

# Thomas Clark Durant, Ph.D.

## Contact Information

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Economics Department  
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## Education

George Mason University, Ph.D. in Economics (2007)  
George Mason University, M.A. in Economics (2005)  
Stanford University, B.A. in Comparative Literature (2002)

## Dissertation

Title: “Three Papers on Reciprocating Elections.”  
Committee: Tyler Cowen (chair), Pete Boettke, Rob Axtell, Mike Munger

## Fields of Specialization

Political Economy  
Behavioral Economics

## Academic Publications

*Papers Under Review:*

“Making Reciprocity Matter in Electoral Politics.” Under review at *Economics & Politics*.

*Working Papers:*

“How the *Wish* to Win Makes Politics More Myopic: Neglected Implications of Partisan Optimism Bias.”

“Harnessing Hypocrisy to Tame Hubris: How to Make Perception of Bias in the Opposition Limit the Effects of Bias in the Ruling Coalition.”

## **Academic Presentations**

“Lowering the Stakes of Electoral Conflict.” Presented at the Midwestern Political Science Association meeting, Chicago, April 2009.

“Electoral Turn-Taking, Reciprocity, Generality and Limited Government: the Hayek-Buchanan Vision by Other Means.” Presented at the Public Choice Society meeting, Las Vegas, March 2009.

“Madisonian Mechanisms versus Turn-Taking Mechanisms: Dividing Power Concurrently versus Serially.” Presented at *Praxis*, the political economy club at Hillsdale College, November 2008.

“Coping with Mass Ignorance and Elite Dogmatism in Large Electoral Democracies.” Presented at the Colloquium on Institutions and Market Processes, New York University, September 2008.

“Consensus Make or Else Turn Take: Lowering the Stakes of Electoral Conflict with the Carry-Over Vote.” Presented at the Public Choice Society Conference, San Antonio, April 2008.

“A Republican Remedy for the Republican Disease.” Presented at the Colloquium on Institutions and Market Processes, New York University, September 2007.

“To Rule and Be Ruled In Turns: How to Grow a Turn-Taking Structure from a Majoritarian Electoral Process.” Seminar, Center for Social Complexity, Krasnow Institute for Advanced Study, George Mason University, Fairfax, VA, March 2, 2007.

“The Fall of Communism and the Rise of Starbucks.” Presented at the Public Choice Society Conference, New Orleans, March 2006.

## **Academic Positions**

New York University, Economics Department, Adjunct Professor

“Behavioral Economics” (Spring 2008, Spring 2009) – Master’s level

“Economic Analysis of Politics” (Fall 2007, Fall 2008) – Master’s level

George Mason University, Economics Department, Lecturer

“Intermediate Microeconomics” (Fall 2005)

### **Academic Awards and Fellowships**

Searle Foundation Fellow, New York University  
Fellowship for academic years, 2008 – 2010

Bradley Fellow, New York University  
Fellowship for academic year, 2007 – 2008

Earhart Fellow, New York University  
Fellowship for academic year, 2007 – 2008

Humane Studies Fellow, Institute for Humane Studies  
Fellowship for academic year, 2006 - 2007

Cortopassi Fellow, Mercatus Center  
Fellowship for academic year, 2006 - 2007

Earhart Fellow, Mercatus Center  
Fellowship for academic year, 2005 - 2006

Earhart Fellow, Mercatus Center  
Fellowship for academic year, 2004 - 2005

James Buchanan Center Fellow, George Mason University  
Fellowship for academic year, 2003 - 2004

### **Professional Development**

Participant, Uplift Academy Workshop, “Resilience and the Good Ancestor Principle.” San Diego, CA, February 21-23, 2008.

Participant, Donors Trust Colloquium, “Virtue and Happiness.” Indianapolis, IN, September 20-23, 2007.

Participant, Uplift Academy Workshop, “Anticipation and the Good Ancestor Principle.” San Diego, CA, February 3-5, 2007.

Participant, Liberty Fund Colloquium, “Federalism and Constitutions,” Washington, DC, November 17-19, 2006.

Participant, Liberty Fund Colloquium, “The Wolf by the Ear: Symposium in the American Experience,” Park City, Utah, June 29-July 2, 2006.

Participant, Liberty Fund Colloquium, “Understanding Liberty and Responsibility on the Frontier: Economics, History and Literature,” San Diego,

California, February 2-5, 2006.

Participant, Liberty Fund Colloquium, “Greek Speculative Reason and the Creative Powers of a Free Civilization,” Tucson, Arizona, January 5-8, 2006.

**Professional Activities**

Referee, Public Choice

Last Updated: October 2009