

Eric Benjamin Mackey

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Education:

University of California, Riverside (Riverside, CA). **2025**

PhD: Political Science

Dissertation: Elite Philanthropy as Neoliberal Distortive Ideology and Democratic Theory.

University of California, Riverside (Riverside, CA) **2021**

MA: Political Science

Valparaiso University (Valparaiso, IN) **2016**

MA: Liberal Studies. *Highest Distinction*

Roosevelt University (Chicago, IL) **2014**

Post-Baccalaureate Paralegal Certificate. *With Honors*

Ball State University (Muncie, IN) **2010**

BA: History

Research Interests:

Political Theory, American Politics, Contemporary Democratic Theory, Philanthropy, Ideology, Deliberative Theory.

Research:

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

Toward a Critique and an Embrace of Ideology in Deliberative Democratic Theory. *(Submitted)*

Works-in-Progress:

Philanthropy and Disciplinary Gratitude. *(Article Manuscript in Progress)*

Elite Philanthropy as Neoliberal Distortive Ideology and Democratic Theory: How Democracy Can Respond to the Power of Wealthy Philanthropists. *(Dissertation/Book Project)*

University Teaching Experience:

California State University, San Marcos

Instructor of Record:

Foundations of Political Thought
US Government and Politics

Fall, 2025

Fall, 2025

University of California, Riverside

Instructor of Record:

Capitalism, Socialism, and Political Theory
Contemporary Democratic Theory
Modern Political Theory
Constitutional Law and Criminal Justice
Contemporary Democratic Theory

Summer, 2024

Spring, 2024

Summer, 2023

Summer, 2022

Spring, 2022

Teaching Assistant

Race and Ethnic Relations
Political Anthropology
Introduction to Political Theory
Political Ideologies
Democracy and the Social Contract
Nation State and Capitalism
Media Studies: Theory and Practice
Democracy and the Social Contract
Political Ideologies
Political Ideologies
Theoretical Perspectives in Sociology
Political Ideologies
Introduction to American Politics
Constitutional Law and Criminal Justice
Introduction to American Politics
Introduction to Political Theory
Political Ideologies

Winter, 2025

Fall, 2024

Winter, 2024

Fall, 2023

Summer, 2023

Spring, 2023

Fall, 2022

Winter, 2022

Fall, 2021

Summer, 2021

Spring, 2021

Winter, 2021

Fall, 2020

Summer, 2020

Spring, 2020

Winter, 2020

Fall, 2019

Reader:

Presidential Politics
American State Politics
Contemporary Political Theory
Contemporary Democratic Theory

Winter, 2025

Fall, 2021

Spring, 2021

Spring, 2019

Awards, Fellowships, Grants and Honors:

Dissertation Completion Fellowship Award (DCFA)
GSA Conference Travel Grant
UCR Political Science Travel Grant
Graduate Research Mentoring Program (GRMP) Fellowship Award

2025

2023

2023

2022

UCR Political Science Travel Grant	2022
Propes Fellowship	2022
Dean's Distinguished Fellowship Award	2018
Lambda Epsilon Chi (LEX); Paralegal Honor Society, Roosevelt University Chapter	2014

Invited Talks, Presentations and Conference Participation:

