

# Melissa N. Baker

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CONTACT INFORMATION	<a href="#">Department of Political Science</a> <a href="#">University of Toronto</a> 27 King's College Cir Toronto, ON M5S	<i>Phone:</i> 1 (402) 304-4142 <a href="mailto:melissa.baker@utoronto.ca">melissa.baker@utoronto.ca</a> <a href="http://www.melissanbaker.com">www.melissanbaker.com</a>
ACADEMIC POSITIONS	Postdoctoral Associate, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy Supervisor: <a href="#">Peter Loewen</a> <a href="#">University of Toronto</a> , Toronto, ON	July 2021-
	Visiting Instructor, Department of Political Science <a href="#">Wellesley College</a> , Wellesley, MA	Spring 2021
EDUCATION	Ph.D. Political Science, <a href="#">University of California, Merced</a> Committee: <a href="#">Matthew V. Hibbing</a> (Chair), <a href="#">Stephen P. Nicholson</a> , <a href="#">Melissa L. Sands</a> , <a href="#">Alexander G. Theodoridis</a> , & <a href="#">Elaine K. Denny</a>	2021
	B.A. Psychology, <a href="#">University of Nebraska-Lincoln</a>	2015
ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND EXPERIENCE	Teaching Matters Workshops: Remote Instruction, Best Practices for Large Classrooms, Best Practices for (Small) Group Discussions, Lesson and Curriculum Design. Center for Engaged Teaching and Learning (CETL), UC Merced	2015-2021
	Political Science Laboratory manager Department of Political Science <a href="#">University of California, Merced</a>	2016-2018
	Stanford Summer Institute in Political Psychology Stanford University	2016
	Psychophysiological Methods in Political Science Workshop <a href="#">University of California, Merced</a>	2016
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Political Psychology, Political Cognition, Emotions, Political Behavior, Information Behavior, Civic Engagement, Prejudice, Mental Health	
PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS	<a href="#">Haas, I. J., Baker, M. N., &amp; Gonzalez, F. J. (2021). Understanding the Neural Underpinnings of Uncertainty in Political Evaluation using Functional MRI. <i>Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society B: Biological Sciences</i>.</a> <a href="#">Lopez, L. D., Moorman, K., Schneider, S., Baker, M. N., &amp; Holbrook, C. (2019). Morality is Relative: Anger, Disgust, and Aggression as Contingent Responses to Sibling Versus Stranger Harm. <i>Emotion</i>.</a> <a href="#">Hibbing, M. V., Baker, M. N., &amp; Herzog, K. A. (2019) Psychophysiology in Political Decision Making Research. In Oxford Encyclopedia of Political Decision Making. Oxford University Press.</a> <a href="#">Haas, I. J., Baker, M. N., &amp; Gonzalez, F. J. (2017) Who Can Deviate from the Party Line? Political Ideology Moderates Evaluation of Incongruent Policy Positions in Insula and Anterior Cingulate Cortex. <i>Social Justice Research</i>.</a>	

