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# MELLISSA MEISELS

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Department of Political Science  
301 Commons Center  
Nashville, TN 37203

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🌐 [www.mellissameisels.com](http://www.mellissameisels.com)

## EDUCATION

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**Vanderbilt University**  
Ph.D Political Science  
Subfields: American Politics, Political Methodology

Nashville, TN  
2019 –

**University of California, Los Angeles**  
B.A. Political Science, *Magna Cum Laude*

Los Angeles, CA  
Fall 2018

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

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**Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions**  
Graduate Student Affiliate

Vanderbilt University  
2019 –

## UNDER REVIEW

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Giving to the Extreme? Experimental Evidence on Donor Response to Candidate and District Characteristics, *with Joshua Clinton and Gregory A. Huber*

- Presentations: APSA 2021

## WORKING PAPERS

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Competition and Free-Riding in Electoral Campaigns with Outside Spending, *with Brenton Kenkel*

- Presentations: MPSA 2022, APSA 2022 (scheduled)

Everything in Moderation, Including Moderation: The Effect of Extremist Nominations on Campaign Fundraising

- Presentations: MPSA 2021, PolMeth 2022 (scheduled)

Campaign Positioning and Majority-Minority Differences in Legislative Representation

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## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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

## CONFERENCES AND TALKS

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|  |      |
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| Society for Political Methodology Meeting (Scheduled)                  | 2022 |
| American Political Science Association Meeting (Scheduled)             |      |
| Midwest Political Science Association Meeting                          |      |
| American Political Science Association Meeting                         | 2021 |
| Midwest Political Science Association Meeting                          |      |
| Midwest Political Science Association Meeting (Cancelled due to COVID) | 2020 |
| UCLA Undergraduate Conference for Israel Studies                       | 2019 |
| • Awarded Best Research Paper  |      |
| UCLA Alumni Association Scholar Report                                 | 2018 |

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## TEACHING ASSISTANCE

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|---|------|
| PSCI 3260 - Introduction to American Law              | 2022 |
| PSCI 226 - Constitutional Law                         |      |
| DS 1000 - Data Science: How Data Shape Our World      | 2021 |
| PSCI 2300 - Introduction to Data Science for Politics |      |
| 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><br>Co-President | 2021 – 2023 |
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| <b>APSA Money in Politics Pre-Conference</b><br>Discussant | 2021 |
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## COMMUNITY SERVICE

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| <b>Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi</b><br>Patient Escort Volunteer | Nashville, TN<br>2021 – |
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## OTHER EXPERIENCE

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| <b>Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon</b><br>Grassroots Organizing Fellow | Portland, OR<br>2016 |
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