

Peter Bills

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Academic Positions

Vanderbilt University
Assistant Professor of Political Science and Economics

Nashville, TN
July 2020–present

Princeton University
Postdoctoral Research Associate

Princeton, NJ
July 2018–July 2020

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Rochester, 2018

B.A. Economics and Government & Politics, University of Maryland — College Park, 2012

Publications

"The Logic of Secret Alliances," with Bradley C. Smith. 2026. *American Journal of Political Science*. 70(3): 1062-1076.

"Policy Gambles and Valence in Elections," with Federica Izzo. 2025. *Games and Economic Behavior*. 153: 523-540.

"Fanatical Peace: How Fundamental Disagreements Can Discourage Conflict," with Richard Jordan and Kristopher Ramsay. 2025. *Journal of Politics*. 87(3): 1094-1107.

"Policymaking and Appointments under Electoral and Judicial Constraints," with Gleason Judd and Bradley C. Smith. 2024. *Journal of Politics*, 86(3): 968-982.

"Strategic Avoidance and Rulemaking Procedures," with Robert J. Carroll and Lawrence S. Rothenberg. 2024. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 36(2): 156-185.

"Overreacting and Posturing: How Ideology and Accountability Shape Executive Policy Responses." 2023. *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 18(2): 153-182.

"Lobbying and Policy Extremism in Repeated Elections," with John Duggan and Gleason Judd. 2021. *Journal of Economic Theory*, 193: 105223.

"Policymaking with Multiple Agencies." 2020. *American Journal of Political Science*, 64(3): 634-648.

"The Amicus Game," with Lawrence S. Rothenberg and Bradley C. Smith. 2020. *Journal of Politics*, 82(3): 1113-1126.

"Stall Wars: When Do States Fight to Hold onto the Status Quo?," with Gleason Judd and William Spaniel. 2020. *International Studies Quarterly*, 64(3): 523-529

"Slow to Learn: Bargaining, Uncertainty, and the Calculus of Conquest," with William Spaniel. 2018. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 62(4): 774-796.

"Policy Bargaining and Militarized Conflict," with William Spaniel. 2017. *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 29(4): 647-678.

Working Papers

"Ideological Infection," with Federica Izzo. Conditionally accepted at *American Political Science Review*.

"Working for the Revolving Door," with Gleason Judd. Revise and resubmit at *American Journal of Political Science*.

"Policy Anchors, Voter Behavior, and the Dynamics of Party Platforms," with Steven Callander and Federica Izzo. Revise and resubmit at *Journal of Politics*.

In Progress

"Group Sorting in Hierarchies," with Nicolas Bonneton.

"When to Act on Information? Intelligence Breakthroughs and Reputation," with Gleason Judd and Bradley C. Smith.

"Policy Attitudes, Moral Reasoning, and Partisan Affect," with Scott Abramson and Federica Izzo.

Teaching

(PSCI 2259/5259) Political Strategy & Game Theory, Vanderbilt University, Fall 2021, 2024; Spring 2026

(PSCI 8364) Formal Political Theory II Vanderbilt University, Fall 2026; Spring 2021, 2023, 2025

(ECON 3012) Microeconomics, Vanderbilt University, Spring 2021, 2022, 2023; Fall 2022, 2025

(ECON 8000) Mathematics for Economists, Vanderbilt University, Fall 2020, 2024

(PSCI 2279) Logic of Politics, Vanderbilt University, Spring 2022

(POL 502) Mathematics for Political Science, Princeton University, Fall 2018

(PSC 105) Introduction to American Politics, University of Rochester, Summer 2017

Other

Refereeing: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *Econometrica*, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *World Politics*, *International Interactions*, *Games & Economic Behavior*, *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Economic Behavior & Organization*, *The Economic Journal*, *Political Science Research & Methods*, *Social Choice and Welfare*, *International Organization*, *AEJ: Microeconomics*, *Journal of Economic Theory*

Presentations: University of Bologna PE Workshop (2026), University of Chicago Harris (2026), RBI Conference (2026), IE-Rochester Workshop on PE (2025), APEN Conference (2024), NBER Summer Institute (2024), NYU (2024), UCSD GPS (2023), Stanford GSB (2023), WUSTL American Politics Conference (2023), University of Chicago CEG American Politics Conference (2023), Virtual Formal Theory Workshop (2021), APSA Pre-Conference Frontiers on Money in Politics Research (2020), University of Pittsburgh (2019), Canadian Public Economics Group (2018), Emory-Duke-Rochester Political Economy Graduate Research Conference (2018). Wallis Summer Conference on Graduate Research (2017)

Conference Organizing: APSA Formal Theory Division (2027, co-chair), SITE Political Economy (2026, co-organizer), APSA Political Economy Division (2026, chair), Vanderbilt Formal Models of Institutions (2026, organizer), SPSA Bureaucratic Politics Division (2025, chair).