Melina Much

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW · POLITICAL SCIENCE

NYU Center for the Study of Social Media and Politics

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Current Appointment

New York University   *New York, NY*
POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW - CENTER FOR THE STUDY OF SOCIAL MEDIA AND POLITICS   *2024 - present*
- PI(s): Joshua Tucker and Jonathan Nagler

Education

Univeristy of California at Irvine   *Irvine, CA*
PHD POLITICAL SCIENCE   *2018 - 2024*
- Advisors: Dr. Michael Tesler and Dr. Ines Levin
- Dissertation Committee: Dr. Danielle Thomsen, and Dr. R. Michael Alvarez (Caltech)

University of California at Irvine - Lower Degrees   *Irvine CA*
MS MATH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE   *2018 - 2020*
- Completed alongside Ph.D. program.

Francis Marion University   *Florence, SC*
DUAL BA UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE   *2014 - 2018*
- Political Science and Economics
- Honors thesis/undergrad research advisor: Dr. William T. Daniel and Dr. David White

Visiting Appointments

California Institute of Technology   *Irvine, CA*
VISITING GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER   *2023 - 2024*
- Advisor: Dr. R. Michael Alvarez

Publications

PUBLISHED

Much, Melina, 2025. *Bayesian Multilevel Modeling for Intersections of Race, Gender and Class.* Political Research Quarterly.

Much, Melina, 2024. *Intersectional Quantitative Methods.* The Oxford Handbook of Engaged Methodological Pluralism in Political Science.

ADVANCED CONTRACTS

Much, Melina. *Intersectional Quantitative Methods.* Element: Quantitative and Computational Methods for the Social Sciences. Cambridge University Press. Editor: Nathaniel Beck.

IN REVIEW & REVISE AND RESUBMIT

Kann, Claudia and **Melina Much**. *Incorporating Latent Class Identities in Intersectional Quantitative Work.* Revise and resubmit at Social Science Research.

Much, Melina, Daniel Ebanks, Sara Kangaslahti; Jean Kossaifi; R. Michael Alvarez; Anqi Liu; and Anima Anandkumar. *Activated Identity and Political Action in the #MeToo Era.* Revise and Resubmit Computational Communication Research.

McWagner, Kyle and **Melina Much**. *Misidentified Independents: Understanding Independents through Affective Polarization.* Under review.

Much, Melina, and Jonathan Nagler. *Divergences in Perceptions of Inequality during the COVID-19 Pandemic* . Under review.

WORKING PAPERS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

Much, Melina, Kylan Rutherford, Jason Greenfield, Joshua Tucker, and Jonathan Nagler. *Podcasts: Incidental Exposure to Politics through Gendered Entertainment* .

Much, Melina, Kylan Rutherford, Joshua Tucker, and Jonathan Nagler. *Data Donations and Political Blind Spots: Examining Bias in Combined Survey and Social Media Trace Data* .

Much, Melina, Daniel Ebanks; R. Michael Alvarez. *The Nature of Gender Consciousness on Social Media in the Dobbs v. Jackson Era.*

Zhong, Wei, **Melina Much**, Jonathan Nagler. *From Tweets to Beliefs: Examining the Role of Online Political Environments in Shaping Immigration Attitudes.*

Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

2025	**Siegel Research Fellow**, Siegel Family Endowment
	NYU Catalyst Grant, New York University
2023	**UCI Dissertation Completion Grant**, UC Irvine Graduate Division
2022	**Empirical Study of Gender Annual Prize**, Empirical Study of Gender Network
	Centennial Research Grant, American Political Science Association
	CSD Seed Grant, Center for the Study of Democracy at UC Irivne
	UCI Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation Summer Fellowship, UC Irvine Division of Teaching Excellence and Innovation
	Associate Dean Fellowship Winter, UC Irvine School of Social Sciences
	Associate Dean Fellowship Spring, UC Irvine School of Social Sciences
	APSA Travel Grant - Montreal, American Political Science Association
2021	**Janet Box-Steffensmeier ICPSR Fellowship**, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research
	Associate Dean Fellowship Winter, UC Irvine School of Social Sciences
	APSA Travel Grant - Seattle, American Political Science Association
2020	**Ford Pre-Dissertation Fellowship Honorable Mention**, Ford Foundation
2019	**CSD Podlich Fellow**, UC Irvine Center for the Study of Democracy
	DECADE Travel Grant, Ford Foundation
2018-2022	**UCI Provost Fellowship**, UC Irvine Office of the Provost

