

# MELANIE M. BOWERS

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## EDUCATION

### **Doctor of Philosophy: Political Science**

August 2015

Michigan State University, Lansing, MI

*Comprehensive Exams:* American Politics and Public Policy

*Specialization:* Global Urban Studies

**Dissertation:** Local Policymaking in an Age of Federalism: The Role of Federal Incentives in Municipal Homelessness Policy

**Dissertation Committee:** Richard Hula (Chair), Laura Reese, Sarah Reckhow, Josh Sapotichne

### **Master of Arts: Political Science**

May 2011

Michigan State University, Lansing, MI

*Focus Areas:* American Politics and Public Policy

### **Bachelor of Arts: Political Science**

May 2007

University of Colorado at Boulder, Boulder, CO

*Minor:* Economics

*Honors:* Summa Cum Laude with Highest University Honors

## ADDITIONAL ADVANCED TRAINING

### **Certificate in College Teaching, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI**

Spring 2015

*Courses:* PLS 993, Readings Course in Teaching and Learning

### **The Institute for Qualitative and Multimethods Research Summer Institute,**

Summer 2012

Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY

*Modules:* Process Tracing, Typology Theory, Designing and Conducting Fieldwork, Strategies of Causal Inference, Content Analysis, Qualitative Comparative Analysis and Fuzzy Sets

### **Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program,**

Summer 2011

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

*Courses:* Applied Multilevel Modeling, Causal Inference

### **NVivo 9 Basic and Advanced Training Seminars, East Lansing, MI**

Spring 2011

## RESEARCH

### Interests

Policy Feedback

Policy Process

Urban Politics and Policy

Environmental Policy

Immigration Policy and Politics

Race and Ethnic Politics and Policy

LGBT Politics and Policy

Teaching and Learning

### Publications

Bowers, Melanie and Robert R. Preuhs. 2009. Collateral Consequences of a Collateral Penalty: The Negative Effect of Felon Disenfranchisement Laws on the Political Participation of Non-Felons. *Social Science Quarterly* 90(3), 722-743.

### Articles Under Review

**Bowers, Melanie.** Rights but Not Marriage?: Understanding how Community Context Influences Those who Support Civil Unions but Oppose Same-Sex Marriage. ( Submitted for Initial Review)

Hula, Richard, **Melanie Bowers** and William Issac. Science, Politics and Policy: How Citizens Resolve Complex Environmental Issues. (Submitted for Initial Review)

**Bowers, Melanie.** Using Infographics to Promote Numeric Literacy and Visual Communication in Undergraduate Political Science Classrooms. (Submitted for Initial Review)

### Working Papers

Hula, Richard, **Melanie Bowers**, Cameron Whitley. Is it Too Risky?: Understanding Public Risk Assessment of Environmental Policy.

**Bowers, Melanie** and Erika Rosebrook. Unintended Consequences or Unstated Goals?: The Effects of State and Local Immigration Policy on the Political Incorporation of Latino Immigrants.

Josh Sapotichne, Quinton Mayne and **Melanie Bowers.** Predicting Policy Priorities: Reexamining the Complex Relationship between Local Institutional Form and Policy Priorities”

### Conference Presentations

**Bowers, Melanie.** Keeping Problems at Bay?: Understanding Municipal Responsiveness in the Post-Reagan Era. Poster session presented at the 110<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association; August 28-31, 2014; Washington, DC.

**Bowers, Melanie.** Responding to Change: Examining the Characteristics of Adaptive Cities. Paper presented at the 109<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association; August 29-31, 2013; Chicago, IL.

**Bowers, Melanie.** Municipal Adaptability: Responding to an Ever-Changing Federal Funding Structure. Paper presented at the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association; April 11-14, 2013; Chicago, IL.

Hula, Richard, **Melanie Bowers** and William Issac. Determinants Of Complex Policy: Understanding The Role of Science In Public Policy.” Paper presented at the 71<sup>st</sup> Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association; April 11-14,

2013; Chicago, IL.

Hula, Richard and **Melanie Bowers**. Determinants of Complex Policy: Understanding the Role of Science in Public Policy. Paper accepted at the 108<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association; August 30- September 2, 2012; New Orleans, LA (meeting canceled).

**Bowers, Melanie**. Place Matters: The Role of State and Local Context in Predicting Public Opinion on Same-Sex Relationship Recognition. Paper presented at the 70<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association; April 12-15, 2012; Chicago, IL.

**Bowers, Melanie**. State Context as a Determinant of Opinion on Same-Sex Relationship Recognition. Paper presented at the 107<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association; September 1-4, 2011; Seattle, WA.

## TEACHING AND LEARNING

### Teaching Interests

American Politics	Public Policy	Federalism and Intergovernmental Relations
Urban Politics	Immigration Policy	Minority Politics (Race, Ethnicity and LGBT)

### Courses

<i>Instructor</i> , Political Science 313: Public Policy Analysis Michigan State University Online 20 Students	Summer 2014
<i>Instructor</i> , Political Science 313: Public Policy Analysis Michigan State University 35 Students	Spring 2014
<i>Teaching Assistant and Guest Lecturer</i> , Political Science 302: Urban Politics Michigan State University 70 Students	Fall 2013
<i>Invited Lecturer</i> , Integrated Studies in Social Sciences: US Immigration Policy in Perspective Michigan State University 35 Students	Spring 2011, 2012