UNDER REVIEW	<p>“Dispositional Traits and Susceptibility to Political Anxiety” Pre-print: <a href="https://psyarxiv.com/3se54">https://psyarxiv.com/3se54</a></p> <p>“Biological Attributions for Political Ideology decrease Political Prejudice and Intolerance.” With Ingrid J. Haas. Pre-print: <a href="https://psyarxiv.com/pkjh7/">https://psyarxiv.com/pkjh7/</a></p> <p>“Media Framing and Audience Costs.” With Peter D. Carey</p>																																		
SELECTED WORKING PAPERS	<p>“Controversial Judges and Threats to Women’s Rights.” With Kayla S. Canelo (Winner of the 2021 Marian Irish Award for best paper in women &amp; politics at SPSA.)</p> <p>“Cognitive Resilience Under Stress: A Tradeoff Between Mental Wellbeing and Mobilization” With Elaine K. Denny</p> <p>“Perceptions of Extreme Candidates under Different Electoral Systems.”</p> <p>“Anger, Disgust, and Aggression as Contingent Responses to Political Ingroup and Outgroup Harm.” With Karie Moorman, Lukas D. Lopez, &amp; Colin Holbrook</p>																																		
EXTERNAL GRANTS	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="width: 80%;">APSA Centennial Center Research Grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2600</td> </tr> <tr> <td>American Political Science Association</td> <td style="text-align: right;">Fall 2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Project: Perceptions and Understanding of Political Violence Concepts With M.P. Broache and Peter D. Carey</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interdisciplinary Grant</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2940</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Interdisciplinary Grants Program, University of California, Merced</td> <td style="text-align: right;">AY 2020-2021</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Project: Working Group on Emotions in a Political Society</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Electoral Reform Research Group Project Funding</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2440</td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">New America</a></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Spring 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Project: Candidate Extremity and Ranked Choice Voting</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2"> </td> </tr> <tr> <td>Psychology and Economics of Poverty (PEP) Seed Funding Competition</td> <td style="text-align: right;">\$2000</td> </tr> <tr> <td><a href="#">Center for Effective Global Action, UC Berkeley</a></td> <td style="text-align: right;">Spring 2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td colspan="2">Project: Contextualizing Emotions: An Intervention to Increase Political Participation in Impoverished Populations</td> </tr> </table>	APSA Centennial Center Research Grant	\$2600	American Political Science Association	Fall 2021	Project: Perceptions and Understanding of Political Violence Concepts With M.P. Broache and Peter D. Carey				Interdisciplinary Grant	\$2940	Interdisciplinary Grants Program, University of California, Merced	AY 2020-2021	Project: Working Group on Emotions in a Political Society				Electoral Reform Research Group Project Funding	\$2440	<a href="#">New America</a>	Spring 2020	Project: Candidate Extremity and Ranked Choice Voting				Psychology and Economics of Poverty (PEP) Seed Funding Competition	\$2000	<a href="#">Center for Effective Global Action, UC Berkeley</a>	Spring 2020	Project: Contextualizing Emotions: An Intervention to Increase Political Participation in Impoverished Populations					
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	Undergraduate Creative Activities and Research Experience Award University of Nebraska-Lincoln	\$2400 AY 2014 - 2015
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<b>Instructor:</b> Political Psychology (POLI 329) Wellesley College	Spring 2021
	Public Opinion (POLI 125) University of California, Merced	Spring 2021
	Voting Behavior, Campaigns, and Elections (POLI 120) University of California, Merced	Summer 2020
	Political Psychology (POLI 123) University of California, Merced	Summer 2019
	The Presidency (POLI 101) University of California, Merced	Spring 2019
	<b>Teaching Assistant:</b> The Presidency (POLI 101) Instructor of Record: Matt Hibbing	Spring 2020
	Political Psychology (POLI 123) Instructor of Record: Elaine Denny	Fall 2019
	Intro to American Politics (POLI 001) Instructors of Record: Stephen Nicholson (AY 15-16, 17-18, Fall 18 & 20) and Jessica Trounstine (AY 16-17)	2015-2020
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	Reviewer American Political Science Review, Political Behavior, Research and Politics Journal of Experimental Political Science, American Politics Research, Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, and Parties, Electoral Studies, Politics & Life Sciences, Behavioral Sciences, Philosophical Transactions of the Royal Society: Biological Sciences	2019-present
	Committee Member Institutional Review Board University of California, Merced	2019-2021
	Department Delegate Graduate Student Association University of California, Merced	2020-2021
	Graduate Group Peer Mentor Department of Political Science University of California, Merced	2019-2021