Teaching Experience

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Spring 2024	**Identity Politics - AAAS 159A**, African and African American Studies Department	*Brandeis University*
Spring 2024	**Advanced Research Methods - PLS 3055A & 3055B**, Political Science Department	*Cal Poly Pomona*
Fall 2023	**Advanced Research Methods - PLS 3055A & 3055B**, Political Science Department	*Cal Poly Pomona*
Spring 2023	**Introduction to American Government - PS 21A**, Political Science Department	*UC Irvine*
Fall 2022	**Identity Politics - AAAS 159A**, African and African American Studies Department	*Brandeis University*

Methods Workshop Instructor

2021-2023	**Introduction to R Methods Bootcamp**, A week-long intensive program for first-year Political Science PhD students that I founded and co-run.	*UC Irvine PS*

Teaching Assistant

2018-2024	**Introduction to Chicano and Latino Studies**, Chicano and Latino Studies	*UC Irvine*
	American Presidency, Political Science	*UC Irvine*
	Introduction to American Government, Political Science	*UC Irvine*
	Research Methods, Sociology	*UC Irvine*
	Computer Based Research Methods in Social Science, Social Science	*UC Irvine*
	Law and Markets, Political Science	*UC Irvine*

Presentations

Plenary Session Paper

Fall 2022. *Bayesian Multilevel Modeling for the Intersections of Race and Gender*. Empirical Study of Gender Network 2022 Fall Conference, Harvard Kennedy School of Government.

Invited Talks

Fall 2025. *Francis Marion University*. Invited talk for Francis Marion Department of Political Science and School of Business.

Fall 2021. *Intersectional Quantitative Methods*. Invited Roundtable Participant for Oxford Handbook of Engaged Methodological Pluralism in Political Science.

Conference Presentations

September 2025. American Political Science Association. Presenter.

August 2025. PolNet and PACSS Conference at Harvard University. Presenter.

April 2025. Midwestern Political Science Association. Presenter.

October 2023. Empirical Study of Gender Network Annual Conference. Cornell University. Presenter.

October 2023. Empirical Study of Gender Network Annual Conference. Cornell University. Presenter.

October 2023. Empirical Study of Gender Network Annual Conference. Cornell University. Presenter.

September 2022. American Political Science Association Annual Conference. Presenter and Discussant.

September 2021. American Political Science Association Annual Conference. Presenter.

Summer 2021. Political Methodology Summer Meeting. Poster Presenter.

October 2020. Gender and Political Psychology Conference. Presenter.

September 2020. American Political Science Association Annual Conference. Presenter.

April 2020. Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Conference. Presenter. Cancelled to to COVID-19.

April 2018. Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Conference. Undergraduate Poster Presenter.

Service & Mentoring

Reviewer

2022 and 2023. *American Political Science Review*

Departmental Service

2020-2023	**Methods and Coding Group Lead Organizer**, UC Irvine Political Science
2020-2022	**Women's Caucus Lead Organizer**, UC Irvine Political Science

Schoolwide Service

2022	**SURF Undergraduate Writing Mentor**, UC Irvine Graduate Division SURF Program
2020-2021	**Competitive Edge Peer Mentor**, UC Irvine Graduate Division
2019	**Mentoring Excellence Program Certificate**, UC Irvine Graduate Division

Software Skills

R Programming. Advanced knowledge of the use of R programming for statistical modeling and data visualization. Skills in data manipulation for modeling conventional linear, logistic, multinomial, multilevel/hierarchical, longitudinal models, and machine learning. I also have R skills in making functions, packages, and Shiny apps, websites, and presentation building.

Python Programming. Intermediate knowledge of Python for data management, web scraping, and API use.

Stata Programming. Intermediate knowledge of Stata statistical programming.

Excel Programming. Proficient knowledge of Excel programming.

Currently developing skillsets in SQL.

References

Dr. Michael Tesler *Associate Professor of Political Science UC Irvine.* Co-Advisor PhD.

Dr. Jonathan Nagler *Professor of Politics New York University and co-director of NYU Center for Social Media and Politics.* Postdoctoral fellow advisor.

Dr. R Michael Alvarez *Professor of Political and Computational Social Science, Caltech.* Dissertation Committee Member and Visiting Scholar Advisor.

Dr. Danielle Thomsen *Associate Professor of Political Science UC Irvine*. Dissertation Committee Member and RA Advisor.

Dr. Amber Spry *Assistant Professor of African and African American Studies Brandies University*. RA Advisor.