

# Ariel T. Méndez

1051 NW Stannium RD  
Bend, OR 97703  
(650) 776-1871 (mobile)

atmendez@gmail.com  
www.atmendez.com

## Education

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*Stanford University*, Stanford, CA

Ph.D. in Political Science

*June, 2016*

Dissertation Title: "Equal Opportunity for Political Influence in  
Democratic Problem-Solving."

Committee: Professors Josiah Ober, Joshua Cohen, and Rob Reich.

Exam Fields: Political theory and comparative politics

*Johns Hopkins University*, School of Advanced International Studies

Washington, DC and Bologna, Italy

M.A. in International Relations and International Economics

*2008*

*University of California, Santa Cruz*, Santa Cruz, CA

B.A. in Politics, Highest Honors in the Major

*2000*

Honors Thesis: "Protecting Civilians in Times of Armed Conflict"

## Areas of Specialization

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Normative democratic theory, democratic decision-making, equal opportunity,  
crowdsourcing, free speech, campaign finance, social justice.

## Publications

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"Quantifying the Unquantifiable: Why Regulating Lead Poisoning (and Other Public Health Threats) is so Hard." *The Bologna Center Journal of International Affairs*, Fall 2008 Special Issue on the Environment.

## Papers in Progress

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"The Meaning of 'Free' in Freedom of Speech: Justifications for limits on political expenditures."

"Why Companies Refrain from Gaming the Peer-to-Patent Crowdsourcing Project"

"The (Im)possibility of Internal Political Enemies: Applying Schmitt's concept of the political to domestic politics."

## Teaching Experience

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- Head Teaching Assistant, “Justice,” Professor Kristi Olson, Stanford University *Fall 2012*
- Teaching Assistant, “Ethics and Politics of Public Service,” Professor Tania Mitchell, Stanford University. *Winter 2012*
- Teaching Assistant, “Justice,” Instructor Tom Dougherty, Stanford University *Fall 2011*
- Teaching Assistant, “Justice,” Professor Joshua Cohen, Stanford University *Fall 2010*
- Lecturer, “Issues in Democratic Governance,” Ginnasio L. Galvani High School, Bologna, Italy. *October 2006 – April 2007*
- Co-Instructor, “Globalization Seminar,” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC *Summer 2003*
- Instructor, English Language Classes. Pacific Language Academy, Makinohara, Japan *Summer 1997*

## Conference Presentations

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- “The Unequal Force of the Better Argument.” Western Political Science Association Annual Conference, Seattle, WA *April 2014*
- “The Meaning of “Free” in Freedom of Speech: The theoretical justifications for limits on political expenditures.” Annual Graduate Conference in Political Theory, Harvard University *October 2011*
- “WikiDemocracy: How Wikis Can Improve Governance.” International Studies Association-West Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA *September 2008*

## Comments and Workshop Presentations

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- “Does the Egalitarian Rationale for Campaign Finance Reform Succeed?” Discussant for Ryan Pevnick, Stanford University, Political Theory Workshop. *November 2014*
- “Exporting Bootstraps: Aid Narratives and Grassroots NGOs.” Discussant for Allison Schnable. Stanford University, Philanthropy and Civil Society (PACS) Center Junior Scholars Forum. *June 2014*
- “From Rawlsian Autonomy to Sufficient Autonomy.” Discussant for Liam Shields. Stanford University, Political Theory Workshop. *October 2013*

“Impersonal Agreement and Personal Competition: How Peer to Patent benefits everyone in spite of strong competitive interests.” Stanford University, Philanthropy and Civil Society (PACS) Workshop. *April 2013*

“Free Market Fairness.” Discussant for John Tomasi. Stanford University, Political Theory Workshop. *April 2013*

“Type I and Type II Errors in Democratic Governance.” Stanford University, Philanthropy and Civil Society (PACS) Workshop *February 2012*

“Who Decides on Security?” Discussant for Aziz Rana. Stanford University, Political Theory Workshop. *December 2011*

“Electoral Money.” Stanford University, Philanthropy and Civil Society (PACS) Workshop. *May 2011*

“Do Ethnic Parties Threaten Democratic Stability?” Discussant for Kanchan Chandra. Stanford University, Comparative Politics Workshop. *May 2010*

## **Fellowships and Awards**

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Fellow, Diversifying Academia, Recruiting Excellence (DARE). Stanford University. *2013 – 2015*

Ph.D. Fellow, Philanthropy and Civil Society (PACS). Stanford University. *2012 – 2013*

Centennial Teaching Assistant Award, in recognition of outstanding record as a teaching assistant in the School of Humanities and Sciences. Stanford University. *2012*

Department of Political Science Graduate Student Fellowship. Stanford University. *2009 – 2013*

Fellow, Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education in the Social and Behavioral Sciences (EDGE-SBE). Stanford University. *2009 – present*

Program Fellowship, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS). *2006 – 2008*

ICE Award, first ever recipient for “Increasing Center Efficiency.” Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. *2003*

College Honors and University Merit Scholar. University of California, Santa Cruz.  
*1998 – 2000*

## **Service**

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Mentor underrepresented graduate students in social and behavioral sciences, Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education in the Social and Behavioral Sciences (EDGE-SBE).  
Stanford University. *Fall 2011 – Spring 2014*

Mentor one incoming graduate student each year, Political Science Department “Big Sib” Program. Stanford University. *Fall 2011 – Spring 2014*

Co-President, Political Science Graduate Student Association. Stanford University.  
*March 2012 – February 2013*

## **Work Experience**

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Events Coordinator. Center for Volunteer and Nonprofit Leadership, San Rafael, CA.  
*December 2004 – June 2006*

Program Assistant. Environmental Change and Security Program, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington, DC. *July 2001 – July 2004*

Intern, Council on Environmental Quality. The White House, Washington, DC.  
*September 1998 – December 1998*

## **References**

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**Josiah Ober** (Advisor)  
Professor of Political Science, Classics, and by courtesy, Philosophy

**Joshua Cohen** (Committee Member)  
Professor Emeritus of Political Science, Philosophy, and Law, Stanford University  
Faculty, Apple University

**Rob Reich** (Committee Member)  
Professor of Political Science, and by courtesy, Philosophy and Education

*Reference contact information available separately.*