	Organizer	2018-2021
	Graduate Student Research Feedback Sessions	
	Department of Political Science	
	University of California, Merced	
	Advisor	2017-2021
	Bobcat Model United Nations	
	Undergraduate Student Organization	
	University of California, Merced	
INVITED TALKS	Dispositional Traits and Susceptibility to Political Anxiety. Presented at <a href="#">Junior Americanist Workshop Series</a> , Fall 2020.	
	Susceptibility to Political Anxiety: The Role of Individual Differences in Anxiety and Civic Engagement. Presented at the <a href="#">Hot Politics Lab</a> , Summer 2020.	
INTERNAL AWARDS	2019 Departmental Top Paper Award	
	“Media Framing and Audience Costs.” With Peter D. Carey	Summer 2019
	2019 Departmental Teaching Award	
	The Presidency (POLI 101)	Summer 2019
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	Baker, M. N. Dispositional Traits and Susceptibility to Anxiety. Paper prepared for the 2021 Harvard Experimental Political Science meeting. Remote meeting.	
	Baker, M. N. Dispositional Traits and Susceptibility to Anxiety. Paper prepared for the 2020 American Political Science Association annual meeting. Remote meeting.	
	Baker, M. N. Political Engagement and Susceptibility to Anxiety. Paper prepared for the 2020 Midwestern Political Science Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL. Conference canceled due to COVID-19.	
	Baker, M. N. & Warren, C. Political Stress vs. Political Anxiety: Related by Distinct Concepts. Paper prepared for the 2020 Midwestern Political Science Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL. Conference canceled due to COVID-19.	
	Baker, M. N. & Canelo, K. Controversial Judges and Women’s Rights. Paper prepared for the 2020 Midwestern Political Science Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL. Conference canceled due to COVID-19.	
	Baker, M. N. The Role of Attention in Experiencing Political Anxiety. Poster presented at the 2019 Society for Political Methodology annual meeting, Cambridge, MA.	
	Baker, M. N. The Role of Individual Traits in Experiencing Political Anxiety. Paper presented at the 2019 University of California, Riverside Political Behavior Conference, Riverside, CA.	
	Carey, P. D. & Baker, M. N. Media Framing and Audience Costs. Paper presented at the 2019 Western Political Science Association annual meeting, San Diego, CA.	
	Baker, M. N., The Role of Individual Traits in Experiencing Political Anxiety. Paper presented at the 2019 Western Political Science Association annual meeting, San Diego, CA.	

Baker, M. N., Schneider, S. P., & Haas, I. J. Unstable High Self-Esteem and Support for Political Aggression. Paper presented at the 2019 Midwestern Political Science Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL.

Baker, M. N. Anxiety and Information Seeking: The Role of Political Interest and State vs. Trait Anxiety. Paper presented at the 2019 Midwestern Political Science Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL.

Baker, M. N. & Carey, P. D. Framing and Audience Costs. Poster presented at the 2018 Society for Political Methodology annual meeting, Provo, UT.

Baker, M. N., Schneider, S. P., & Haas, I. J. The Relationship Between Unstable Self-Esteem, Aggression, and Political Violence. Paper presented at the 2018 Midwestern Political Science Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL.

Baker, M. N. & Herzog, K. A. The Impact of Extreme Candidates on Ideological Self Perceptions. Paper presented at the 2018 Midwestern Political Science Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL.

Baker, M. N. & Haas, I. J. The Effects of Ideology Attribution on Political Attitudes, Tolerance, and Perception of Polarization. Paper presented at the 2018 Western Political Science Association annual meeting, San Francisco, CA.

Baker, M. N., Schneider, S. P., & Haas, I. J. Self-esteem and causal attributions for political attitudes and behavior. Paper presented at the 2017 Midwestern Political Science Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL.

Baker, M. N. & Haas, I. J. The Effects of Ideology Attribution on Political Attitudes and Tolerance. Paper presented at the 2017 Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual conventions political psychology preconference. San Antonio, TX.

Baker, M. N. & Haas, I. J. Attributing Political Ideology to Biology Versus Choice Influences Attitudes About Political Outgroups. Poster presented at the 2016 Society for Personality and Social Psychology annual convention, San Diego, CA.

Baker, M. N. & Haas, I. J. Uncertainty, Threat, and Changes in Executive Function. Poster presented at the 2015 Midwestern Psychological Association annual meeting, Chicago, IL.

Baker, M., Soto, E., Wanser, B. & Garza, J. Testing a Developmentally Sensitive Emotional Flanker Task in an Adult Population: An ERP Study. Poster presented at the 2014 Spring Research Fair at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE.

Baker, M., Garza, J., Choi, H.J. & Andrews-Espy, K. Inhibitory Control and Emotional Processing in Children Prenatally Exposed to Tobacco. Poster presented at the 2013 Spring Research Fair at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Lincoln, NE.

## REFERENCES

[Matthew V. Hibbing](#)  
Associate Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of California, Merced  
[mhibbing@ucmerced.edu](mailto:mhibbing@ucmerced.edu)

[Melissa L. Sands](#)  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Government  
London School of Economics  
[m.sands@lse.ac.uk](mailto:m.sands@lse.ac.uk)

[Elaine K. Denny](#)  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of California, Merced  
[edenny@ucmerced.edu](mailto:edenny@ucmerced.edu)