

# Melina Much

PHD STUDENT, ABD · POLITICAL SCIENCE

University of California at Irvine

✉ mmuch@uci.edu | 🏠 www.melinamuch.com | 🐦 @melina\_\_much

## Education

---

### University of California at Irvine

PHD POLITICAL SCIENCE

- Advisors: Dr. Michael Tesler and Dr. Ines Levin
- Dissertation Committee: Dr. Danielle Thomsen, and Dr. Michael Alvarez (CalTech)

Irvine, CA  
2018 - present

### University of California at Irvine - Lower Degrees

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 - present

## Publications

---

### PUBLISHED

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

### ADVANCED CONTRACTS

**Much, Melina** and Kann, Claudia. *Intersectional Quantitative Methods*. Element: Quantitative and Computational Methods for the Social Sciences. Cambridge University Press.

### IN REVIEW

**Much, Melina**. *Bayesian Multilevel Modeling for Intersections of Race and Gender*. Under review at Politics & Gender.

**Kann, Claudia** and Much, Melina. *Incorporating Latent Class Identities in Intersectional Quantitative Work*. Submitted at Quarterly Journal of Political Science.

### IN PREP

**Much, Melina** and Ines Levin. *Operationalizing Intersectionality in Machine Learning*.

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

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

**Much, Melina** and Alvarez, Michael. *Climate Change and Racial Group Attitudes using Intersectional Identity Measurement*.

## Awards, Fellowships, & Grants

---

- 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

## Teaching Experience

---

### INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

- |                |  |                                |
|----------------|--|--------------------------------|
| Fall 2023      | <b>Advanced Research Methods - PLS 3055</b> , Political Science Department             | <i>Cal Poly<br/>Pomona</i>     |
| Spring<br>2023 | <b>Introduction to American Government - PS 21A</b> , Political Science Department     | <i>UC Irvine</i>               |
| Fall 2022      | <b>Identity Politics - AAAS 159A</b> , African and African American Studies Department | <i>Brandeis<br/>University</i> |

### METHODS WORKSHOP INSTRUCTOR

- |           |   |                     |
|-----------|---|---------------------|
| 2021-2023 | <b>Introduction to R Methods Bootcamp</b> , A week-long intensive program for first-year<br>Political Science PhD students that I founded and co-run. | <i>UC Irvine PS</i> |
|-----------|---|---------------------|

### TEACHING ASSISTANT

- |           |   |                  |
|-----------|---|------------------|
| 2018-2023 | <b>American Presidency</b> , Political Science                            | <i>UC Irvine</i> |
|           | <b>Introduction to American Government</b> , Political Science            | <i>UC Irvine</i> |
|           | <b>Research Methods</b> , Sociology                                       | <i>UC Irvine</i> |
|           | <b>Computer Based Research Methods in Social Science</b> , Social Science | <i>UC Irvine</i> |
|           | <b>Law and Markets</b> , Political Science                                | <i>UC Irvine</i> |

## 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 2021. *Intersectional Quantitative Methods*. Invited Roundtable Participant for Oxford Handbook of Engaged Method-  
ological Pluralism in Political Science.

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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.*

**Dr. Ines Levin** *Associate Professor of Political Science UC Irvine. Co-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.*