

Mona Vakilifathi

[Website](#)

Research Interests

American political institutions, state politics, bureaucratic delegation, education governance, legal text analysis

Education

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

- Dissertation: "The Indirect Effect of State Legislative Institutions on Charter School Outcomes"
 - o Dissertation Committee: Thad Kousser [Chair], Gary Jacobson, Kaare Strøm, Seth Hill, Julie Cullen (Economics), and David Plank (Stanford Graduate School of Education)

M.A. Political Science, University of California, San Diego (June 2013)

- Fields: State Politics, American Politics, Comparative Politics

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

Working Papers

"Constraining Bureaucrats Today Knowing You'll Be Gone Tomorrow: The Effect of Legislative Term Limits on Statutory Discretion" [Revise and resubmit at **Policy Studies Journal**]

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

"Setting Off the Fire Alarm: The Effect of Interest Group Strength on Regulatory Discretion"

"A Bias in Representation: How Local Communities with More Representatives Get More Discretionary Spending" (with Liesel Spangler) [Under Review]

"Does Judicial Selection Affect Judicial Performance? Evidence from a Natural Experiment" (with Thad Kousser)

Works in Progress

"Constraining Bureaucrats for their Own Good: The Effect of Bureaucratic Discretion on Charter School Outcomes"

"Strategic Delegation? How Legislators Measure and Respond to Electoral Uncertainty"

"The Effect of Decentralization on Educational Attainment" (with Ben Graham and Kaare Strøm)

Conference Presentations

Presenter

- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2015)
- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2014, 2016)
- Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2016)
- State Politics and Policy Conference (2015, 2016 [Poster])
- The Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (2015 [Poster], 2016 [Poster])

Discussant

- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2016)
- New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data Conference (2015)
- Southern California Law and Social Science Forum (2015, 2016)

Teaching Experience

POLI 10: Introduction to American Politics [Undergraduate Course]

- Instructor (Summer 2015) [Rating: 4.78/5]
- Teaching Assistant (Winter 2016) [Rating: 4.84/5]
- Teaching Assistant (Winter 2015) [Rating: 4.84/5]
- Teaching Assistant (Winter 2014) [Rating: 4.81/5]
- Teaching Assistant (Winter 2013) [Rating: 4.34/5]

POLI 30: Political Inquiry [Undergraduate Course]

- Teaching Assistant (Spring 2016) [Rating: 4.89/5]

POLI 100A: The Presidency [Undergraduate Course]

- Instructor (Summer 2016) [Rating: 4.83/5]

IRGN 443: GIS and Spatial Data Analysis [Graduate Course]

- Teaching Assistant (Fall 2016)
- Teaching Assistant (Fall 2015) [Rating: 4.62/5]
- Teaching Assistant (Fall 2014) [Rating: 4.46/5]

Professional and Other Academic Experience

- Research Mentor, UCSD-STARS Summer Research Program, La Jolla, CA (6/2016-8/2016)
- Doctoral Fellow, California Assembly Committee on Education, Sacramento, CA (4/2014-6/2014)
- Admissions Interviewer, Education Pioneers, Boston, MA (1/2014-3/2014)
- Doctoral Fellow, New York City Department of Education, New York City, NY (7/2013-8/2013)
- Research Assistant, UCSD Department of Political Science, La Jolla, CA (4/2012-6/2012; 9/2012-12/2012; 4/2013-6/2013)
- Education Pioneers Fellow, New Jersey Department of Education, Trenton, NJ (6/2012-8/2012)
- Researcher, Policy Analysis for California Education, Stanford, CA (9/2010-7/2011)
- Research Analyst, Center for Education Policy Analysis, Stanford, CA (9/2009-5/2011)
- Legislative Intern, San Diego Unified School District, San Diego, CA (6/2009-8/2009)

Campus and Community Service

- Social Programming Co-Chair, UCSD Political Science Graduate Council, La Jolla, CA (9/2012-6/2013; 9/2015-6/2016)
 - Co-Chair, UCSD Women in Political Science, La Jolla, CA (9/2013-6/2014)
 - Graduate Representative, UC Systemwide Committee on Education Policy, Oakland, CA (9/2012-6/2013)
 - Recruitment Co-Chair, UCSD Political Science Graduate Council, La Jolla, CA (9/2011-6/2012)
 - Classroom Volunteer, Santa Clara County Juvenile Hall, Santa Clara, CA (2/2011-4/2011)
 - Advisory Leader, College Track, East Palo Alto, CA (9/2009-5/2010)
- ❖ Referee: Journal of Politics, Legislative Studies Quarterly, State Politics and Policy Quarterly

Awards and Grants

- NSF Conference Grant, The Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting (2015, 2016)
- NSF Conference Grant, Visions in Methodology Annual Meeting (2016)
- Department Nominee, UCSD Barbara and Paul Saltman Excellent Teaching Award (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)