

Matthew Lesenyie

Department of Politics
Occidental College
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Work Experience

2020, Non-Tenure Track Assistant Professor, Occidental College
2017-2019, Postdoctoral Fellow, Santa Clara University
2015-2016, Associate Instructor, University of California, Davis
2006-2009, Legislative Aide, Nielsen Merksamer (Lobbying firm)
2006 Legislative Fellowship, California State Assembly Office of the Chief Clerk
2005 Intern, Office of Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger

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

“Reading the Fine Print: Issue Advertisements and the Persuasive Effects of Campaign Finance Disclosures”
American Politics Research 48(1): 155-174. 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X19865881>.
“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

“Development and Analysis of Attitudes Towards Advertising Disclosures Measure”
Presented at Pacific Public Opinion Research Conference
“Peeking Behind the Curtain? Assessing the Impact of Pre-treatment in Ad Experiments”
Under Review at Communication Research
“Competing Claims: Two-Sided Exposure to Issue Advertisements & Endorser Cues”
Under Review at Rhetoric & Public Affairs

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

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

- American Government
- Race Politics
- Interest Group Politics
- California Politics
- Comparative Politics
- Political Communication and Campaigns

Certificate in Effective Instruction. Association of College and University Educators (ACUE). Awarded June 2019

- This certificate signifies my completion of a year-long course in effective teaching practices. The course requires live classroom implementation of evidence-based instructional approaches.

Select Research Presentations

"Peeking Behind the Curtain? Assessing the Impact of Pre-treatment in Ad Experiments" Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL April 5-8, 2018

"Development and Analysis of an Attitudes Towards Advertising Disclosures Measure" Western Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA March 29-31, 2018

"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

"2016 Election Result Forecasting" The Project for an Informed Electorate, California State University, Sacramento. October 20, 2016

“Competing Claims: Two-Sided Exposure to Issue Advertisements & Endorser Cues” West Coast Experiments Conference, Stanford, CA May 27th, 2016

“Predicting the Presidency 2016” UC Davis Extension, Davis, CA, May 18, 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

"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

“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

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)

Service

Reviewer – Interest Group Politics (Cigler, Loomis, and Nownes; 2020)

Reviewer – Political Communication Journal (2017-present)

Panel Chair – Media, Fake News, and the Information Environment (MPSA, 2018)

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

2013-16 Member, UC Davis Campus Council on Community and Diversity ([CCCD](#)).

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

References

Cheryl Boudreau
Associate Professor,
UC Davis
clboudreau@ucdavis.edu

Amber Boydston
Associate Professor,
UC Davis
aeboydstun@ucdavis.edu

Greg Corning
Department Chair,
Santa Clara University
gcorning@scu.edu

Stacy Gordon Fisher
Professor,
University of Nevada
stacyg@unr.edu