American Political Science Association (Vancouver, BC) Poster Session: <i>Issues in the Political Theory of Economic Equality and Democracy & Political Methodology</i> Role Paper Author: <i>A Deliberative Systems Approach to Elite Philanthropy in Public Education</i> Panel: <i>Political Reform and Democratic Innovations</i> Role: Discussant	2025
Kyonggi University (South Korea) Invited Talk: <i>Seminar on American Politics and Global Leadership.</i> Lecture: <i>Ideological Foundations to American Exceptionalism</i>	2025
Western Political Science Association (Seattle, WA) Panel: <i>Political Economy, Capitalism & The Politics of Money</i> Role: Paper Presentation: <i>Applying a Deliberative Systems Critique of Elite Philanthropy in Public Education</i>	2025
WPSA Political Theory Virtual Community Workshare Role: Paper Author: <i>Nuanced Ideology Critique in Deliberative Democratic Theory</i>	2024
American Political Science Association (Philadelphia, PA) Panel: <i>Wealth, Markets, and Plutocracy</i> Role: Paper Presentation: <i>Towards a Deliberative Democratic Critique of Elite Philanthropy</i>	2024
Western Political Science Association (Vancouver, BC) Panel: <i>Varieties of Democratic Theory</i> Role: Paper Presentation: <i>Democratic Critiques of Elite Philanthropy: Two Approaches</i> Panel: <i>Intergenerational Trauma and Justice</i> Roles: Chair & Discussant	2024
Northeastern Political Science Association (Boston, MA) Panel: <i>Public Intellectuals' Contributions to Democratic Theory</i> Role: Paper Presentation: <i>Ideology, Systemic Deliberation and Democracy: A Deliberative Approach to Neoliberal Ideology</i>	2023
Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, IL)	2023

Lightning Talk: *Perspectives on Populism, Nationalism, and Authoritarianism*
 Role: Paper Presentation *Distortive Neoliberalism: Ideology, Systemic Deliberation & Democracy*

Decolonial Praxis Conference (Riverside, CA) 2023

Panel: *Indigenous Thought and Cosmovision*
 Role: Moderator

Panel: *Decolonial Methodology and Sociolinguistics*
 Role: Moderator

Western Political Science Association (Portland, OR) 2022

Panel: *Libertarianism Today*
 Role: Paper Presentation *Philanthropy and Disciplinary Gratitude*

Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, IL) 2022

Panel: *Money and Politics in Liberalism and Democratic Theory*
 Role: Paper Presentation *Philanthropy and Disciplinary Gratitude*

Socialism After Populism Conference (Riverside, CA) 2021

Panel: *Populism, Identity, and Recognition*
 Role: Discussant

Parliament of the World's Religions (Salt Lake City, UT) 2015

Panel: *Overcoming Holy Wars Through Interreligious Dialogue*
 Role: Panelist "The Jewish Perspective"

Professional Experience:

California State University, San Marcos (San Marcos, CA) 2025-Present
 Lecturer

University of California, Riverside (Riverside, CA) 2018-2025
 Associate Instructor (Instructor of Record)
 Graduate Student Teaching Assistant
 Reader/Grader

Wendella Tours and Cruises (Chicago, IL) 2004-2019
 Captain (2014-2019)
 Senior Deckhand (2010-2014)
 Deckhand (2004-2010)

Valparaiso University School of Law (Valparaiso, IN) 2014-2017
 Senior Technology Assistant

School Town of Highland (Highland, IN) 2014-2017
 Substitute Teacher

Lake Station Community Schools (Lake Station IN) 2014-2017

Substitute Teacher

Leahy, Eisenberg, and Frankel (Chicago, IL)
Paralegal

2014

Lake Station Community Schools (Lake Station, IN)
Lake Station/River Forest Alternative Program Senior Paraprofessional

2011-2014

Temple Beth El (Munster, IN)
Sunday School Teacher

2011-2012

Service:

UCR Political Science Political Theory Workshop Coordinator:

2022-2023

Graduate Student Association (GSA) Representative: Political Science Department

2018-2020

Affiliations:

Northeastern Political Science Association	(NPSA)
American Political Science Association	(APSA)
Western Political Science Association	(WPSA)
Midwest Political Science Association	(MPSA)
Association for Political Theory	(APT)

References:

John Medearis
Professor of Political Science
University of California, Riverside

Farah Godrej
Professor of Political Science
University of California, Riverside

John Christian Laursen
Professor of Political Science
University of California, Riverside

Bronwyn Leebaw
Professor of Political Science
University of California, Riverside