

Matthew Lesenyie

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Academic Appointments

2017-present, Inclusive Excellence Postdoctoral Fellow, Santa Clara University

2015-2016, Associate Instructor, University of California, Davis

Research and Teaching Interests

Political Communication, California Politics, Ballot Initiatives and Experimental Methodology

Education

Ph.D. University of California, Davis, Political Science, 2017

Fields: American Politics and Comparative Politics

Dissertation: *Reading the Fine Print: Advertising Disclosures and their Effect on Voter Decision Making*

Committee: Cheryl Boudreau (Chair), Robert Huckfeldt, Ben Highton

B.A. University of California, Davis, Political Science, 2006

Publications

“Power to the People: Checking Special Interests in California.” (with Stacy Gordon Fisher and Kim Nalder). *The California Journal of Politics and Policy* 4(1): 1-23. 2012

Working Papers

“Peeking Behind the Curtain? Assessing the Impact of Pre-treatment in Ad Experiments”

“Reading the Fine Print? An Experimental Test of Campaign Finance Disclosure”

“Competing Claims: Two-Sided Exposure to Issue Advertisements & Endorser Cues”

“Uneven Influence: Asymmetrical Advertising Competition and Finance Disclosure in Political Campaigns”

“Different Interests: Lobbyists and their Clients”

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record (UC Davis and Santa Clara University)

American Government	Fall 2015
Racial Politics	Winter 2016
Political Communication and Campaigns	Spring 2016
Interest Group Politics	Summer 2016
California Politics	Fall 2017

Teaching Assistant

- American Government
- Political Psychology
- Game Theory
- Local Government and Politics
- Mass Media and Public Policy
- Intro Comparative Politics
- Latino Politics
- Science & Technology Policy
- Constitutional Law
- Congress

Select Research Presentations

- “Competing Claims: Two-Sided Exposure to Issue Advertisements & Endorser Cues” American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA Aug 31- September 3, 2017
- “Reading the Fine Print? How Campaign Finance Disclosures Increase Enlightenment”
University of California Center Sacramento, the Emerging Scholars Excellence in Public Policy Research Lecture Series. Sacramento, CA, November 3rd, 2016
- “Competing Claims: Two-Sided Exposure to Issue Advertisements & Endorser Cues” West Coast Experiments Conference, Stanford, CA May 27th, 2016
- “Reading the Fine Print? An Experimental Test of Campaign Finance Disclosure” University of California Student Association Policy Research Symposium, Sacramento, CA April 16th, 2016
- “Uneven Influence: Asymmetrical Frame Competition in Political Campaigns” Presented at the annual meetings of the Western Political Science Association, San Diego, CA March 24-26, 2016
- “Citizens United, Ambiguous Sounding PACs, and Persuasion” Lecture at California State University, Sacramento. October, 27, 2015
- “Competing Claims: Two-Sided Exposure to Issue Advertisements & Endorser Cues”
Presented at the annual meetings of the American Political Science Association Political Communication Pre-Conference, UC San Francisco, September 2, 2015
- “Veiled Interests: Do Murky Interest Groups’ TV Ads Improve Voter Competence?”
Presented at the annual meetings of the Western Political Science Association, Las Vegas, NV, April 1-4, 2015
- “Reading the Fine Print? An Experimental Test of Campaign Finance Reform”
Presented at the annual meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 3-6, 2014
- “Different Agendas: Lobbyists and their Clients”
Presented at the annual meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, March 31-April 3, 2011

Select Presentations

- “2016 Election Result Forecasting” The Project for an Informed Electorate, California State University, Sacramento. October 20, 2016
- “Predicting the Presidency 2016” UC Davis Extension, Davis, CA, May 18, 2016
- "Being Picky and Getting Picked: Finding the Right Graduate Program for Your Goals"

The Graduate Academic Achievement & Advocacy Program's Diversity Pathway to Graduate School Conference, UC Davis, October 3, 2015

