

**BASIL ANTHONY SMIKLE JR., PhD**

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**EDUCATION**

**Columbia University**

**Ph.D.**, Education and Politics 2019

Research Interests: Urban education policy, policy analysis, urban affairs, campaigns and elections

Dissertation: *Regimes, Reform and Race: The Politics of Charter School Growth and Sustainability in Harlem*

Committee Chair, Amy Wells, PhD. Dissertation Advisor, Jeffrey Henig, PhD

**M.P.A.** Concentration in Urban Policy, 1996

**Cornell University**

**B.S.** Industrial and Labor Relations, Concentration in Labor Law, 1993

**Awards**

- Recognized by New York State Governor Andrew Cuomo and State Comptroller Tom DiNapoli for a commitment to public service and education
- Award for Community Service from the New York Urban League
- Weinberg Fellowship
- David T. Kearns Fellowship
- Fellow, Institute for Urban and Minority Education
- SIPA Departmental Fellowship
- Public Affairs Research Fellowship
- Cornell University Community Service Award

**Select Conferences and Panel Discussions**

Moderator, *Building Trust Between Police and Communities with New York State Attorney General Letitia James and State's Attorney for Baltimore City, Marilyn Mosby*

Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, July 2020

Moderator, *Congressional Panel on Race & Justice in America*

Cornell University Institute of Politics and Global Affairs, June 2020

Panelist, *Election 2020: A Bipartisan Update on the Presidential State of Play*

Cornell University Institute of Politics and Global Affairs, June 2020

Presenter, *Discussion on the Politics of Police Reform*

Columbia University School of International and Public Affairs, June 2020

Discussant, *Making up our Mind: What School Choice Is Really About*

Teachers College Book Talk, November 2019

Moderator, *Medicare for All and its Competitors*

CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies Panel, October 2019

Moderator, *21<sup>st</sup> Century Civics*

Teachers College Academic Festival, April 2018

Panelist, *Awakening Democracy: Global Populism and Political Power*

Columbia University, January 2018

Co-Author: *Race, Place and Authenticity: The Politics of Charter Schools in Harlem*

American Political Science Association Conference, June 2014

Discussant, *"Harlem Stories: Contesting Educational Goals and Strategies for Reform in the 20th Century"*

American Education Research Association Conference, April 2014

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Distinguished Lecturer in Politics and Public Policy**

**CUNY School of Labor and Urban Studies (SLU)**

*January 2018 to December 2019*

Formerly the Murphy Institute, SLU investigates the challenges confronting poor and working-class populations in New York and across the country. As SLU's first Distinguished Lecturer, I collaborated with other units of CUNY to support a range of degree and certificate programs.

- Taught required courses in Policy Analysis and Urban Public Management
- Recruited students via public campaigns and events
- Designed an education policy course that ties City and State education reforms to parent and teacher mobilization
- Served on scholarship committees
- Assisted with the design and implementation of a civic engagement course
- Advised students on academic and career goals
- Supervised capstone projects

### **Adjunct Lecturer**

#### **Columbia University**

##### **Teachers College**

*Fall 2018 to Present*

Teach a required introductory course called *Education and Public Policy* designed to provide students with a broad overview of policies, political trends and reform movements that shaped K-12 public education in the United States.

#### **Columbia University**

##### **School of International and Public Affairs (SIPA)**

*Public Sector Marketing Strategic Planning and Communication*

*Spring 2008-Present*

Adapted an existing elective course to include topics in CSR, crisis management, political psychology, and agenda-setting in public policy. Discussions and case studies incorporate media framing, targeting and messaging techniques. Received teaching awards in 2010 and 2012.

*Political Campaigns and Civil Rights*

*Fall 2006-2008*

Designed and taught a new course that examined the tactics and narratives used in political campaigns in a post-civil rights era. Major themes and discussion topics included the role of race in political campaigns for office, the presence of race-neutral or race-specific policies in elections, and the subsequent impact on governance. Lectures and readings also addressed changes in the electorate during and since the civil rights movement and multiple cohorts of black political representation.

**City University of New York**

**Murphy Institute for Labor and Urban Studies**

*Fall 2007-2018*

Previously taught required courses *Government and the Politics of Policy-Making*, *Public Policy Analysis*, *Public Administration*, *Advanced Practices in Public Administration* and *Fieldwork and Community Organizing* and elective graduate courses in *Education Policy* and *Research Methods*.

**PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

**Political & Policy Consultant-Basil Smikle Associates LLC**

*September 2003-Present*

President of an eponymous firm that advises private and public sector clients on nonprofit communications and marketing, urban education policy, and political mobilization. Developed strategies for media, elected and community leader engagement, and donor relations.

