

Melina Much

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW · POLITICAL SCIENCE

NYU Center for Social Media, AI, and Politics

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Current Appointment

New York University

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOW - CENTER FOR SOCIAL MEDIA, AI, AND POLITICS

- PI(s): Jonathan Nagler and Joshua A. Tucker

New York, NY

2024 - present

Education

University of California at Irvine

PHD POLITICAL SCIENCE

- Advisors: Dr. Michael Tesler and Dr. Inés Levin
- Dissertation Committee: Dr. Danielle Thomsen, and Dr. R. Michael Alvarez (Caltech)

Irvine, CA

2018 - 2024

University of California at Irvine

MS MATH AND BEHAVIORAL SCIENCE

- Completed alongside Ph.D. program.

Irvine, CA

2018 - 2020

Francis Marion University

DUAL BA UNDERGRADUATE DEGREE

- Political Science and Economics
- Honors thesis/undergrad research advisor: Dr. William T. Daniel and Dr. David White

Florence, SC

2014 - 2018

Visiting Appointments

California Institute of Technology

VISITING GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER

- Advisor: Dr. R. Michael Alvarez

Irvine, CA

2023 - 2024

Publications

PUBLISHED

Much, Melina, Daniel Ebanks, Sara Kangaslahti; Jean Kossai; R. Michael Alvarez; Anqi Liu; and Anima Anandkumar. 2026. "Activating Identity and Political Action in the #MeToo Era." *Computational Communication Research*.

Much, Melina, 2025. "Bayesian Multilevel Modeling for Intersections of Race, Gender and Class." *Political Research Quarterly*. Winner of the Empirical Study of Gender Network Annual Prize.

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

ADVANCE CONTRACTS

Much, Melina. Claudia Kann. *Using Multilevel Models for Quantitative Intersectional Research*. Element: Quantitative and Computational Methods for the Social Sciences. Cambridge University Press. Editor: Nathaniel Beck.

REVISE AND RESUBMIT & UNDER REVIEW

Much, Melina, and Jonathan Nagler. "Divergences in Perceptions of Inequality during the COVID-19 Pandemic." Revise and Resubmit at *American Politics Research*.

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

Much, Melina, Kylan Rutherford, Jason Greenfield, Joshua Tucker, and Jonathan Nagler. “Did Podcasts Help Trump Win Young Men? A Gendered Theory of the Podcast Ecosystem.” Submitted for review.

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.” Submitted for review.

McWagner, Kyle and **Melina Much**. “Misidentified Independents: Understanding Independents through Affective Polarization.” Submitted for review.

WORKING PAPERS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

Much, Melina. *Sorted by Gender and the Politics of the Online Age*. Book project; proposal in preparation.

Much, Melina, Daniel Ebanks; R. Michael Alvarez. “Tracing Narrative Co-optation on Social Media: A Tensor Based Joint Stance-Topic Method for Studying Contested Language.”

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

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
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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

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 Irvine
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

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 Method-
ological Pluralism in Political Science.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

September 2026. American Political Science Association. Presenter.

April 2026. Midwestern Political Science Association. Presenter.

April 2026. Western Political Science Association. Presenter.

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.

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 due 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. Knowledge of Python for data management, web scraping, and API use.

LLM-Assisted Research Pipelines. Fluent in agentic coding best practices with frontier tools including Claude Code and Codex, used to produce reproducible and innovative scientific research at scale.

Stata Programming. Fluent knowledge of Stata statistical programming.

References

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

Dr. Jonathan Nagler *Professor of Politics, New York University, and co-director of the NYU Center for Social Media, AI, 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. Joshua A. Tucker *Professor of Politics, New York University, and co-director of the NYU Center for Social Media, AI, and Politics. Postdoctoral fellow advisor.*

Dr. Amber Spry *Professor of African and African American Studies, Brandeis University. RA Advisor.*