

Amy D. Meli

Contact Information

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Roanoke, VA 24020

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Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of Political Science, July 2025 - present
Department of Global Politics and Societies
Hollins University

Faculty Affiliate, July 2025 – present
Center for Effective Lawmaking
University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University

Faculty Fellow, October 2024 – present
Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement
University of Maryland

Postdoctoral Research Associate, July 2024 – June 2025
Center for Effective Lawmaking
Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy
University of Virginia

Education

University of Maryland
College Park, MD
Ph.D., Political Science, 2024
Fields: American Politics, Methods, GPA: 4.0
Dissertation: Mobilized Interests: How Interest Groups Influence Group Member Perceptions of Politics
Committee: Kristina Miler (chair), Antoine Banks, Michael Hanmer, David Karol, Arie Kruglanski

The George Washington University
Washington, DC
M.A., Political Management, 2002

Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University
Blacksburg, VA
B.A., Political Science and Communication Studies, 1998
Summa cum laude

Book Project

An Interest in Democracy: How Interest Groups Engage the Public and Support Democratic Norms in the Process (under contract with University of Chicago Press)

Peer Reviewed Publications

[Meli, Amy D. and Gawehns, Florian. “Principled Pragmatism: Access-Oriented Interest Groups and Campaign Contributions After January 6.” August 1, 2025. *British Journal of Political Science*.](#)

[Meli, Amy D. "Realignment or Pragmatic Shifting? Corporate Partisanship in Response to Changes in Party Control of Congress." *Interest Groups and Advocacy*. July 9, 2025.](#)

[Meli, Amy D. "Party People? Measuring Interest Group Affiliation with Political Parties." *Interest Groups and Advocacy*. September 19, 2023.](#)

[Meli, Amy D. "Who is to Blame? Partisans' Use of Blame Spreading in Reaction to Unfair and Dishonest Behavior." *American Politics Research*. December 7, 2023.](#)

Working Papers

"Pragmatic Partners: Legislative Effectiveness and Interest Group Contributions" with Kris Miler

"Policy or Politics? Labor Unions in a Polarized America"

"The Politics of Partnership" with Devin Green and Maraam Dwidar

"Mobilizations that Bind: Interest Group Maintenance Through Grassroots Engagement"

Teaching Experience

Assistant Professor, Department of Global Politics and Societies, Hollins University, Roanoke, VA

- U.S. Congress, Spring 2026
- Constitutional Law, Spring 2026
- American Government, Spring 2026
- Grassroots Engagement, Fall 2025
- Parties, Elections, and Political Behavior, Fall 2025

Instructor of Record, Frank Batten School of Leadership and Public Policy, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA

- Grassroots Engagement, Spring 2025

Instructor of Record, The University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- Seminar in American Politics: Grassroots Engagement for Political Change, Fall 2023
- American Government, Fall 2021

Adjunct Lecturer, The George Washington University, Graduate School of Political Management, Washington, DC

- Instructor of Record, Grassroots Engagement, Fall 2016 - 2024

Research Presentations

"Policy or Politics? Labor Unions in a Polarized America," Midwest Political Science Association, April 2026 (forthcoming)

"Depolarizing Interests: How Interest Group Involvement Influences Perceptions of the Out Party," Midwest Political Science Association, April 2025

“An Inoculation Against Polarization,” National Capital Area Political Science Association, January 2025

“Firm Partisanship: How Internal Stakeholders Influence Party Proximity Among Politically Active Companies” American Political Science Association. September 2024

“Pragmatic Partners: Legislative Effectiveness and Interest Group Contributions” with Kris Miler. American Political Science Association. September 2024

“Firm Partisanship: How Internal Stakeholders Influence Party Proximity Among Politically Active Companies” Midwest Political Science Association. April 2024

“Take Action Now! How Interest Group Type Influences Member Mobilization Strategies” Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Conference, March 2024

“Take Action Now! How Interest Group Type Influences Member Mobilization Strategies” Junior Americanist Workshop Series. September 2023

“Take Action Now! How Interest Group Type Influences Member Mobilization Strategies” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, August 2023

“Take Action Now! How Interest Group Type Influences Member Mobilization Strategies” University of Maryland American Politics Workshop, April 2023

