Mellissa Meisels

EMAIL: mellissa.meisels@yale.edu
WEBSITE: www.mellissameisels.com

OFFICE: 24 Hillhouse Ave. #205
New Haven, CT 06511

Appointments & Affiliations

YALE UNIVERSITY

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science   2025 –
    Faculty Affiliate, Institution for Social and Policy Studies

Postdoctoral Associate, Center for the Study of American Politics   2024 – 2025

UNIVERSITY OF ROCHESTER

Visiting Scholar, Democracy Center   03/2023

Education

VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

Ph.D. Political Science   2019 – 2024
    FIELDS: American Politics, Political Methodology
    COMMITTEE: Josh Clinton (chair), Larry Bartels, Alan Wiseman, Danielle Thomsen (UCI)
    Graduate Affiliate, Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions

M.A. Political Science   2019 – 2022

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, LOS ANGELES

B.A. Political Science, *magna cum laude*   2015 – 2018
    ADVISOR: John Zaller

Peer–Reviewed Publications

Meisels, Mellissa. "Everything in Moderation? The Effect of Extremist Nominations on Individual and Corporate PAC Fundraising." Conditionally accepted, *Political Science Research and Methods*.

Meisels, Mellissa, Joshua D. Clinton, and Gregory A. Huber. 2024. "Giving to the Extreme? Experimental Evidence on Donor Response to Candidate and District Characteristics." *British Journal of Political Science* 54(3): 851–873.

Working Papers

Strategic Campaign Attention to Abortion Before and After *Dobbs* (*R&R, PNAS*)

Candidate Positions, Responsiveness, and Returns to Extremism (*R&R, JOP*)
— 2023 Vanderbilt Political Science Outstanding Graduate Paper Award
PRESENTATIONS: MPSA 2023, PolMeth 2023

Campaign Agendas and Issue Group Strategy in Congressional Primaries (*under review*)
— 2023 Political Organizations and Parties Best APSA Paper Award
PRESENTATIONS: APSA MIP Pre-Conference 2023, APSA 2023, JAWS Fall 2023, MPSA 2024,
UChicago Harris CEG American Politics Conference 2024

Competition and Free-Riding in Electoral Campaigns with Outside Spending (*with Brenton Kenkel*)
PRESENTATIONS: MPSA 2022, APSA MIP Pre-Conference 2022, APSA 2022, VFT 2023

Other Publications

Mellissa Meisels. 2024. "Political Donors Prefer Extreme Candidates, but the Competitiveness of the Election and their Opponent's Views Matter Too." *LSE United States Politics & Policy Blog.*

Awards, Grants, & Fellowships

Best APSA 2023 Paper Award, Political Organizations and Parties Section	2024
Provost's Pathbreaking Discovery Award, Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2024
Outstanding Doctoral Student Award, Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2024
Harold Stirling Vanderbilt Award, Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2022 – 2024
Russell G. Hamilton Scholar, Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2019 – 2024
Outstanding Graduate Research Paper Award, Vanderbilt Political Science	2023
Virginia Gray Graduate Student Research Award, APSA POP Section	2023
Conference Travel Grant, American Political Science Association	2023
J. Leiper Freeman Memorial Award, Vanderbilt Political Science	2021, 2023
NSF Travel and Participation Award, Society for Political Methodology	2022, 2023
Travel Grant, Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2022, 2023
University Graduate Fellowship, Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2019 – 2022
Research Assistant Funding, Vanderbilt ROCCA Lab	2022
Lew and Edie Wasserman Grant, UCLA Alumni Association	2016 – 2019
UCLA Alumni Scholarship, UCLA Alumni Association	2015 – 2019

Presentations

INVITED TALKS

Center for the Study of Democratic Politics, Princeton University	03/2025
Center for Effective Government American Politics Conference, UChicago Harris	06/2024
Department of Government, University of Texas at Austin	11/2023
Department of Political Science, Syracuse University	11/2023
Department of Political Science, University of California, San Diego	11/2023
Department of Political Science, Yale University	11/2023
Department of Political Science, Stanford University	11/2023
Department of Government, American University	10/2023
Department of Political Science, University of Rochester	03/2023

SMALL CONFERENCES & WORKSHOPS

Junior Americanist Workshop Series	2023
Virtual Formal Theory Workshop	2023
Vanderbilt University Graduate Ideas Symposium	2023
Money in Politics Pre-Conference, American Political Science Association	2021 – 2023

ANNUAL MEETINGS

Society for Political Methodology	2022 – 2023
American Political Science Association	2021 – 2025
Midwest Political Science Association	2021 – 2024

Teaching

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD, YALE UNIVERSITY

PLSC TBD — Special Interest Politics in the US	2025
PLSC TBD — Elite Behavior in Congressional Elections	2026

TEACHING ASSISTANT, VANDERBILT UNIVERSITY

PSCI 3893 — American Democracy and Dissent	2024
PSCI 3244 — The Legislative Process	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

Service

Coordinator, Yale American Politics and Policy Workshop	2025 – 2026
Co-President, Vanderbilt Political Science Graduate Student Association	2021 – 2023
Panel Chair, Women in Legislative Studies Conference	2022

Reviewer: *Party Politics, Electoral Studies, Journal of Politics, American Journal of Political Science, Legislative Studies Quarterly, Political Behavior, American Political Science Review*