

Mona Vakilifathi

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Research Interests

American political institutions, state politics, legislative delegation, K-12 education governance, charter schools

Employment

Assistant Professor, Robert F. Wagner Graduate School of Public Service, New York University (August 2017 - Present)

Faculty Affiliations: Department of Politics, Institute of Human Development and Social Change

Researcher, Policy Analysis for California Education, Stanford University (September 2010 - July 2011)

Research Analyst, Center for Education Policy Analysis, Stanford University (September 2009 - May 2011)

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of California, San Diego (June 2017)

Dissertation: *From the Statehouse to the Schoolhouse: The Effect of State Legislative Institutions on Charter School Growth*

Dissertation Committee: Thad Kousser [Chair], Gary Jacobson, Kaare Strøm, Seth Hill, Julie Cullen, and David Plank

B.A. Political Science, University of California, San Diego (June 2009) [cum laude]

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Constraining Bureaucrats Today Knowing You'll Be Gone Tomorrow: The Effect of Legislative Term Limits on Statutory Discretion" Forthcoming. *Policy Studies Journal*.

★ APSA State Politics and Policy Section SPPQ Best Paper Award (2016)

Working Papers

"What is the Effect of Statutory Discretion on Agency Loss? Evidence from the U.S. States" (*Under Review*)

"Strategic Delegation? How Legislative Political Elites Respond to Electoral Uncertainty" (*Under Review*)

"Do Electorally Vulnerable Legislators Prefer to Grant More or Less Statutory Discretion?"

Works in Progress

“Legislative Determinants of Bureaucratic Insulation and Fragmentation”

“The Effect of Bureaucratic Insulation on Statutory Discretion and Agency Loss”

“How to Quantify Bureaucratic Discretion Using Statutory Text”

“Predicting Charter School Growth Using Charter School Statutory Text”

“Bureaucratic Insulation and Agency Loss: Evidence from U.S. Charter School Applications”

Media

[“The DeVos Confirmation Vote Suggests Trump Will Have a Tough Time Passing a School Voucher Law”](#)

The Washington Post (The Monkey Cage) (February 8, 2017)

[“Term-limited Legislators Use Lawmaking to Keep a Closer Hold on Policy Implementation”](#)

LSE US Centre American Politics and Policy Blog (October 27, 2017)

[“Why Trump is Trying to Reduce the Status of the Department of Education”](#)

Brookings (Brown Center Chalkboard Blog) (July 16, 2018)

Conferences

- Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management (2018 [+ discussant])
- American Political Science Association (2015, 2016 [discussant], 2017, 2018 [discussant], 2019 [+ discussant])
- Midwest Political Science Association (2014, 2016, 2018 [discussant])
- Southern Political Science Association (2016)
- State Politics and Policy Conference (2015, 2016 [poster], 2017 [poster], 2018, 2019)
- The Society for Political Methodology (2015 [poster], 2016 [poster])

Invited Conferences and Seminars

2018-19: Emory University (Conference on Institutions and Lawmaking); ETH Zürich (Conference on Data Science and Law [+ discussant]); George Washington University (Department of Political Science); New York University (PRIISM); Texas A&M University, College Station (The Political Economic Implications of Legislative Institutions Conference); University of Georgia (School of Public and International Affairs)

2017-18: Massachusetts Institute of Technology (Department of Political Science); MPSA (Political Institutions and Elite Behavior Experimental Approaches Conference); New York University (Department of Politics; PRIISM); University of California, Berkeley (Goldman School of Public Policy); University of California, Davis (Department of Political Science)

2016-17: Duke University (School of Law/Department of Political Science); New York University (Frontiers in Public Administration and Policy Implementation Conference); University of California, Santa Barbara (Bren School of Environmental Science and Management/Department of Political Science)

2015-16: APSA (Experiments in State Politics Conference); New York University (New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data Conference [discussant]); SPSA (Political Institutions and Elite Behavior Experimental Approaches Conference); University of California, Merced (Southern California Political Institutions Conference); University of California, San Diego (Southern California Law and Social Science Forum [discussant])

2014-15: University of Southern California (Southern California Law and Social Science Forum [discussant])

Teaching

New York University

- Introduction to Public Policy (Graduate Course) [Fall 2018 - Present]
- Policy Formation and Policy Analysis (Graduate Course) [Fall 2017 - Present]
- Statistical Methods for Public, Nonprofit, and Health Management (Graduate Course) [Fall 2017]

University of California, San Diego

- Introduction to American Politics (Undergraduate Course) [Summer 2015]
- The Presidency (Undergraduate Course) [Summer 2016, Spring 2017]

Professional Experience

- Research Mentor, UCSD-STARS Summer Research Program (6/2016 - 8/2016)
- Doctoral Fellow, California Assembly Committee on Education (4/2014 - 6/2014)
- Admissions Interviewer, Education Pioneers (1/2014 - 3/2014)
- Doctoral Fellow, New York City Department of Education (7/2013 - 8/2013)
- Education Pioneers Fellow, New Jersey Department of Education (6/2012 - 8/2012)
- Legislative Intern, San Diego Unified School District (6/2009 - 8/2009)

Awards and Grants

- NYU Wagner Professor of the Year (2019)
- NYU Wagner Student Collaborative Research Grant (2018)
- APSA Thomas M. Carsey Endowment for State Politics and Policy Travel Award (2017)
- APSA State Politics and Policy Section SPPQ Best Paper Award (2016)
- NSF Conference Grant, The Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (2015, 2016)
- UCSD Dean of Social Sciences Research Travel Award (2014, 2016)
- UCSD Sanford Lakoff Dissertation Grant (2014, 2015)
- UCSD Department of Political Science Teaching Assistant Excellence Award (2014)
- Education Pioneers Graduate School Summer Fellowship (2012)
- UCSD Oceanids Service and Leadership Award (2009)
- UCSD Sixth College Commencement Speaker (2009)

Service

- Member, National Association of Charter School Authorizers National Advisory Board (7/2019 - Present)
- Member, NYU Wagner Tenure-Track Faculty Search Committee (9/2018 - 12/2019; 7/2019 - Present)
- Member, ASPA 7th Annual Deil S. Wright Symposium Planning Committee (6/2019 - Present)
- Member, *Legislative Studies Quarterly* Editorial Board (3/2019 - Present)
- Member, APSA Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations Section Executive Committee (8/2017 - Present)
- Chair, APSA John Kincaid Best Article Award Committee (8/2018 - 8/2019)
- Member, NYU Wagner Doctoral Board (9/2018 - 05/2019)
- Mentor, Year Up - New York (1/2018 - 8/2018)
- Member, APSA Theodore J. Lowi PSJ Best Article Award Committee (8/2017 - 8/2018)
- Member, APSA Deil S. Wright Best Paper Award Committee (8/2017 - 8/2018)
- Member, UCSD Political Science Graduate Council (9/2011 - 6/2013; 9/2015 - 6/2016)
- Co-Chair, UCSD Women in Political Science (9/2013 - 6/2014)
- Graduate Representative, UC Systemwide Committee on Education Policy (9/2012 - 6/2013)
- Classroom Volunteer, Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall (2/2011 - 4/2011)
- Advisory Leader, College Track - East Palo Alto (9/2009 - 5/2010)