

NEWSLETTER

Department of Political Science

FACULTY AND GRADUATE STUDENT PUBLICATIONS

- **Brookes, Marissa, Kim Yi Dionne, and Jennifer L. Merolla.** 2026. "Course-Based Research and Mentorship: Results from a Multiterm Research Academy at a Minority-Serving Institution." *PS: Political Science & Politics* 59 (2): 377–384. [\[Link\]](#)
- DeMora, Stephanie L., **Jennifer L. Merolla**, Maricruz Ariana Osorio, **Christian Lindke**, and Sean Long. 2025. "Gendered Political Contexts, Emotions, and Engagement: A Case Study of the 2016 US Presidential Election." *British Journal of Political Science* 55: e175. [\[Link\]](#)
- DeMora, Stephanie L., **Jennifer L. Merolla**, Brian Newman, and Elizabeth J. Zechmeister. 2025. "Republican Pushback on Patriotism-Linked COVID-19 Vaccine Messages: A Note on Moral Reframing." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 89 (4): 1124–1137. [\[Link\]](#)
- **Irepoglu Carreras, Yasemin.** 2025. *Decentralization, Interactive Governance and Income Inequality in Europe*. International Series on Public Policy. Palgrave Macmillan. [\[Link\]](#)
- Joo, Minhye, Danielle Casarez Lemi, **Jennifer L. Merolla**, and Abbylin H. Sellers. 2026. "Only for Some Women: Experimental Evidence on Descriptive Representation and Political Engagement." *Political Behavior*: 1–30. [\[Link\]](#)
- **Medearis, John.** 2026. "Protest, Law, Repression, and the Limits of Disobedience." *Political Theory* 54 (3): 371–398. [\[Link\]](#)
- **Oh, Eunseong**, and **Indridi H. Indridason.** 2026. "Private Members' Bills & Parliamentary Motions: Who Bothers?" *Research & Politics* 13 (1). [\[Link\]](#)
- **Onishi, Wataru.** 2026. "Little Room for Motivated Reasoning? How Partisans Respond to Government Misconduct with Well-Substantiated Evidence." *Research & Politics* 13 (1). [\[Link\]](#)

OTHER NOTABLE ACHIEVEMENTS

Fellowships & Grants

- **Marissa Brookes** is a co-principal investigator on a UCR team awarded a \$250,000 grant from the Alfred P. Sloan Foundation to study the transition to zero-emission technologies at the San Bernardino BNSF rail terminal, examining how industry leaders, workers, community members, and policymakers shape the shift to clean energy in one of the nation's most important logistics hubs.
- **Miguel Carreras** was awarded an ATRAE grant (€1.2 million / ~\$1.6 million) from Spain's State Research Agency (AEI) — a highly competitive program that recruits internationally recognized research talent to Spain. He declined the award to remain at UC Riverside.
- **Jana Grittersova** was awarded a Visiting Senior Fellowship at the AxPo Observatory of Market Society Polarization at Sciences Po Paris (spring–summer 2026) to pursue her project "Political Polarization, Institutional Trust, and Voter Perceptions of Inflation."

SPRING QUARTER 2026

- **Rudra Guha Biswas** was awarded a UCR Dissertation Research Grant (DRG) for Spring 2026.
- **Jieun Lee** was selected for the UCR Graduate Division's Dissertation Program Award for 2026–27, a competitive university fellowship that provides two quarters of support (stipend and university fees) so she can focus intensively on her dissertation research.
- **Jennifer Merolla** is a collaborator on a Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council (SSHRC) Insight Grant (2026–2031) — “The Political Consequences of Loneliness” (\$446,690) — led by Laura Stephenson, with additional collaborator Elizabeth J. Zechmeister.
- **Harry Muttram** was awarded the Haynes Lindley Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship and the Presley Center for Crime and Justice Studies Graduate Student Fellowship to support his dissertation on police diversification, which examines why diversifying a police force does not always change officer behavior on the ground, as pressure to conform to peers' enforcement style can blunt the expected benefits.
- **Donald Zarate** was awarded the 2026 Communal Studies Association Research Fellowship (\$1,600) to support his research on intentional communities and how institutions shape political behavior.

Awards & Honors

- **Ron Loveridge** received the Bob Stewart Award, the highest honor from Keep Riverside Clean & Beautiful (KRC&B), presented at the organization's annual Community Recognition Awards Ceremony on April 25, 2026. Loveridge founded KRC&B more than 30 years ago while serving on the Riverside City Council.

Editorial & Service Appointments

- **Kim Yi Dionne** and **Farah Godrej** were named associate editors on the new editorial team of *Political Research Quarterly* (PRQ), a leading political science journal.

Invited Talks

- **Kevin Esterling** was invited to deliver the closing keynote at the University of California Open Summit (UC Open) 2026 at UC Berkeley on April 23, exploring the relationship between open-source generative AI and democracy. [\[Link\]](#)

Media & Public Engagement

- **Kevin Esterling** appeared on the UCR Library's podcast series *The Reference Desk* to discuss his research on artificial intelligence and democratic communication. [\[Link\]](#)