

RACHEL VANSICKLE-WARD

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CURRENT POSITION

Pitzer College

Professor of Political Studies (2018 – Present)

Associate Professor of Political Studies (2013 – 2018)

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*

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 Hillary Effect: Perspectives on Clinton's Legacy* Cargile \(co-edited with Ivy AM Cargile, Denise S. Davis, and Jennifer L. Merolla\). Bloomsbury Publishing. July 2020.](#)

[*The Politics of the Pill: Gender, Framing and Policymaking in the Battle over Birth Control* \(with Kevin Wallsten\). Oxford University Press. October 2019.](#)

[*The Devil is in the Details: Understanding the Causes of Policy Specificity and Ambiguity*. SUNY Press. January 2014. Paperback released in 2015. \(Winner of the 2018 Herbert A. Simon Book Award\).](#)

Peer Reviewed Articles

“Abortion, Attitudes and Appointments: How Gender and Reproductive Rights shaped views on Amy Coney Barrett and voter turnout in 2020” (with Adrian Pantoja, Dana Nothnagel and Morrey Liedke), *Journal of Women, Politics and Policy* (January 2023).

“Waiting to Vote in the 2016 Presidential Election: Evidence from a Multi-county Study.” (with Robert M. Stein, et al.) *Political Research Quarterly* (March 2019).

“Pedagogical Value of Polling Place Observation By Students” (with Christopher B. Mann et al.). *PS: Political Science & Politics* (May 2018): 1-7.

“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

“Polling Place Practices” (with Robert M. Stein, et al.) in *The Future of Election Administration*, eds. Kathleen Hale and Bridgett A. King. Palgrave, 2019.

“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

“If the Supreme Court undermines Roe v. Wade, contraception could be banned. This explains how.” (with Kevin Wallsten), *The Washington Post* (Monkey Cage), December 11, 2021.

“Most Americans want Congress to support child care and elder care, our research finds — even many Republicans” (with Ivy AM Cargile, Jill S. Greenlee, Sarah Hayes, and Jennifer L. Merolla), *The Washington Post* (Monkey Cage), October 29, 2021.

“What’s next after the Supreme Court’s birth control ruling?” (with Kevin Wallsten), *The Washington Post* (Monkey Cage), July 18, 2020.

“Should contraception be sold over the counter? AOC and Ted Cruz aren’t actually allies on this” (with Kevin Wallsten), *The Washington Post* (Monkey Cage), June 24, 2019.

“The ‘Economic Woman’: Why Hillary Clinton’s economic message still matters” (with Emma Stephens), *US News and World Report*, April 12, 2017.

“Latina Voters Say Adiós To Trump” (with Adrian Pantoja), *Huffington Post - Latino Decisions*, October 4 2017.

“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).

Research/commentary featured in TIME magazine, MS. Magazine, The Science of Politics, The Christian Science Monitor, and the 19th.

COURSES TAUGHT

Reproductive Rights	Gender, Politics and Culture
Introduction to Public Policy	California Politics
Law and Politics	Women in Politics
US Campaigns and Elections	Research Methods
US Democracy in Comp. Perspective	Direct Democracy
The Battle over Birth Control	Health Inequities

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AWARDS & APPOINTMENTS

Research Grant, Center for American Women and Politics, in support of *Conceptualizing Caregiving and its Consequences for Attitudes and Engagement* (with Ivy AM Cargile, Jill Greenlee, and Jennifer L. Merolla), 2021.

Herbert A. Simon Book Award, American Political Science Association, 2018

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

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

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS (since 2005)

“Caretaking and Pandemics: How Caretaking Impacts Policy Opinions” (with Ivy AM Cargile, Jill S. Greenlee, Sarah Hayes, and Jennifer L. Merolla) Presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association in San Francisco on April 7, 2023.

“Economies of Motherhood”: Reproductive Justice in a Globalizing World, hosted by the Intercollegiate Feminist Center for Teaching, Research and Engagement and the Pulitzer Center in Claremont (Scripps College) on March 23, 2023.

“Caretaking and Pandemics: How Caretaking Impacts Policy Opinions” (with Ivy AM Cargile, Jill S. Greenlee, Sarah Hayes, and Jennifer L. Merolla) Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Montréal on September 16, 2022.

“The Politics of the Pill: Gender, Framing and Policymaking in the Battle over Birth

Control,” (with Kevin Wallsten) presented at the Political Institutions and Political Economy Collaborative (University of Southern California, Price School of Public Policy, February 12, 2021).

