Melissa Lee Sands

Contact Information

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Education

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA
Ph.D., Government — 2011 - 2017 (expected)
Fields: American Politics, Quantitative Methodology

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, New York, NY
M.P.A., Advanced Policy and Economic Analysis — 2008 - 2010

University of Wisconsin-Madison, Madison, WI
B.A., Sociology with Integrated Liberal Studies certificate — 2001 - 2005
Graduated with distinction (top 4% of class)

Academic appointments

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs
Associate Faculty — 2010

Publications

"Exposure to inequality affects support for redistribution" *Forthcoming* at the *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America.*

"Uncharted territoriality in coproduction: The motivations for 311 reporting" (with Daniel Tumminelli O'Brien, Dietmar Offenhuber, Jesse Baldwin-Philippi, and Eric Gordon) *Forthcoming* at the *Journal of Public Administration, Research & Theory.*

Papers

"The Distributive politics of education policy: Party control of state government and transfers to localities" *Under review*

"Segregation drives racial voting: New evidence from South Africa" (with Daniel de Kadt) *Under review*

"'Eyes' on the street: What public camera feed data can teach us about civic and political behavior"

"Crises and threats in context: The Boston Marathon bombings as a natural experiment"

"The salience of intergroup tensions and discrimination in public goods distribution: Evidence from the aftermath of the 1992 Los Angeles riot" (with Ryan Enos and Aaron Kaufman)

"How human subjects research rules mislead you and your university, and what to do about it (with Gary King)"

"Neighborhood stability and non-voting participation" (with Justin de Benedictis-Kessner, Ryan Enos, and Michael Hankinson)

"Potential for contact in Boston: A geographic database"

Work in Progress

Using public video feeds to understand race relations on the streets of New York (with Bryce Dietrich)

"A field experiment to increase reporting of sex crimes against children" (with Gary King)

"Exploiting natural variation in housing assignment to assess the effects of diversity on intergroup capital" (with Ryan Enos)

"The prevalence of child pornography on the internet" (with Gary King and Molly Roberts)

Awards

Center for American Political Studies Dissertation Research Fellowship — 2015 - 2016
Harvard University

Norton Long Young Scholar Award — 2014
Urban Politics Section, American Political Science Association

Joanne Toor Cummings Fellowship — 2009 - 2010
Columbia University

Phi Beta Kappa — 2005
University of Wisconsin

Grants

Graduate Student Council Conference Grant — 2016
Harvard University

Boston Area Research Initiative Grant ($7,400) — 2015
(joint with Justin de Benedictis-Kessner, Ryan Enos, and Michael Hankinson)
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University

Foundations of Human Behavior Initiative Research Grant ($5,000) — 2014
Harvard University

Boston Area Research Initiative Seed Grant ($5,000) — 2014
Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study at Harvard University

Institute for Quantitative Social Science Research Grant ($2,000) — 2014
Harvard University

Center for American Political Studies Research Seed Grant ($1,000) — 2013
Harvard University

Invited Presentations

International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting, Warsaw, Poland (2016)

Yale CSAP American Politics Conference, poster presentation (2016)

American University Department of Government Research Seminar Series (2016)

Neurostatistics Working Group Seminar, Harvard School of Public Health (2016)

Harvard Meeting on Political Geography, Harvard University (2015)

Political Methodology Graduate Workshop: "Spatial Data & Analysis in `R`", UCLA (2014)

Conference Presentations

Tobin Project Doctoral Student Workshop on Inequality and Decision Making, Harvard University (2016)

Identity Politics Research Group Spring Meeting, Columbia University (2016)

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2016)

Harvard Experiments Working Group Graduate Student Conference (2016)

New York University CESS Experimental Political Science Conference, poster presentation (2016)

American Economic Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco (2016)

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2014, 2015, 2016)

Boston Working Group on African Political Economy, MIT (2014)

American Politics Research Workshop, Harvard University (2013, 2015, 2016)

Teaching Experience

Harvard University, Cambridge, MA — 2013 - 2016

Empirical Methods II - accelerated section (graduate-level econometrics course), Prof. Amitabh Chandra, Harvard Kennedy School (Teaching Fellow in 2015, 2016)

Department Teaching Fellow in Quantitative Methods (2015 - 2017)

Senior Thesis Advisor (2015-2016)

Introduction to Political Science Research Methods, Prof. Arthur Spirling (Teaching Fellow in 2013; Head Teaching Fellow in 2014)

Senior Thesis Writers' Workshop (Teaching Fellow in 2013)

Undergraduate Research Mentor, Center for American Political Studies (2011-2014)

Columbia University, School of International and Public Affairs, New York, NY 2010

The Politics of Policymaking (graduate-level core course), Profs. Kenneth Prewitt and Robert Lieberman (Teaching Assistant in 2009; Associate Faculty in 2010)

Consulting Work

National Research Council. (2012). *Using Science as Evidence in Public Policy. Committee on the Use of Social Science Knowledge in Public Policy*, K. Prewitt, T.A. Schwandt, & M.L. Straf, Editors. Division of Behavioral and Social Sciences and Education. Washington, DC: The National Academies Press.

Congressional Research Service, Washington, DC (2009)
"Risk Management and Stress Testing at Financial Institutions" (with M.P. Carvajal, E. Casado, L. Dmitrieva, J. Rush, and A.A. Shafar) *unpublished*

FATE Foundation, Lagos, Nigeria (Summer, 2009)

Other Experience

The Jewish Home & Hospital Lifecare System, New York, NY
Senior Development Associate 2007 - 2008

University of Wisconsin-Madison Hillel Foundation, Madison, WI
Program Associate 2005 - 2006

NARAL Pro-Choice Wisconsin, Madison, WI
Public Policy Assistant 2005

Joe Parisi for Wisconsin State Assembly, Madison, WI
Volunteer Coordinator 2004

Lieutenant Governor Barbara Lawton, Madison, WI
Special Assistant 2004

Wisconsin Citizen Action, Madison, WI
Health Care Campaign Intern 2003

References

Prof. Gary King
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Prof. Daniel Carpenter
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Harvard University
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Prof. Ryan Enos
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Teaching References

Prof. Arthur Spirling
Dept. of Politics / Center for Data Science
New York University
✉ arthur.spirling@nyu.edu

Prof. Amitabh Chandra
Harvard Kennedy School of Government
Harvard University
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