
MELLISSA MEISELS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
301 Commons Center
Nashville, TN 37203

✉ mellissa.b.meisels@vanderbilt.edu

🌐 www.mellisameisels.com

EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University

Ph.D Political Science

Fields: American Politics, Political Methodology

Committee: Joshua Clinton (chair), Larry Bartels, Alan Wiseman, Danielle Thomsen

Nashville, TN

2019 –

University of California, Los Angeles

B.A. Political Science, *Magna Cum Laude*

Advisor: John Zaller

Los Angeles, CA

2015 – 2018

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

Democracy Center

Visiting Scholar

University of Rochester

March 2023

Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

Graduate Student Affiliate

Vanderbilt University

2019 –

UNDER REVIEW

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

Mellissa Meisels. "Positioning in Congressional Primary Campaigns."

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

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

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

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Harold Stirling Vanderbilt Award – \$5,000/year Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2022 – 2024
Russell G. Hamilton Scholar Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2019 – 2024
J. Leiper Freeman Memorial Award – \$1,800 Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science	2023
National Science Foundation Travel and Participation Award – \$1,650 Society for Political Methodology	2023
Travel Grant – \$1,000 Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2023
University Graduate Fellowship – \$5,000/year Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2019 – 2022
Travel Grant – \$500 Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2022
National Science Foundation Travel and Participation Award – \$1,350 Society for Political Methodology	2022
Research Assistant Funding – \$5,000 Vanderbilt Research on Conflict and Collective Action (ROCCA) Lab	2022
J. Leiper Freeman Memorial Award – \$1,300 Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science	2021
Lew and Edie Wasserman Grant – \$5,000 UCLA Alumni Association	2016 – 2019
UCLA Alumni Scholarship – \$1,000 UCLA Alumni Association	2015 – 2019

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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

Society for Political Methodology Meeting	2022
APSA Money in Politics Pre-Conference	
American Political Science Association Meeting	
Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	
American Political Science Association Meeting	2021
Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	

TEACHING ASSISTANCE

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

"AAPOR Task Force on 2020 Pre-Election Polls: Performance of the Polls in the Democratic Primaries."	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

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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

COMMUNITY SERVICE

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