“Principled Pragmatism: Access-Oriented Interest Groups and Campaign Contributions after January 6” with Florian Gaweihns, Midwest Political Science Association, April 2023

“Party People? Measuring Interest Group Affiliation with Political Parties,” American Political Science Association, September 2022

“Who is to Blame? Partisans’ Use of Blame Spreading in Reaction to Unfair and Dishonest Behavior,” Midwest Political Science Association, April 2022

“Who is to Blame? Partisans’ Use of Blame Spreading in Reaction to Unfair and Dishonest Behavior.” University of Maryland American Politics Workshop, September 2021

Practitioner-Focused Presentations

“Keynote Address: Strengthening Democracy Through Grassroots Actions,” The Advocacy Conference, February 2025

“Master Class: Advanced Data Analytics for Public Affairs,” Public Affairs Council, September 2024

“Joining the Chorus: How Your Advocacy Work Actually Makes the World a Better Place.” Buzz Advocacy Summit. Annapolis, MD. July 2024.

“Plenary Session: Mobilized Interests: A Preliminary Look,” Public Affairs Institute, Huntington Beach, CA, January 2024

Invited Talks

Grassroots Workshop at George Washington University (joint program with Universidad Navarra), Spring 2017 – 2024

Grassroots Workshop, Seminar on Leadership Development at George Washington University, Spring 2021

Management of Successful Political Change, Visiting Scholars Program at George Washington University, Summer 2017 – 2019

Issues Management Workshop at George Washington University (joint program with Universidad Navarra), Spring 2017 – 2019

Other Publications

Florian Gaweihns and Amy Meli. “Are U.S. companies punishing Republicans for Jan. 6? Here’s what our research finds.” *The Monkey Cage*. January 5, 2022

Meli, Amy. “Action Planning in Academic Literature.” Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement. University of Maryland. 2022

Meli, Amy. *Lobbying for Good*. Foundation for Public Affairs. Washington, DC. 2021

Meli, Amy and Grefe, Edward. “Public Affairs and Information Science/Systems.” In *The Handbook of International Corporate and Public Affairs*, eds. Harris, Phil and Fleischer, Craig S. Sage Publications, Inc., Thousand Oaks, CA, 165-183. 2017

Grants and Awards

Consortium on American Political Economy Research Grant, Fall 2025

James F. Hoobler Award, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, Spring 2024

Roger H. Davidson Award in American Politics, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, Spring 2024 (with Florian Gaweihns)

American Political Science Association Travel Grant, American Political Science Association, Fall 2023

Dean’s Research Initiative Doctoral Dissertation Grant, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland, Spring 2023

Virginia Gray Graduate Research Grant, Political Organizations and Parties Section, American Political Science Association, Fall 2022

American Political Science Association Travel Grant, American Political Science Association, Fall 2022

Summer Research Fellowship, The Graduate School, University of Maryland, Summer 2022

Jean Elizabeth Spencer Award for Excellence in American Politics, University of Maryland, 2021

Dean's Fellowship, The Graduate School, University of Maryland, 2019-2022

Graduate Assistantship, Department of Government and Politics, University of Maryland, 2019-2022

Phi Beta Kappa, 1998

Research Experience Research Assistant, Center for Democracy and Civic Engagement, supervised by Michael Hanmer, Spring 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2023, Spring 2024

Professional Memberships American Political Science Association, National Capital Area Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association

Relevant Work Experience Independent Consultant, June 2024 – present

Senior Director, Public Affairs Council and Executive Director, Foundation for Public Affairs, Washington, DC, January 2022 – May 2024

Vice President, Grassroots Consulting, Aristotle International, Washington, DC, 2002 – 2021

U.S. House of Representatives

- Legislative Assistant, Representative Richard Burr (R-NC), 2000 – 2002
- Legislative Clerk, Committee on Commerce, 1998 – 2000

Professional Service Independent Study Supervisor

- Media and Politics, Spring 2026
- Political Psychology, Spring 2026

Board of Directors, PLEN, 2022 – present
Membership Chair, Campaign Finance Research Group of the American Political Science Association
Discussant, Midwest Political Science Association, 2024 and 2025
Journal Referee, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*