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# MELLISSA MEISELS

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Department of Political Science  
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🌐 [www.mellissameisels.com](http://www.mellissameisels.com)

## EDUCATION

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<b>Vanderbilt University</b> Ph.D Political Science Fields: American Politics, Political Methodology Committee: Joshua Clinton (chair), Larry Bartels, Alan Wiseman, Danielle Thomsen	Nashville, TN 2019 –
<b>University of California, Los Angeles</b> B.A. Political Science, <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> Advisor: John Zaller	Los Angeles, CA 2015 – 2018

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

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<b>Democracy Center</b> Visiting Scholar	University of Rochester March 2023
<b>Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions</b> Graduate Student Affiliate	Vanderbilt University 2019 –

## UNDER REVIEW

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Mellissa Meisels, Joshua D. Clinton, and Gregory A. Huber. "Giving to the Extreme? Experimental Evidence on Donor Response to Candidate and District Characteristics." (*R&R*, *BJPS*)

- Presentations: APSA 2021

Mellissa Meisels. "Everything in Moderation? The Effect of Candidate Extremism on Individual and Corporate PAC Fundraising."

- Presentations: MPSA 2021, PolMeth 2022

## WORKING PAPERS

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Brenton Kenkel and Mellissa Meisels. "Competition and Free-Riding in Electoral Campaigns with Outside Spending."

- Presentations: MPSA 2022, APSA Money in Politics Pre-Conference 2022, APSA 2022, Rochester Democracy Center Working Group, Virtual Formal Theory Workshop 2023

Mellissa Meisels. "Campaign Positioning in Congressional Primaries."

- Presentations: Rochester Political Science Brown Bag, MPSA 2023, PolMeth 2023

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Melissa Meisels. "More Attention, More Money? Issue Priority and Issue PAC Fundraising in House Campaigns"

- Presentations: APSA 2023

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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<b>Harold Stirling Vanderbilt Award</b> – \$5,000/year Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2022 – 2024
<b>Russell G. Hamilton Scholar</b> Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2019 – 2024
<b>National Science Foundation Travel and Participation Award</b> – \$1,650 Society for Political Methodology	2023
<b>Travel Grant</b> – \$1,000 Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2023
<b>University Graduate Fellowship</b> – \$5,000/year Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2019 – 2022
<b>Travel Grant</b> – \$500 Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2022
<b>National Science Foundation Travel and Participation Award</b> – \$1,350 Society for Political Methodology	2022
<b>Research Assistant Funding</b> – \$5,000 Vanderbilt Research on Conflict and Collective Action (ROCCA) Lab	2022
<b>J. Leiper Freeman Memorial Award</b> – \$1,300 Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science	2021
<b>Lew and Edie Wasserman Grant</b> – \$5,000 UCLA Alumni Association	2016 – 2019
<b>UCLA Alumni Scholarship</b> – \$1,000 UCLA Alumni Association	2015 – 2019

## INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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University of Rochester, Department of Political Science, Brown Bag Seminar University of Rochester, Democracy Center Working Group Virtual Formal Theory Workshop Society for Political Methodology Meeting American Political Science Association Meeting Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	2023
Society for Political Methodology Meeting APSA Money in Politics Pre-Conference American Political Science Association Meeting Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	2022

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American Political Science Association Meeting	2021
Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	

## TEACHING ASSISTANCE

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PSCI 3260 - Introduction to American Law	2022
PSCI 2260 - Constitutional Law	2022
DSCI 1000 - Data Science: How Data Shape Our World	2021
PSCI 2300 - Introduction to Data Science for Politics	2021
PSCI 1150 - U.S. Elections	2020

## OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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*"2020 Pre-Election Polls: Performance of the Polls in the Democratic Primaries." American Association for Public Opinion Research, 2020*

- Survey data cleaning and analysis of state-level 2020 primary polls

*The Engagement* by Sasha Issenberg, 2019

- Fact checking of manuscript via interviews and other primary and secondary sources

*Parties on the Ground* by Kathleen Bawn, Knox Brown, Angela Ocampo, Shawn Patterson, John Ray, and John Zaller, 2017 – 2018

- Data collection, coding, and analysis of newspaper coverage of House primary elections

*Identity Crisis* by John Sides, Michael Tesler, and Lynn Vavreck, 2016

- Coding and analysis of 2016 presidential television advertisements

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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<b>Vanderbilt Political Science Graduate Student Association</b> Co-President	2021 – 2023
<b>Vanderbilt Graduate Ideas Symposium (VGIS)</b> Discussant	2023
<b>Women in Legislative Studies Conference</b> Panel Chair	2022
<b>APSA Money in Politics Pre-Conference</b> Discussant	2021

## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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<b>Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi</b> Patient Escort Volunteer	Nashville, TN 2021 –
<b>Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon</b> Grassroots Organizing Fellow	Portland, OR 2016