

# Amy D. Meli

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Contact Information	7916 Williamson Road Roanoke, VA 24020	703-395-2817 <a href="mailto:meliad@hollins.edu">meliad@hollins.edu</a>
Academic Appointments	Assistant Professor, 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 <i>Summa cum laude</i>	
Peer Reviewed Publications	Meli, Amy D. and Gawhehns, Florian. "Principled Pragmatism: Access-Oriented Interest Groups and Campaign Contributions After January 6." Accepted for publication, <i>British Journal of Political Science</i>  Meli, Amy D. "Realignment or Pragmatic Shifting? Corporate Partisanship in Response to Changes in Party Control of Congress." July 9, 2025. <a href="https://link.springer-com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu/article/10.1057/s41309-025-00247-9">https://link-springer-com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu/article/10.1057/s41309-025-00247-9</a>	

Meli, Amy D. "Party People? Measuring Interest Group Affiliation with Political Parties." *Interest Groups and Advocacy*. September 19, 2023. <https://link.springer.com.proxy-um.researchport.umd.edu/article/10.1057/s41309-023-00193-4>

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. <https://journals.sagepub.com/eprint/G4BN8Y46WPPIR5GSYHQH/full>

## Book Project

*An Interest in Democracy: How Interest Groups Engage the Public and Support Democratic Norms in the Process*

## Working Papers

"Take Action Now! How Interest Group Type Influences Member Mobilization Strategies"

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

## Research Presentations

"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 Gawehns, 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

#### **Other Publications**

Florian Gawehns 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**

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 Gawehns)

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, 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

#### **Teaching Experience**

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
- Lecturer, Grassroots Workshop (joint program with Universidad Navarra), Spring 2017 - 2024
- Lecturer, Grassroots Workshop, Seminar on Leadership Development, Spring 2021
- Lecturer, Management of Successful Political Change, Visiting Scholars Program, Summer 2017 - 2019
- Lecturer, Issues Management Workshop (joint program with Universidad Navarra), Spring 2017 - 2019

Teaching Assistant, The University of Maryland, College Park, MD

- Racial and Ethnic Politics in the Obama Era, Fall 2019
- American Government, Spring 2020 and Fall 2020

#### **Professional Memberships**

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

#### **Relevant Work Experience**

Founder, Meli Strategies. July 2025 – present

- Consultant providing quantitative and qualitative analysis for communications and public affairs clients

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**

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*