
MELLISSA MEISELS

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
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EDUCATION

Vanderbilt University Nashville, TN
Ph.D Political Science 2019 –
Fields: American Politics, Political Methodology
Committee: Joshua Clinton (chair), Larry Bartels, Alan Wiseman, Danielle Thomsen

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 –

UNDER REVIEW

Giving to the Extreme? Experimental Evidence on Donor Response to Candidate and District Characteristics, *with Joshua Clinton and Gregory A. Huber*

- Presentations: APSA 2021

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

- Presentations: MPSA 2021, PolMeth 2022

WORKING PAPERS

Competition and Free-Riding in Electoral Campaigns with Outside Spending, *with Brenton Kenkel*

- Presentations: MPSA 2022, APSA Money in Politics Pre-Conference 2022, APSA 2022, Rochester Democracy Center Working Group, Virtual Formal Theory Workshop 2023

Campaign Positioning in Congressional Primaries

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

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

- Presentations: 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
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 University of Rochester, Democracy Center Working Group Virtual Formal Theory Workshop Society for Political Methodology Meeting American Political Science Association Meeting Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	2023
Society for Political Methodology Meeting APSA Money in Politics Pre-Conference American Political Science Association Meeting Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	2022
American Political Science Association Meeting Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	2021

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

“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

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