


Mellissa Meisels

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 www.mellissameisels.com

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

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

Mellissa Meisels, 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

Everything in Moderation? The Effect of Candidate Extremism on Individual and Corporate PAC Fundraising

REVISE AND RESUBMIT AT *Political Science Research and Methods*

Working Papers Cont'd

Campaign Agendas and Issue Group Strategy in Congressional Primaries (*under review*)

PRESENTATIONS: APSA MIP Pre-Conference 2023, APSA 2023, JAWS Fall 2023, MPSA 2024,
UChicago Harris CEG American Politics Conference 2024

— 2023 Political Organizations and Parties Best APSA Paper Award

Positioning in Congressional Primary Campaigns (*under review*)

PRESENTATIONS: MPSA 2023, PolMeth 2023

— 2023 Vanderbilt Political Science Outstanding Graduate Paper Award

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

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| 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

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| 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

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| 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

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

Teaching Assistance

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| PSCI 3893 — American Democracy and Dissent | 2024 |
| 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 |

Service

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