“Racial Prejudice and Attitudes toward Litigation,” (with Dana Nothnagel and Adrian Pantoja) scheduled to present in Los Angeles, CA at the Annual Meeting of Western Political Science Association on April 20, 2020 (cancelled due to covid).

“The Politics of the Pill: Gender, Framing and Policymaking in the Battle over Birth Control,” scheduled to present in Denver, CO (University of Denver) on May 18, 2021 (cancelled due to covid)

“The Politics of the Pill: Gender, Framing and Policymaking in the Battle over Birth Control,” presented at the *Southern California Political Behavior Conference* in Los Angeles, California (University of California, Los Angeles), January 24, 2019.

“The Politics of the Pill: Gender, Framing and Policymaking in the Battle over Birth Control,” presented at the *Division of Politics and Economics speaker series* in Claremont, CA (Claremont Graduate University), November 19, 2019.

“The Politics of the Pill: Gender, Framing and Policymaking in the Battle over Birth Control,” presented at the Intercollegiate Feminist Center for Teaching Research and Engagement in Claremont, CA (Scripps College), April 2, 2018.

“If You're Not at the Table, You're on the Menu: Why Women's Voices Matter in Birth Control Debates,” presented at *Persist: Women's Political Engagement Conference* in Riverside, CA (University of California at Riverside), November 3, 2017.

“Where Are the Women?: Resisting Women's Political Leadership in Debates over Contraceptive Coverage” (with Kevin Wallsten), presented at *Resisting Women's Political Leadership: Theories, Data, and Solutions* in New Brunswick, NJ (Rutgers University), May 25, 2017.

“Pedagogical Value of Polling Place Observation By Students.” (with Mann et al). presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, in Chicago, April 2017.

“The Politics of the Pill,” *Social Science Research Confab*, in Claremont, CA (Pomona College), March 30, 2017.

Keynote Speaker, Arsalyn Youth Conference, “Stop Running from Office,” in Los Angeles, CA (University of Southern California), February 18, 2017.

“Gender and Media Coverage in the 2016 Election,” *Women's Political Action Panel*, Women's Resource Center in Riverside, CA (University of California, Riverside), January 20, 2017.

“Gender and the 2016 Election,” *Speakers Corner*, Mount San Antonio Gardens in Claremont, CA, December 7, 2017.

- “Women and Politics: Reflections on the 2016 Presidential Election,” *La Canada/Crescenta Democratic Club meeting*, La Canada, CA, Oct 16, 2016.
- “Religion, Women and Health: Gender and Issue Framing in Hobby Lobby,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern California Law and Social Science Forum in Los Angeles (University of California, San Diego), March 2016.
- “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 Shiayana Gunasekara) presented at the Annual Meeting of the *Southern California Law and Social Science Forum* in Los Angeles (University of Southern California), March 2015.
- “Covering Contraception: The Impact of Gender on Media Coverage of the Contraception Mandate,” (with Kevin Wallsten and Shiayana 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 Shiayana 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*

Judicial Politics Section Chair, 2022 Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

Selection Committee, 2020 CQ Press Award for Teaching Recognition

Selection Committee, American Political Science Association, Best Paper on Public Policy Award

Reviewer, *National Science Foundation, Temple University Press; Law and Policy; Legislative Studies Quarterly; Journal of Politics; Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law; Public Policy and Administration; Perspectives on Politics; New England Journal of Political Science; Politics and Gender; American Political Science Review; Journal of Women, Politics and Policy*

Discussant, "Old & New Approaches: Latinx Political Actors Looking to Understand and Pursue Political Power," *Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association* in San Francisco, April 2023.

Discussant, "An evaluation of how women's leadership programs change perceptions of political careers and affect ambition," Gender and Political Psychology Conference in Riverside (UCR), February 2023

Chair, "The Politics of Ambiguity: Consistency and Disparity Across the Subfield Divide," Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association in Seattle, Oct 2021.

Chair, "Marginalized People and Legislative Representation," scheduled for Los Angeles, at the Annual Meeting of Western Political Science Association on April 20 (cancelled to covid).

Chair, "Law and Legitimacy in Health Policy," Annual Meeting of the Southern California Law and Social Science Forum in Claremont (Claremont McKenna College), April 2017.

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)

Faculty Executive Committee (Fall 2022 – Spring 2024)

Advisory Board for Alumni Planning (Fall 2021)

Alumni Board (Fall 2021)

Commencement Student Marshall (Spring 2021)

Judicial Council (Fall 2019-Summer 2021)

Institutional Review Board (Spring 2019)

Teaching and Learning Committee (2017-18, Spring 2010, Spring 2013)

Commencement Faculty Marshall (Spring 2017)

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

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

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

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