

MELANIE M. BOWERS, PhD

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor August 2015-Present
Department of Political Science, Department of Public Policy and Administration
Rutgers University, Camden

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

GIS Faculty Short Course, Rutgers University, Camden, NJ Winter 2018
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

Urban Politics and Policy

Environmental Policy

Intergovernmental Affairs

Housing and Homelessness Policy

LGBTQ+ 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.

Hula, Richard.C., **Melanie Bowers**, Cameron Whitley, and William Issac. 2017. Science, Politics and Policy: How Michiganders think about the Risks Facing the Great Lakes. *Human Ecology*, 45(6), pp.833-844.

Bowers, Melanie and Cameron Whitley. 2018. Voting While Trans: Assessing US Voter Registration Among Transgender Individuals. *Political Behavior*. Available online first
<https://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s11109-018-9489-x>.

Bowers, Melanie. *Forthcoming*. Using Student-Generated Photography to Flip the Political Science Classroom. *Journal of Political Science Education*.

Articles Under Review

Bowers, Melanie and Cameron Whitley. Is it Biology?: Assessing the Effects of Biological Attribution on Public Opinion of Transgender Rights (Under Review)

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

Book Manuscript in Process

Melanie Bowers. *Need Money, Will Work: How Cities have Redefined Homelessness in an Age of Federalism*.

Working Papers

To be Submitted Fall 2018

Melanie Bowers. The Power of Federal Incentives: Evaluating Local Government Adoptions of 10 Year Plans to End Homelessness.

Melanie Bowers, Susan Cavanaugh, and Anetha Perry. When Economic Development Works: The Case of Collingswood, NJ.

Melanie Bowers and Galadrial Thoman. What Does Science have to do with It?: An Examination of Public Opinion on Social Scientists' Role in Poverty Policy.

Cameron Whitley and Melanie Bowers. Understanding the Roll of Core Values in Opinions on Transgender Rights.

To be Submitted Spring/Summer 2019

Melanie Bowers. Consolidation in Homeless Services: A Natural Experiment in New Jersey

Melanie Bowers. Do Homeless Set-Asides Work? Evaluating the Effects of Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Set Asides

Melanie Bowers. Does Mandating Collaboration Work?: Evaluating Networks in a New Jersey Continuum of Care

Melanie Bowers and Stephen Danley. Learning through Doing: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Engaged Research in the Graduate Classroom.

Policy Reports

Melanie Bowers. Can They Sleep Here?: Assessing the Availability of Population-Appropriate Housing for the Homeless in Southern New Jersey. Prepared for the Community Planning and Advocacy Council and the Southern New Jersey Continuum of Care. (In Progress)

Conference Presentations

Bowers, Melanie. Is it Biology?: Assessing the Effects of Biological Attribution on Public Opinion of Transgender Rights. Paper presented at the 76th Annual Conference of the Midwestern Political Science Association. April 5-8, 2018; Chicago, IL.

Bowers, Melanie. Compassion and Punishment: NIMBYism and Federal Goals in Local Homelessness Policy. Paper presented at the 47th Urban Affairs Conference; April 19-22, 2017; Minneapolis, MN.

Bowers, Melanie. Compassion and Punishment: NIMBYism and Federal Goals in Local Homelessness Policy. Paper presented at the 75th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association; April 6-9, 2017; Chicago, IL.

Bowers, Melanie. Keeping Problems at Bay?: Understanding Municipal Responsiveness in the Post-Reagan Era. Poster session presented at the 110th 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 109th 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 71st 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 71st 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 108th 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 70th 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 107th 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
State and Local Politics	Immigration Policy	Minority Politics (Race, Ethnicity and LGBTQ+)
Housing and Homelessness	Economic Development	Community Development

Undergraduate Courses Taught: Introduction to American Politics; The Study of Political Science; Public Policy Analysis; ; State and Local Politics; Urban Political Systems; Basic Urban Issues; Urban Economic Development; Immigrants and Community Development

Graduate Level Courses Taught: Regional Economic Development (MPA and PhD); Immigrants and Community Development (MPA); Research Design (PhD)

Teaching Enhancement and Professional Development

<i>Participant</i> , Humanities in Prison Education Workshop	2017-2018
<i>Participant</i> , Faculty Workshop on Difficult Classroom Dialogues	2017-2018
<i>Participant</i> , Pizza and Pedagogy Discussion Series	2017-2018
<i>Fellow</i> , Digital Teaching Fellows, Rutgers University, Camden	2016-2017
<i>Fellow</i> , Engaged Civic Learning Fellowship Program, Rutgers University, Camden	2015-2016
<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

Dissertation and Thesis Committees

Saul Moralis, Honors Thesis Advisor	2017-Present
Matthew Closter, Dissertation Committee Member	2016-Present
Daniel Wallsten, Senior Thesis Advisor	2016-2017

