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# MELLISSA MEISELS

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Vanderbilt University  
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** Nashville, TN  
Ph.D. Political Science 2019 –  
Fields: American Politics, Political Methodology  
Dissertation: “Essays on Congressional Campaign Agendas”  
Committee: Josh Clinton (chair), Larry Bartels, Alan Wiseman, Danielle Thomsen (UC Irvine)

**Vanderbilt University** Nashville, TN  
M.A. Political Science 2022

**University of California, Los Angeles** Los Angeles, CA  
B.A. Political Science, *Magna Cum Laude* 2015 – 2018  
Advisor: John Zaller

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

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**Democracy Center** University of Rochester  
Visiting Scholar March 2023

**Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions** Vanderbilt University  
Graduate Student Affiliate 2019 –

## PUBLICATIONS

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**Mellissa Meisels**, Joshua D. Clinton, and Gregory A. Huber. 2023. “Giving to the Extreme? Experimental Evidence on Donor Response to Candidate and District Characteristics.”  
Accepted at *British Journal of Political Science*.

## WORKING PAPERS

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**Mellissa Meisels**. “Campaign Agendas and Issue Group Strategy in Congressional Primaries.”

- Presentations: APSA Money in Politics Pre-Conference 2023, APSA 2023, JAWS Fall 2023

**Mellissa Meisels**. “Positioning in Congressional Primary Campaigns.”

- 2023 Outstanding Graduate Paper Award, Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science

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

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

- Presentations: MPSA 2021, PolMeth 2022

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

## AWARDS, GRANTS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

<b>Harold Stirling Vanderbilt Award</b> Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2022 – 2024
<b>Russell G. Hamilton Scholar</b> Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2019 – 2024
<b>Outstanding Graduate Research Paper Award</b> Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science	2023
<b>Virginia Gray Graduate Student Research Award</b> APSA Political Organizations and Parties (POP) Section	2023
<b>Conference Travel Grant</b> American Political Science Association	2023
<b>J. Leiper Freeman Memorial Award</b> Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science	2021, 2023
<b>National Science Foundation Travel and Participation Award</b> Society for Political Methodology	2022, 2023
<b>Travel Grant</b> Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2022, 2023
<b>University Graduate Fellowship</b> Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2019 – 2022
<b>Research Assistant Funding</b> Vanderbilt Research on Conflict and Collective Action (ROCCA) Lab	2022
<b>Lew and Edie Wasserman Grant</b> UCLA Alumni Association	2016 – 2019
<b>UCLA Alumni Scholarship</b> UCLA Alumni Association	2015 – 2019

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## INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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University of Rochester, Department of Political Science, Brown Bag Seminar	2023
University of Rochester, Democracy Center Working Group	2023
Junior Americanist Workshop Series	2023
Virtual Formal Theory Workshop	2023
Vanderbilt Graduate Ideas Symposium	2023
Society for Political Methodology Meeting	2022, 2023
Money in Politics Pre-Conference, American Political Science Association	2021, 2022, 2023
American Political Science Association Meeting	2021, 2022, 2023
Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	2021, 2022, 2023

## TEACHING ASSISTANCE

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PSCI 3244 — The Legislative Process	2023
<b>Guest Lecture:</b> University of Rochester, PSCI 260 — Democratic Erosion	2023
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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“AAPOR Task Force on 2020 Pre-Election Polls.”	Research Assistant, 2020
<i>The Engagement</i> by Sasha Issenberg	Fact Checker, 2019
<i>Parties on the Ground</i> by John Zaller et al.	Research Assistant, 2017 – 2018
<i>Identity Crisis</i> by John Sides, Michael Tesler, and Lynn Vavreck	Research Assistant, 2016

## SERVICE

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<b>Department</b>	
Co-President, Vanderbilt Political Science Graduate Student Association	2021 – 2023
<b>Panel Chair</b>	
Women in Legislative Studies Conference	2022
<b>Reviewer</b>	
<i>Party Politics</i> , <i>Journal of Politics</i>	

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## REFERENCES

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**Joshua D. Clinton**

Abby and Jon Winkelried Chair  
Professor of Political Science  
Vanderbilt University  
josh.clinton@vanderbilt.edu

**Larry M. Bartels**

May Werthan Shayne Chair of Public Policy and Social Science  
Professor of Political Science  
Vanderbilt University  
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**Alan E. Wiseman**

Chair, Department of Political Science  
Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Political Economy  
Professor of Political Science and Law  
Vanderbilt University  
alan.e.wiseman@vanderbilt.edu

**Brenton Kenkel**

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Vanderbilt University  
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