M. Kerby, “Combining the Hazards of Ministerial Appointment AND Ministerial Exit in the Canadian Federal Cabinet,” *CJPS* 44:3 (September 2011)

**Overview:**

* Cdn federal cabinet stands out among Westminster parliamentary systems because of large number of first-time ministers who are appointed without any previous parliamentary or political experience. No attempt yet been made to account for how Cdn PMs overcome the information deficit associated with appointing ministers with no experience. This paper examines survival rates of ministers in over 50 years to consider factors that contribute.

**Review:**

* Concept of Ministerial Duration: whatever their achievements and failings, the length of tenure of a minister gives some indication of ministerial success and is thus an important variable to analyze (Berlinski et al, 2007)
* Berlinaki et al also present the ministerial appointment process as a principal agent problem in which prime ministers must decide how much authority they are willing to delegate to their ministers
* PM is also constrained by the constitutional tradition and political necessity that demands a minimal (yet unspecified) level of geographic, linguistic, gender, and minority representation in cabinet in conjunction with high levels of legislator turnover that produces a selection pool of potential ministers who are inexperienced at both parliamentary and cabinet levels/

**Conclusion:**

* Article examines effects of expected ministerial duration on the chances that a potential minister will be appointed to cabinet
* The results demonstrate that predicted ministerial responsibility is positively related to ministerial appointment to the first cabinets of Diefenbaker’s, Clark’s, Mulroney’s and Harper’s governments
* Really awful article – major problems with the analysis