Mentored Students and Letters of Recommendation

Galadriel Thoman, Fall 2017- Spring 2018	Daniel Wallsten, 2015-2017
Edward Frankiewicz, Fall 2017	Straso Jovanovski, 2015-2016
Raymond Romo, Fall 2017	Shikuin Sun, Spring 2016
Piers Duffle, Fall 2017	Vesile Ekiz, Spring 2016
Brian McKenna, Spring 2017	Anetha Perry, Spring 2016
David O'Kereke, Fall 2016- Spring 2018	Efrem Ball, Fall 2015

Hanah Miller, Spring 2014
Emily Meyer, Spring 2014

Hailey Lobb, Spring 2014
Jacob Garriston , Fall 2014

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

<p>Rand Institute Faculty Fellows Senator Walter Rand Institute for Public Affairs Rutgers University, Camden <i>Total Value: \$4,000</i></p>	Fall 2017- Spring 2018
<p>University Distinguished Fellowship Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI <i>Total Value: \$71,000</i></p>	Fall 2009 – Spring 2015
<p>Residential College of the Arts and Humanities Teaching Fellowship Michigan State University, East Lansing MI <i>Total Value: \$7,500</i></p>	Fall 2014- Spring 2015
<p>Graduate Research Fellowship National Science Foundation, Washington DC <i>Total Value: \$124,500</i></p>	Fall 2010 - Spring 2013
<p>Summer Enrichment Fellowship Department of Political Science, Michigan State University <i>Total Value: \$10,000</i></p>	Summer 2011, 2012

SERVICE

Department Service

<i>Member</i> , PhD Committee	2018-Present
<i>Member</i> , Comprehensive Exam Committee	2018-Present
<i>Advisor</i> , BA-MPA Dual Program	2017-Present
<i>Member</i> , Urban Studies Committee	2016-Present
<i>Member</i> , Rutgers Day Subcommittee	Spring 2017
<i>Member</i> , Course Requirement Subcommittee	Spring 2017
<i>Member</i> , Non-Tenure Track Merit Pay Subcommittee	Spring 2017
<i>Member</i> , Department of Political Science Student Awards Subcommittee	Spring 2017
<i>Member</i> , Junior Search Committee, Rutgers University, Camden	Spring 2016
<i>Member</i> , Course Committee	Spring 2016
<i>Discussant</i> , CURE Symposium on Housing, Segregation and Poverty Discussant	Fall 2015
<i>President</i> , Political Science Graduate Student Governing Board	2012-2013
<i>Student Representative</i> , Department of Political Science's Graduate Studies Committee	2011-2012
<i>Chair</i> : Department of Political Science's Graduate Student Advisory Committee	2011-2012
<i>Admissions and Academic Standards Committee Representative</i> , Political Science Graduate Student Governing Board	2011-2012
<i>Coordinator</i> , Workshop Series on Qualitative Research Methodology	2011-2012
<i>Member</i> , Department of Political Science's Graduate Student Advisory Committee	2010-2011
<i>Community Chair</i> , Political Science Graduate Student Governing Board	2010-2011

University Service

<i>Department AAUP Representative</i>	2018- Present
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<i>Faculty Senator</i> , Rutgers University, Camden	2016-Present
<i>Member</i> , Committee on LGBTQIA+ Awareness	2017-Present
<i>Judge</i> , Ethics Bowl	Spring 2018
<i>Guest Speaker</i> , The Prison Industry and Mass Incarceration	Fall 2017
<i>Member</i> , General Education Experiential Learning Subcommittee	2016-2017
<i>Volunteer</i> , Pastured Swine Production Project Volunteer, Michigan State University	2010-2014
<i>Judge</i> , Undergraduate Research Conference, UURAF	2010-2011

Professional Service

<i>Discussant</i> , Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management Annual Meeting	Fall 2018
<i>Awards Committee Member</i> , <i>Journal of Urban Affairs</i> Best Paper Award	Spring 2018
<i>Panel Moderator</i> , Urban Affairs Association's Annual Conference	Spring 2017
<i>Chair and Discussant</i> , Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association	Fall 2016

Adhoc Reviewer

P.S. Political Science and Politics
Journal of Urban Affairs
Political Research Quarterly
Journal of Politics
Social Problems
American Review of Politics

Community Service

Community Researcher Camden County Homeless Network Planning Committee, Camden County NJ 2017/2018
Volunteer, Lifting Up Camden Youth (LUCY), Camden, NJ 2015-Present
Volunteer, Hope Works, Camden, NJ 2016
Volunteer, Capital Area Humane Society, Lansing, MI 2012-2015
Volunteer, Habitat for Humanity, Lansing, MI 2012-2015
Volunteer, Aqua Clara Water System Installation Managua, Nicaragua Summer 2010
Volunteer, National Gay and Lesbian Task Force, New York, NY 2008-2009.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association
Urban Politics Section
Public Policy Section
Sexuality & Politics Section
Midwest Political Science Association
Urban Politics Section
Public Policy Section
Urban Affairs Association
Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management