

# Sierra Powell

Junior Fellow  
Social Sciences Research Network  
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## EDUCATION

### **University of California, Irvine**

**Ph.D.**, Political Science June 2015  
Major Field: American Politics  
Minor Field: Political Theory  
Dissertation: “The Political Potential of Americans with Disabilities: A Study of Political Engagement and Preferences”  
Committee: Martin Wattenberg (Chair), Matthew Beckmann, Richard Hasen

**M.A.**, Political Science 2011  
Areas of Concentration: American Politics and Political Theory

### **University of Redlands**

**B.A.**, Majors in Government and Philosophy, Minor in Economics 2009  
*Summa Cum Laude*, Honors in Government, Phi Beta Kappa

### **American University**

Washington Semester Program, Seminar in American Public Law 2008

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING AREAS OF INTEREST

American Politics, Political Behavior, Campaigns and Elections, Public Opinion, Mass Media and Political Communication, Representation, Democratic Theory, Research Design, Health Politics

## RESEARCH

### **Publications**

Wattenberg, Martin. P. and Sierra Powell. 2015. “A Policy-Oriented Electorate: Evaluations of Candidates and Parties in the Obama Elections Compared to the 1952-1980 Period.” *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 45(3): 540-557.

Miller, Peter and Sierra Powell. “Overcoming Voting Obstacles: Convenience Voting by People with Disabilities.” *American Politics Research* (Forthcoming).

Powell, Sierra J. 2012. "Jefferson, Thomas (Administration of)." *The Social History of Crime and Punishment in America: An Encyclopedia* (p880-881) Ed. Wilbur R. Miller. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

Powell, Sierra J. 2012. "Madison, James (Administration of)." *The Social History of Crime and Punishment in America: An Encyclopedia* (p1055-1057) Ed. Wilbur R. Miller. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publications.

### **Under Review/Under Contract**

Powell, Sierra. Under contract; manuscript submitted. "Voting." *Political Participation of and for People with Disabilities*. Ed. Dana Lee Baker. New York: Praeger Publishers.

### **Under Revision for Submission**

Powell, Sierra. "A New Approach to Measuring Campaign Effects: Analyzing Themes of the 2008 Presidential Campaign."

Powell, Sierra, Jennifer Garcia, and Bernard Grofman. "The Rhetoric of the Ex-Felon Disenfranchisement Debate: Evidence from Iowa and Florida."

Garcia, Jennifer, Sierra Powell, and Bernard Grofman. "The Partisan Politics of Ex-Felon Disenfranchisement in the United States."

### **Selected Conference Presentations**

"The Political Attitudes of Americans with Disabilities: Moving Beyond the ADA" 2015  
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

"The Political Interest, News Attentiveness, and Political Knowledge of People with Disabilities." 2014  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

"A Policy-Oriented Electorate: Evaluations of Candidates and Parties in the Obama Elections Compared to the 1952-1980 Period." (coauthor Martin P. Wattenberg) 2014  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC

"The Disabled Voter: Toward a New Theory of Political Participation." 2014  
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

"Voting Ability and Disability: Assessing Early Voting in U.S. Elections." 2014  
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL  
(coauthor Peter Miller)

"The Disabled Voice: Exploring the Political Behavior of an Overlooked Minority." 2013  
Competitively selected and fully funded workshop: *Institutions in Context: Inequality*  
North American Studies Program, University of Tampere, Finland

- “Change versus Inexperience: Campaign Advertisement and Voter Perception of Barack Obama in 2008.” 2013  
Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Hollywood, CA
- “Broken Social Contracts or Political Motivations? 2013  
Uncovering the Discourse Behind Fifteen Years of (Ex)-Felon Voting Reform.”  
(copresented with Jennifer Garcia; coauthor Bernard Grofman)  
Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Hollywood, CA
- “A More Policy-Oriented Electorate: Policy and Performance Evaluations in 2008 2012  
Compared to the 1952-1980 Period.” (coauthor Martin P. Wattenberg)  
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL
- “Why Should Governments Provide Universal Healthcare? Analyzing the Rhetoric 2011  
of the Debate in the United States and Internationally.”  
Competitively selected and fully funded workshop: *Institutions in Context: Welfare State*  
North American Studies Program, University of Tampere, Finland
- “Rights Rhetoric in American Politics: A Case Study of American Political Discourse.” 2011  
Western Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Antonio, TX

## **RESEARCH APPOINTMENTS**

- Research Assistant* to Martin P. Wattenberg  
Center for the Study of Democracy, University of California, Irvine
- “Evaluating the Character Attributes of Presidential Candidates in 2012” Summer 2014  
“Citizen Assessments of Presidential Candidates and Political Parties in 2012” Summer 2013  
“Evaluating the Character Attributes of Presidential Candidates in 2008” Summer 2012  
“Policy and Performance Voting in the 2008 Presidential Election” Summer 2011
- Research Assistant* to Bernard N. Grofman  
Center for the Study of Democracy, University of California, Irvine
- “References to President Lincoln in Party Platforms” Summer 2014  
“The Rhetoric of Felon Disenfranchisement Reform” Summer 2012
- Graduate Student Researcher* 2013-2014  
Graduate Professionalization and Career Outcomes Task Force  
Graduate Division, University of California, Irvine  
“Expanding Professional Development for Graduate Students and Postdoctoral Scholars”

