Top Scholar Award at the Jackson School of Independent Studies for 2014-2015 academic year
- Received a FLAS scholarship for Japanese language for 2015-2016 academic year