“There’s Room in the Ivory Tower: Graduate Student Diversity and University Service Opportunities.” UC Davis Graduate Studies Symposium for Incoming Students, UC Davis, September 16, 2015

Awards

Marvin Zetterbaum Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Instruction, Department of Political Science, University of California, Davis, May 2nd, 2016. (\$500)

Dean's Prize for Best Oral Presentation in Social Sciences, UC Davis Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Symposium (\$1,000) for *Reading the Fine Print? An Experimental Test of Campaign Finance Reform*, April 8th, 2016

Vice Chancellor's Prize for Best Poster, Honorable Mention, UC Davis Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Symposium (\$100) for *Competing Claims: An Experimental Test of Campaign Finance Reform in Competitive Contexts*, April 8th, 2016

Emerging Scholars Award for Excellence in Research and Public Policy, Honorable Mention, University of California Center Sacramento, March 23, 2016

Dean’s Prize for Best Oral Presentation in Social Sciences, UC Davis Interdisciplinary Graduate and Professional Symposium (\$1,000) for *Torts of Appeal: Do Elected Judges Rule Differently than Appointed Judges?* April 5, 2013

Honorable Mention, the National Academies Ford Foundation Fellowship. April 3rd, 2012.

Best Presentation, Graduate Student Association Research Competition (\$650) for *Different Interests: Lobbyists and their Clients*. April 12, 2011

Research Experience

Research Assistant (2014-16) – The Social-Computational Systems Research Project
(Primary Investigator: Amber Boydston)

Research Assistant (2013-15) – 1. The Congressional Careers Sequencing Project; and 2. Spatial Ideological Modeling of San Francisco County Supervisors (Primary Investigator: Scott MacKenzie)

Conference Participation

Department Travel Grant, University of California, Davis. \$500 for travel assistance to the annual meetings of the *Western Political Science Association*, San Diego, CA. March 24-26, 2016.

Department Travel Grant, University of California, Davis. \$500 for travel assistance to the annual meetings of the *Western Political Science Association*, Las Vegas, NV. April 2-5, 2015.

Department Travel Grant, University of California, Davis. \$500 *for travel assistance to the annual meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association*, Chicago, IL. April 3-6, 2014.

Graduate Student Association Travel Award (\$500); Political Science Department travel award (\$200) *for annual meetings of the Midwest Political Science Annual Meeting*. March 30-April 3, 2011.

Service

2012-16 Member, UC Davis Staff Development and Affirmative Action Committee ([SDAAC](#)).

2013-16 Member, UC Davis Campus Council on Community and Diversity ([CCCD](#)). This body develops and implements the UC Davis strategic plan for recruiting, retaining, diverse faculty and staff. As well as, fostering a pipeline of undergraduates to graduate and faculty positions.

Treasurer, Graduate Association of Political Science Students 2014-15

Member, Black Graduation Planning Committee 2014-2015, UC Davis

Master of Ceremonies 2013 Black Convocation February 2, 2013, UC Davis

Hiring Committee, Graduate Diversity Officers, UC Davis Office of Graduate Studies, 2013

Computing Skills

Data Analysis – Stata, R

Qualitative Data Collection – Provalis Qualitative Data Miner, FileMaker Pro, Access

Experimental – MediaLab, Qualtrics

Collaboration – Mercurial, Anaconda, HTML, BitBucket

Audio/Visual Media Editing – Adobe Audition, Final Cut Pro X, Audacity, Microsoft Expression

Memberships

APSA, MPSA and WPSA – Political Science Associations

National Conference of Black Political Scientists

Work Experience

Legislative Aide, Nielsen Merksamer (Lobbying firm) 2006-2009

Legislative Fellowship, California State Assembly Office of the Chief Clerk 2006

References

Cheryl Boudreau
Associate Professor,
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Amber Boydston
Associate Professor,
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Stacy Gordon Fisher
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Bob Huckfeldt
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Ben Highton
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Naomi Levy
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