

Scott J. Basinger, Ph.D., University of California, San Diego.

Dr. Basinger is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of Houston. Prior to joining the University of Houston faculty, he spent seven years on the faculty of SUNY in Stony Brook, New York, and one year as a research fellow at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California.

Dr. Basinger's research explores the question of what constitutes a suitable model for various political phenomena. This interest can manifest in game-theoretical questions, such as whether the "race to the bottom" as states use tax policies to compete for corporate investments should be modeled as a prisoner's dilemma or as a tournament. This interest also can manifest in statistical questions, such as whether possibly-endogenous regressors present special problems in identifying parameters in systems of equations. This issue is particularly important whenever political actors are recognized to be strategic. For example, Dr. Basinger has studied how students of congressional elections inaccurately attribute causal importance to candidates' electoral experience, due to inappropriate statistical assumptions (in particular, assuming the exogeneity of "quality" challenges).

Dr. Basinger's recent projects address diverse topics, including partisan realignments, voter behavior, campaign effects, political psychology, and Senate confirmation of federal judicial nominees. He has published in *American Political Science Review*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, and the *Journal of Law, Economics, & Organization*, among other journals. He has also written editorials that have been published in *Newsday*, among other papers.

Dr. Basinger teaches courses in mathematical methods, game theory, experimental and quasi-experimental methodology, and American politics.

Dr. Basinger is married to Elizabeth; they met as students at the University of California, Los Angeles, and are passionate supporters of the UCLA basketball and football teams. Scott and Beth have two sons, ages 4 and 8, who are obsessed with Legos and the *Indiana Jones* and *Star Wars* movies and video games. "Coach Scott" enjoys coaching youth soccer, as well as playing competitive soccer, attending Dynamo games at Robertson Stadium, and watching Liverpool FC games on television. He is an ordained elder in the Presbyterian Church (USA).