

## RACHEL VANSICKLE-WARD

Pitzer College  
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### CURRENT POSITION

#### **Pitzer College**

Associate Professor of Political Studies (2013 – present)  
Assistant Professor of Political Studies (2007 – 2013)

### EDUCATION

Ph.D. **University of California, Berkeley**, Political Science, 2007  
Primary Field: American Government  
Areas of Specialization: Public Policy, Public Law and Methodology  
Dissertation: *Explicit Language: Fragmentation and Policy Specificity in the US States*

#### **University of Michigan**

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, 2003  
Summer Program in Quantitative Methods

M.A. **University of California, Berkeley**, Political Science, 2001

B.A. **Pitzer College**, Claremont, CA, Political Studies and English and World Literature, 1999

### PUBLICATIONS

#### Books

*The Devil is in the Details: Understanding the Causes of Policy Specificity and Ambiguity*. SUNY Press. January 2014. Paperback released in 2015.

*The Politics of the Pill: Gender, Framing and Policymaking in the Battle over Birth Control* (with Kevin Wallsten). Oxford University Press (under contract).

### Peer Reviewed Articles

“Making it Personal: Assessing the Impact of In-Class Exercises on Closing the Gender Gap in Political Ambition,” (with Jill Greenlee and Mirya Holman) *Journal of Political Science Education. Journal of Political Science Education*, vol. 10, no. 1 (January 2014).

“An [Un]clear Conscience Clause: The Causes and Consequences of Statutory Ambiguity in State Contraceptive Mandates,” (with Amanda Hollis-Brusky) *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law* 38 (August 2013): 683-708.

“The Politics of Precision: Specificity in State Mental Health Policy,” *State and Local Government Review* 42 (April 2010): 3-21.

### Other Publications

“Hawks and Doves?: An Analysis of Latina and Latino attitudes toward military intervention in Iraq” (with Adrian Pantoja) in *Distinct Identities: Minority Women in U.S. Politics*. Routledge 2016.

Review of *Racial and Ethnic Politics in California: Continuity and Change*, eds. Sandra Bass and Bruce E. Cain and *The New Political Geography of California*, eds. Fredrick Douzet, Thad Kousser and Kenneth P. Miller, *Perspectives on Politics* 8 (March 2010): 355-357.

“The 2003 Recall Debates: Issues, Candidates, and Media Coverage” (with Darshan Goux), in *Governing California: Politics, Government and Public Policy in the Golden State*, ed. Gerald C. Lubenow, Berkeley: Berkeley Public Policy Press 2006.

“Marshall v. Barlow’s Incorporated: Legitimizing Regulatory Enforcement” (with Robert Kagan), in *Administrative Law Stories*, ed. Peter Strauss, New York: Foundation Press 2005.

### Media

“A Mother for President: How Democrats are changing the way motherhood is linked to presidential power” (with Jill Greenlee) *US News and World Report*, Aug 5, 2016.

“Here are two ways that Breyer’s Wonky opinion in Whole Women’s Health could transform abortion politics” (with Amanda Hollis-Brusky), *The Washington Post* (Monkey Cage) July 3, 2016

“Clinton Does Inspire: The Narrative About Hillary Clinton’s ‘Enthusiasm Gap’ Silences the Political Voices of Women” (with Jenn Merolla), *US News and World Report* – June 2, 2016

“Why women’s representation may suffer when Hillary Clinton is attacked as ‘ambitious’ and ‘unqualified’” (with Jill Greenlee and Mirya Holman), *The Washington Post* (Monkey Cage), April 10, 2016.

“The Supreme Court is Debating Ambiguities in Obamacare. So why do Politicians Even Write Ambiguous Laws?” *The Washington Post* (Monkey Cage), March 6, 2015.

“‘Narrow’ Hobby Lobby Ruling Dangerously Affirms that Women’s Health is Separate.” *Talking Points Memo*, July 3, 2014.

Frequent commentator on KPCC Take Two (Southern California Public Radio).

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

Reproductive Rights	Gender, Politics and Culture
Introduction to Public Policy	California Politics
Law and Politics	Women in Politics
US Electoral Politics	Research Methods
The Battle over Birth Control	Direct Democracy

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS (since 2005)**

“Contraceptive Coverage Policy in the States,” (with Kevin Wallsten) presented at the State Politics and Policy Conference in Sacramento, May 2015.

“The Politics of the Pill: Gender and Policy Framing in Debates over Contraception Coverage,” (with Kevin Wallsten) presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, April 2015.

“Mandates and Minefields: Regulating Contraceptive Coverage,” (with Kevin Wallsten and Shiyana Gunasekara) presented at the Annual Meeting of the *Southern California Law and Social Science Forum* in Los Angeles (USC), March 2015.

“Covering Contraception: The Impact of Gender on Media Coverage of the Contraception Mandate,” (with Kevin Wallsten and Shiyana Gunasekara) presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington, D.C., August 2014.

“Wrestling with Conscience: Construction and Litigation of Conscience Clauses in Contraception Insurance Law,” (with Amanda Hollis-Brusky) presented at Southwestern Law School, April 2013.

“The Battle Over Birth Control: Gendered Dimensions of the Contraception Policy Debate” (with Kevin Wallsten and Shiyana Gunasekara) presented at the Annual Meeting of Western Political Science Association in Hollywood, March 2013.

Panelist, "Election Year Politics and Economics," Inland Empire Forecast Conference hosted by the Inland Empire Center at Claremont McKenna College and the UCLA Anderson School of Management. Ontario, CA, October 2012.

