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# MELLISSA MEISELS

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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Department of Political Science  
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🌐 [www.mellissameisels.com](http://www.mellissameisels.com)

## EDUCATION

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

**University of California, Los Angeles** Los Angeles, CA  
B.A. Political Science, *Magna Cum Laude* 2015 – 2018  
Advisor: John Zaller

## ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS

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**Democracy Center** University of Rochester  
Visiting Scholar March 2023

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

## UNDER REVIEW

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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

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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

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## AWARDS AND GRANTS

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<b>Harold Stirling Vanderbilt Award</b> – \$5,000/year Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2022 – 2024
<b>Travel Grant</b> – \$500 Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2023
<b>National Science Foundation Travel and Participation Award</b> – \$1,350 Society for Political Methodology	2022
<b>Research Assistant Funding</b> – \$5,000 Vanderbilt Research on Conflict and Collective Action (ROCCA) Lab	2022
<b>J. Leiper Freeman Memorial Award</b> – \$1,300 Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science	2021
<b>Russell G. Hamilton Scholar</b> Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2019 – 2024
<b>University Graduate Fellowship</b> – \$5,000/year Vanderbilt University Graduate School	2019 – 2022
<b>Best Undergraduate Research Paper</b> – \$300 UCLA Nazarian Center for Israel Studies	2019
<b>Lew and Edie Wasserman Grant</b> – \$5,000 UCLA Alumni Association	2016 – 2019
<b>UCLA Alumni Scholarship</b> – \$1,000 UCLA Alumni Association	2015 – 2019

## CONFERENCES AND TALKS

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Midwest Political Science Association Meeting (scheduled)	2023
APSA Money in Politics Pre-Conference	2022
American Political Science Association Meeting	2022
Society for Political Methodology Meeting	2022
Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	2022
American Political Science Association Meeting	2021
Midwest Political Science Association Meeting	2021
Midwest Political Science Association Meeting (Cancelled due to COVID)	2020
UCLA Undergraduate Conference for Israel Studies	2019
• Awarded Best Research Paper	

**TEACHING ASSISTANCE**


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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**


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<b>Vanderbilt Political Science Graduate Student Association</b> Co-President	2021 – 2023
<b>Women in Legislative Studies Conference</b> Panel Chair	2022
<b>APSA Money in Politics Pre-Conference</b> Discussant	2021

**COMMUNITY SERVICE**


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<b>Planned Parenthood of Tennessee and North Mississippi</b> Patient Escort Volunteer	Nashville, TN 2021 –
<b>Planned Parenthood Advocates of Oregon</b> Grassroots Organizing Fellow	Portland, OR 2016