

Faculty Name Koopman, Doug

Dept. Political Science

Project Title The Once and Future Republican Party in the United States: Exploring a Politics of Localism

Project Abstract This project will undertake the first steps in writing a series of articles, and potentially a later book-length manuscript, on the future of the Republican Party after its experiences with Donald Trump as a successful anti-establishment presidential candidate and now president and at least nominal leader of the Party. Political parties in the United States are the last and strongest vestige of the federalized and dispersed (to state and local levels) vision of government and policy making contemplated by the Founders of the nation. Whereas much of U.S. government policy has in the last two generations been centralized in Washington, D.C., and broadly accepted by the public in a "middle-of-the-road" consensus, this project suggests that consensus is breaking apart as the national government loses credibility and problem solving capability, and as binding social institutions exert less power on the American people. This project starts from a far different point, exploring the regionalism, localism, and tribalism of political parties and the voting population. It will explore the literature such as that by Colin Woodard on 11 separate regional political culture, and more complicated analyses of American such as the Pew Research Center's 8-fold political typology of Americans. The goal is a more nuanced analysis of, and potentially advice to, the more conservative of the two major parties in the United States.

Project Outcome Planned outcomes (in rough priority)

1. With the right student, an early-summer presentation with Prof. Koopman at the Christians in Political Science (CPS) Conference in early June at Covenant College in Lookout Mountain, Georgia. For this to work, the student might have to start a week earlier.
2. A finished article submitted for publication in a peer-reviewed journal, by sometime in late summer 2018.
3. Development of a "Reforming the Republican Party" website as part of the professor's academic website.
4. Potentially presentation at a regional conference in fall 2018, if the student is on campus.
5. Presentation of a paper or poster session in spring 2019, at the Midwest PSA in Chicago in April (or some other venue).
6. Completion of a full book proposal to a respectable publishing house.