### Teaching Enhancement and Professional Development

<i>Fellow</i> , Residential College of the Arts and Humanities Teaching Fellowship Program Michigan State University	2014-2015
<i>Fellow</i> , Preparing Future Faculty for the Assessment of Student Learning Michigan State University	2013-2015
<i>Participant</i> , Workshop Series on Teaching, Learning and Assessment Michigan State University	2012-2015
<i>Graduate Student Group Leader</i> , Department of Political Science Online Teaching Preparation Michigan State University	2013-2014
<i>Student Representative</i> , Department of Political Science's Committee on Undergraduate Education Michigan State University	2011-2012

**Mentored Students and Letters of Recommendation**

Hanah Miller, Spring 2014  
 Emily Meyer, Spring 2014  
 Hailey Lobb, Spring 2014  
 Jacob Garriston , Fall 2014

**FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS**

**University Distinguished Fellowship** Fall 2009 – Spring 2015  
 Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI  
*Total Value:* \$71,000

**Residential College of the Arts and Humanities Teaching Fellowship** Fall 2014- Spring 2015  
 Michigan State University, East Lansing MI  
*Total Value:* \$7,500

**Graduate Research Fellowship** Fall 2010 - Spring 2013  
 National Science Foundation, Washington DC  
*Total Value:* \$124,500

**Summer Enrichment Fellowship** Summer 2011, 2012  
 Department of Political Science, Michigan State University  
*Total Value:* \$10,000

**Travel Grants**

Department of Political Science, Michigan State University 2011-2014  
*Total Value* \$3000

Graduate School, Michigan State University 2011, 2014  
*Total Value* \$800

Council of Graduate Students, Michigan State University 2013  
 \$300

College of Social Science, Michigan State University 2011  
 \$400

**SERVICE**

**Department Service**

**President**, Political Science Graduate Student Governing Board 2012-2013  
 Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

**Student Representative**, Department of Political Science’s Graduate Studies Committee 2011-2012  
 Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

**Chair**: Department of Political Science’s Graduate Student Advisory Committee 2011-2012  
 Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

**Admissions and Academic Standards Committee Representative**, Political Science 2011-2012

Graduate Student Governing Board  
Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI

*Coordinator*, Workshop Series on Qualitative Research Methodology 2011-2012

*Member*, Department of Political Science's Graduate Student Advisory Committee 2010-2011

*Community Chair*, Political Science Graduate Student Governing Board 2010-2011

### **University Service**

*Volunteer*, Pastured Swine Production Project Volunteer, Michigan State University Student Organic Farm,  
Michigan State University. 2010-2014

*Judge*, Undergraduate Research Conference, UURAF (April 8, 2011)

### **Community Service**

*Volunteer*, Capital Area Humane Society, Lansing, MI 2012-Present

*Volunteer*, Habitat for Humanity, Lansing, MI 2012-Present

*Volunteer*, Aqua Clara Water System Installation Managua, Nicaragua Summer 2010

*Volunteer*, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, New York, NY 2008-2009.

*Volunteer*, Women's Coalition of St. Croix, St. Croix US Virgin Island (Domestic Violence Awareness  
Committee) 2006-2007.

*Volunteer*, Presbyterian Disaster Assistance, Hurricane Katrina Disaster Relief, Pearlinton, Mississippi Summer  
2006.

*Volunteer*, Boulder County Cares: Homeless Street Outreach Program, Boulder, CO 2003-2006

*Volunteer*, Boulder Shelter for the Homeless, Boulder, CO 2003-2006

*Volunteer*, Boulder County AIDS Project, Boulder, CO 2003-2006

*Volunteer*, Environmental Restoration in Garden of the God's, Colorado Springs, CO. 2005-summer.

### **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND MEMBERSHIPS**

#### **Adhoc Reviewer**

*Journal of Urban Affairs*

*Political Research Quarterly*

#### **Member**

American Political Science Association

Urban Politics Section

Public Policy Section

Midwest Political Science Association

Urban Politics Section

Public Policy Section

## SOFTWARE AND DATA PROFICENCY

STATA	SAS
SPSS	Microsoft Office Suite
Nvivo	HLM

## SELECT NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

**National Development Council (NDC)-** New York, NY

July 2007-July 2009

*Program Information Specialist*

- Designed and implemented community impact assessment plans for NDC's New Markets Tax Credit and small business lending programs
- Completed qualitative research, including focus groups, intensive interviews and survey work, on seven New Markets Tax Credit Projects
- Wrote the community impacts section of the Federal New Markets Tax Credit Application, helping to secure a \$100 million allocation
- Completed community impact assessments for NDC's small business lending subsidiary
- Wrote project profiles that were used in the New Markets Tax Credit Coalition's Progress Report 2008 to Congress and the 50 Projects-50 States Report to Congress
- Regularly generated marketing materials and intraorganization updates
- Worked on a greening initiative to help make NDC's project profile more environmentally responsible
- Provided research support for NDC's field staff

**Virgin Islands Community AIDS Resource and Education, Inc.-** Christiansted, USVI

May 2006-May 2007

*HIV Testing Specialist*

- Coordinated HIV Counseling, Testing and Referral (CTR) Program
- Did direct outreach, HIV testing and risk reduction counseling to the homeless, intravenous drug users and sex workers
- Helped implement HIV rapid testing by creating a quality assurance plan, generating agency policies and protocols, and establishing an effective referral system
- Generated monthly reports for both the US Virgin Islands Department of Health and Virgin Islands Community AIDS Resource and Education, Inc
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## REFERENCES

Richard C. Hula  
Professor of Political Science  
Michigan State University  
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Laura A. Reese  
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Michigan State University  
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[reckhow@gmail.com](mailto:reckhow@gmail.com)

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Sarah Reckhow  
Assistant Professor of Political Science