"An [Un]clear Conscience Clause: The Causes and Consequences of Statutory Ambiguity in State Contraceptive Mandates," (with Amanda Hollis-Brusky) presented at the International Conference on Law and Society Honolulu, June 2012.

"Making it Personal: Female Students and Running for Political Office," (with Jill Greenlee) presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting in New Orleans, January 2012.

"Are Latinas More 'Dovish' Than Latinos? Evidence from the 2006 Latino National Survey," (with Adrian Pantoja) presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, March 2011, and the Annual Meeting of Western Political Science Association in San Antonio, April 2011.

"An Unclear Conscience Clause: Contraception Access in the States," presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Washington D.C., September 2010.

"Framing Clinton: Gender and Media Coverage of the 2008 Primary Debates," (with Darshan Goux) presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Toronto, September 2009.

"The Fuzzy Front End and the Policy Primordial Soup: Linking Policy Cycles to New Product Development Cycles," (with Preeta M. Banerjee) presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Toronto, September 2009.

"Prophecy, Performance and Pronouncement: Media Coverage of the 2008 Primary Debates," (with Darshan Goux) presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Boston, August 2008.

"Agreeing to Disagree: Party Conflict and Policy Specificity in California," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association in San Diego, March 2008 and the Annual Meeting of the State Politics and Policy conference in Philadelphia, May 2008.

"Explicit Language: Fragmentation and Policy Specificity in Mental Health Parity," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, April 2006.

"Self-fulfilling Prophecy? Media Coverage of California's 2003 Gubernatorial Debates" (with Darshan Goux), presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association in Oakland, March 2005.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE (since 2005)**

Co-Founder, *Southern California Law and Social Science (SoCLASS) Forum*

Member of Editorial Board, *The California Journal of Politics and Policy*

Reviewer, *Journal of Politics, Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law, Public Policy and Administration*, and *the New England Journal of Political Science*

Chair and Discussant, "Framing and Narratives," Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, April 2015

Discussant, "Regulation and Impacts Beyond our Borders," *Regulation, Law and Social Science*, Annual Meeting of the *Southern California Law and Social Science Forum* in Los Angeles (USC), March 2015.

Chair and Discussant, "Race, Voting Rights, and Redistricting," *Elections, Law and Democracy*, Annual Meeting of the *Southern California Law and Social Science Forum* in Costa Mesa (Whittier Law School), March 2014.

Chair and Discussant, "Gender and the Law," *Law at the Fault Lines*, Inaugural Meeting of the *Southern California Law and Social Science Forum* in Claremont (Claremont Colleges), March 2013.

Chair, "Women's Political Leadership", Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association in Hollywood, March 2013.

Lecture Series on State and Local Politics for student researchers, The Rose Institute of State and Local Government in Claremont, Fall 2011- Spring 2012.

Chair, "State Policy Outcomes and Gender," Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, April 2011.

Chair, "Dynamics of Influence: Citizens, Lobbyists and Machines," Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association in San Francisco, April 2010.

Chair and Discussant, "Groups, Contexts and Voting," Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association in San Francisco, April 2010.

Discussant, "Public Policy in the Post 9/11 Era," Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association in San Diego, March 2008.

Discussant, "Ballot Box Politics and Policy-Making," Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association in Oakland, March 2005.

## **CAMPUS SERVICE**

Capital Fellows Advisor (2007-present)

Appointment, Promotion and Tenure Committee (Vice-Chair 2015-16; Chair, 2016-17)

Academic Standards Committee (Co-Chair, Fall 2013; Chair, Fall 2014)

Teaching and Learning Committee (Spring 2010, Spring 2013)

Pitzer Internship Committee (Spring 2012, Spring 2013)

Diversity Committee (Fall 2011, Spring 2012)

Steering Committee, Community Engagement Center (Fall 2010)

Distinguished Alumni Award Committee (Spring 2010)

Watson Selection Committee (2007-2009)

## **RELATED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

Committee Consultant, California State Assembly Health Committee, Sacramento  
Summer 2002

Analyzed health legislation for committee chair and members, briefed chair and staff for committee hearings, developed and staffed legislation.

Conference Coordinator, Symposium on Mental Health and Public Policy, Berkeley  
Fall 2001

Developed program content, solicited and coordinated speakers and paper submissions. Panel topics included mental health parity and funding, treatment perspectives, and children, family and mental health.

Legislative Assistant, California State Assemblymember Helen Thomson, Sacramento  
1999 – 2000

Represented and advised the assemblymember on education, local government, budget and appropriations. Briefed assemblymember for committee and floor hearings, developed and staffed legislation, drafted press releases and speeches.

## **GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS**

Faculty Fellow, Rose Institute of State and Local Government, Claremont McKenna College

Visiting Associate in Political Science, California Institute of Technology, Spring and Summer 2015

Pitzer College Scholar in Residence, Fall 2012

Summer Faculty-RA assistantship program (re-occurring)

Pitzer College Faculty Research Awards (re-occurring)

Continuing Student Fellowship, Travers Department of Political Science, University of California, Berkeley, Fall 2006 – Spring 2007

Graduate Division Summer Grants, University of California, Berkeley, 2006 and 2007

Dean's Normative Time Fellowship, University of California, Berkeley, Spring 2006

Jesse M. Unruh Assembly Fellowship, California State Legislature, Fall 1999 -- Summer 2000