
MELLISSA MEISELS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
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EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN
Ph.D. Political Science 2019 -
Subfields: American Politics, Political Methodology

University of California, Los Angeles Los Angeles, CA
B.A. Political Science, *Magna Cum Laude* Fall 2018

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

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

WORKING PAPERS

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

Meisels, Mellissa, Joshua Clinton, and Gregory Huber. "Strategic Giving to the Extreme: Experimental Evidence on the Motivations of Verified Midterm Donors."

Meisels, Mellissa. "Everything in Moderation, Including Moderation: The Effect of Extremist Nominations on Campaign Fundraising."

Meisels, Mellissa. "Campaign Positioning and Majority-Minority Differences in Legislative Representation."

SELECTED CONFERENCES AND TALKS

American Political Science Association Meeting. *Scheduled 2022*. "Competition and Free-Riding in Electoral Campaigns with Outside Spending." With Brenton Kenkel.

Midwest Political Science Association Meeting. 2022. "Competition and Free-Riding in Electoral Campaigns with Outside Spending." With Brenton Kenkel.

American Political Science Association Meeting. 2021. "Policy or Party? The Strategic and Expressive Motivations of Verified Donors" With Joshua Clinton and Gregory Huber.

Midwest Political Science Association Meeting. 2021. "Everything in Moderation, Including Moderation: The Effect of Extremist Nominations on Campaign Fundraising."

Midwest Political Science Association Meeting. 2020. *Cancelled due to COVID*.

UCLA Undergraduate Conference for Israel Studies. 2019. “Party ID or Jewish Constituency: What Determines Israel’s Centrality in Congressional Campaigns?”

- *Awarded Best Research Paper*

UCLA Alumni Association Scholar Report. 2018. “Campaign Promises, Congressional Actions: How Politicians Present Themselves to Voters Versus How They Legislate.”

OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

“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

TEACHING ASSISTANCE

2022S - PSCI 3260 - Introduction to American Law (Undergraduate)

2022S - PSCI 226 - Constitutional Law (Undergraduate)

2021F - DS1000 - Data Science: How Data Shape Our World (Undergraduate)

2021S - PSCI 2300 - Introduction to Data Science for Politics (Undergraduate)

2020F - PSCI 1150 - U.S. Elections (Undergraduate)

AWARDS AND GRANTS

J. Leiper Freeman Memorial Award - \$1,300	2021
Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science	

Russell G. Hamilton Scholar	2019 - 2024
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University Graduate Fellowship - \$5,000/year	2019 - 2024
Vanderbilt University Graduate School	

Best Undergraduate Research Paper - \$300	2019
UCLA Nazarian Center for Israel Studies	

Lew and Edie Wasserman Grant - \$5,000	2016 - 2019
UCLA Alumni Association	

UCLA Alumni Scholarship - \$1,000	2015 - 2019
UCLA Alumni Association	

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Vanderbilt Political Science Graduate Student Association	2021-2023
Co-President	

APSA Money in Politics Pre-Conference	2021
Discussant	

COMMUNITY SERVICE

Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi	Nashville, TN
Patient Escort Volunteer	2021-

OTHER EXPERIENCE

Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon	Portland, OR
Grassroots Organizing Fellow	2016