- Advised the 2009 reelection of Michael Bloomberg for NYC Mayor
- Organized and trained parents with children in charter schools
- Worked with the Clinton Foundation to organize events around HIV/AIDS clinic openings in Africa
- Designed and implemented Columbia University's early community and political outreach for their expansion
- Planned political rallies and events with the DNC in multiple election cycles
- Ran local grassroots campaigns for parent awareness of mature content in video games
- Organized small business support for an extension of net neutrality
- Advised candidates for elected office
- Successful lobbyist

**Executive Director, New York State Democratic Party**

*April 2015-December 2018*

While Executive Director and the "second highest ranking Democrat" in New York State, I collaborated with the State Chair and Governor Andrew Cuomo to manage strategic and fundraising activities for the State Democratic Party, which included a multi-million dollar fundraising operation and authority over the operating budget

- Recruited candidates for political office and supported election activities of candidates across the State; Coordinated consultants and field staff in target districts
- Implemented Party-building technology and digital platforms
- Managed relationships with over 400 elected committee members, Members of Congress, both US Senators, Mayors and elected leaders
- Worked closely with the Democratic National Committee to create national partnerships
- Represented the Democratic Party on local and national television
- Flipped multiple legislative and county-wide seats, laying the foundation for the change in State Senate leadership and 3 Congressional seats in the 2018 midterms from Republican to Democratic representation
- Elected to serve as a member of the 2016 New York State Electoral College

**Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton**

*January 2001-September 2003*

### ***Deputy State Director***

Joined her Senate staff after working on her first campaign in 2000; Advised Senator Clinton on state-wide policy and politics

- Acted as the Senator's liaison with labor, elected and community leaders throughout New York State
- Coordinated Senator Clinton's policy initiatives and projects with relevant legislative staff; Co-managed seven offices in New York
- Consulted on funding of State-wide projects to be included in federal appropriations requests
- Supported projects such as creation of the High Line in New York City, the founding of the Eagle Academy Public Schools, and health tracking for first responders after 9/11.

### **Bronx Borough President Fernando Ferrer**

*June 1996 – December 2000*

#### ***Special Assistant for Budget and Policy***

Made recommendations to the Borough President on capital and discretionary spending impacting 1.5 million Bronx residents

- Drafted positions on City-wide policy issues including housing, education and economic development
- Managed Executive Office staff including administrative and legal personnel
- Identified community-based projects for funding
- Budget and policy analysis led to repair and renovations of local parks, enhancement of business improvement districts in the borough, and tenant advocacy for residents in affordable housing

### **SELECT ARTICLES & BOOK REVIEWS**

- Clio: Newsletter of Politics and History (APSA) Opinion [\*Courting Black Voters in 2020: What the Candidates should Know about an Increasingly Diverse Community\*](#). Volume 29, Issue 1 (Winter 2019/2020)
- The Hill Opinion: [Trump's criminal justice reform record fraught with contradictions](#) October 30, 2019
- The Hill: [Democrats fear Trump could win despite impeachment](#), December 19, 2019
- NBC News Opinion: [Why Democratic candidates can't succeed in using Trump's style against him](#) September 18, 2019
- New York Daily News Opinion: [Does Biden have a race problem?](#) September 17, 2019
- New York Daily News Opinion: [Democrats can deliver for charters](#): November, 28, 2018
- The Hill Opinion: [Solving Minority Underrepresentation in STEM Careers. March 6, 2015](#)
- New York Journal of Books: [Vanishing New York: How a Great City Lost its Soul](#)
- New York Journal of Books: [Defying the Odds: The 2016 Elections and American Politics](#)
- New York Journal of Books: [Democracy: A Case Study](#)
- New York Journal of Books: [Who Gets In?: Strategies for Fair and Effective College Admissions](#)

### **SELECT TELEVISION APPEARANCES**

[Click here for additional TV appearances and panel discussions](#)

- [Biden's new polling](#), MSNBC June 19, 2020
- [Biden and grassroots Democrats: MSNBC](#) February 15, 2020
- [Comments on the Iowa Caucuses Good Day New York-Fox5 News](#): February 4, 2020
- [Pelosi stands firm: MSNBC](#): January 13, 2020
- [Bullock and Bloomberg on Guns MSNBC](#): December 2, 2020
- [NBC News Now: Inside Biden and Trump's exchanges on impeachment](#) October 10, 2019
- [Gun Debate: MSNBC Hardball](#) September 4, 2019
- ["Public Charge" controversy: MSNBC Deadline White House](#): August 14, 2019
- [Comments on Impeachment: MSNBC](#) June 13, 2019
- [Reparations debate: MSNBC](#)

- [Biden, Sanders and 2020 candidates: BloombergTV](#)
- [An expert from the left and right debate progressive policy: CNBC March 27, 2019](#)
- [Trump attacks Mueller probe at CPAC: MSNBC March 4, 2019](#)
- [2020 Presidential Candidates: CBSN January 2019](#)
- [Awakening Democracy: Global Populism and Political Power- Columbia University Panel](#)
- [Which Democrats best to take on Trump in 2020: CNN November 24, 2018](#)
- [Brett Kavanaugh nomination: MSNBC October 1, 2018](#)
- [GOP and Dem analysts see future of more political parties: August 4, 2018](#)
- [Voter Fraud Debate, CNN July 4, 2017](#)

**[Visit www.BasilSmikle.com for additional opinions, quotes and on-camera appearances](http://www.BasilSmikle.com)**

## **AFFILIATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS**

Cornell University Institute of Politics and Global Affairs Alumni Advisory Board Member

Founding Board Member, Harlem Hebrew Academy Charter School

Board Member, New York City Charter School Center

American Education Research Association

American Political Science Association

Urban Affairs Association

Alpha Phi Alpha Fraternity Inc.

Prince Hall Free & Accepted Masons, NY

100 Black Men of New York, Inc.