## **TEACHING APPOINTMENTS**

### **University of California, Irvine**

#### *Instructor*

- Media and U.S. Politics Summer Session II. 2014

*Teaching Assistant*

Introduction to American Government	Spring 2014; Fall 2010
U.S. Elections and Voting Behavior	Spring and Fall 2012
Political Representation (Upper Division Writing)	Winter 2012
United States Supreme Court (Upper Division Writing)	Fall 2011
Revolutions and the Modern World (Social Science Honors Core)	Spring 2011
Latinos in U.S. Politics	Winter 2011
Introduction to Political Theory	Spring 2010
Politics and the Supreme Court	Winter 2010
Introduction to Law	Fall 2009

- Duties included preparing and teaching student discussion sections, grading coursework, holding office hours, and providing mentoring.

**PEDAGOGICAL PRESENTATIONS**

*Invited Speaker*

Teaching Assistant Development Workshop Series	
School of Social Sciences, University of California Irvine	
“Teaching Students with Disabilities.”	2014
“Managing and Preventing Participation Pitfalls.”	2013
“Instructional Design: Transforming Concepts into Effective Lesson Plans.”	2012
(co-presented with Danny Mann)	

**FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS, AND GRANTS**

Junior Research Fellowship	2015-Present
Social Sciences Research Network, University of California, Irvine	
Chancellor’s Club for Excellence Fellowship	2014-2015
University of California, Irvine	
Associate Dean’s Fellowship	2014
School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine	
Harry Eckstein Scholar Award for Best Political Science Student Advanced to Candidacy	2014
Department of Political Science, University of California, Irvine	
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting Travel Grant	2014
Sponsored by the American Political Science Association	
Summer Research Grant	
Department of Political Science, University of California, Irvine	2011-2014
Pedagogical Fellowship in Recognition of Teaching Excellence	2012-2013
Teaching, Learning & Technology Center, University of California, Irvine	

Order of Merit Award for Outstanding Service School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine	2012
Harrell Rodgers Conference Travel Award Sponsored by the Policy Studies Organization and the Midwest Political Science Association	2012
Collaborative Research Matching Grant Department of Political Science, University of California, Irvine	2012
E.C. Harwood Graduate Fellowship American Institute for Economic Research, Great Barrington, MA	2010
Colwell Prize for Excellence in American Studies Department of Government, University of Redlands	2009
Phi Beta Kappa	2009

### **METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING**

New Directions in Analyzing Text as Data Workshop Sponsored by the Institute for Quantitative Social Science at Harvard University, the Department of Methodology at the London School of Economics, and the Ford Center for Global Citizenship at Northwestern University	2014
Cross-National Comparative Research Workshop Sponsored by the University of California, Irvine	2013
Conducting Empirical Legal Scholarship Workshop Sponsored by the University of Southern California Gould School of Law and the Washington University School of Law	2012
Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan Workshops in Maximum Likelihood Estimation and Scaling and Dimensional Analysis	2011

### **DISCIPLINARY SERVICE**

*Ad Hoc Reviewer*  
Journal of Politics  
West European Politics

<i>Panel Organizer and Chair</i> Panel Title: Disability Politics and Policy in the United States Cosponsored by Division 25-1 Public Policy and Division 48. Health Politics and Policy American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, DC	2014
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*Host* 2014  
First-Time Conference Attendee Reception  
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL

## **INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE**

*Graduate Professionalization and Career Planning Task Force Member* 2013-2014  
Provided a graduate student perspective to four subcommittees relating to programming, Ph.D. student placement, alumni partnerships, and promoting professionalization

*Graduate Interconnect Peer Mentor* 2011-2013  
Graduate Division, University of California, Irvine  
Provided information, guidance, and a support network to a group of incoming international graduate students in order to aid in their smooth transition to a new university and community

*School of Social Sciences Representative* 2011-2013  
Associated Graduate Students Council, University of California, Irvine  
Communications Committee Member

*Teaching Assistant Professional Development Program Leader* 2012  
School of Social Sciences, University of California, Irvine  
Designed and implemented a 12-hour active learning and discipline specific training for new teaching assistants in the departments of Political Science and Anthropology

*Search Committee Member* 2012  
Search for an Assistant Vice Chancellor of Wellness, Health, and Counseling Services  
Student Affairs, University of California, Irvine

*Judiciary Committee Chair* 2010-2011  
Associated Graduate Students, University of California, Irvine

*Graduate Student Representative* 2010-2011  
Department of Political Science, University of California, Irvine  
Graduate Committee and Department Meetings

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Political Science Association  
American Association for Public Opinion Research  
Midwest Political Science Association  
Western Political Science Association  
Phi Beta Kappa  
Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society  
Mortar Board National College Senior Honor Society

## **REFERENCES**

*Martin Wattenberg*

Professor of Political Science  
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3151 Social Science Plaza A  
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Tel. (949) 824-7251  
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*Matthew Beckmann*

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*Richard Hasen*

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*Bernard Grofman*

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