
MELLISSA MEISELS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Vanderbilt University
Department of Political Science
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Nashville, TN 37203

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EDUCATION

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

Democracy Center University of Rochester
Visiting Scholar March 2023

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

WORKING PAPERS

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

- Presentations: APSA 2021

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

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

Mellissa Meisels. “Positioning in Congressional Primary Campaigns.”

- 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 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
Virginia Gray Graduate Student Research Award – \$300 APSA Political Organizations and Parties (POP) Section	2023
Conference Travel Grant – \$150 American Political Science Association	2023
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	2023
Virtual Formal Theory Workshop	2023
Society for Political Methodology Meeting	2022, 2023
Money in Politics Pre-Conference, American Political Science Association	2022, 2023
American Political Science Association Meeting	2021, 2022, 2023
Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	2021, 2022, 2023

TEACHING ASSISTANCE

PSCI 3244 — The Legislative Process	2023
Guest Lecture: 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

“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

Department	
Co-President, Vanderbilt Political Science Graduate Student Association	2021 – 2023
Invited Discussant	
Vanderbilt Graduate Ideas Symposium	2023
APSA Money in Politics Pre-Conference	2021
Panel Chair	
Women in Legislative Studies Conference	2022
Reviewer	
<i>Party Politics, Journal of Politics</i>	

REFERENCES

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
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Alan E. Wiseman

Chair, Department of Political Science
Cornelius Vanderbilt Professor of Political Economy
Professor of Political Science and Law
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Brenton Kenkel

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