

Eric Benjamin Mackey

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Education:

University of California, Riverside (Riverside, CA). PhD: Political Science Dissertation: Elite Philanthropy, Neoliberal Distortive Ideology and Democratic Theory.	2025 (exp.)
University of California, Riverside (Riverside, CA) MA: Political Science	2021
Valparaiso University (Valparaiso, IN) MA: Liberal Studies. <i>Highest Distinction</i>	2016
Roosevelt University (Chicago, IL) Post-Baccalaureate Paralegal Certificate. <i>With Honors</i>	2014
Ball State University (Muncie, IN) BA: History	2010

Research Interests:

Political Theory, Contemporary Democratic Theory, Philanthropy, Ideology, Deliberative Theory, Neoliberalism.

Research:

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles:

Towards a Critique and Embrace of Ideology in Deliberative Democratic Theory: How Deliberative Systems Can Overcome Distorted Communication Through an Embrace of Ideology. (*Under Review*)

Works-in-Progress:

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

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

University Teaching Experience:

California State University, San Marcos

Instructor of Record:
Foundations of Political Thought

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)	2025
GSA Conference Travel Grant	2023
UCR Political Science Travel Grant	2023
Graduate Research Mentoring Program (GRMP) Fellowship Award	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) Lightning Talk: <i>Perspectives on Populism, Nationalism, and Authoritarianism</i> Role: Paper Presentation <i>Distortive Neoliberalism: Ideology, Systemic Deliberation & Democracy</i>	2023
Decolonial Praxis Conference (Riverside, CA) Panel: <i>Indigenous Thought and Cosmovision</i>	2023

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

Graduate Student Teaching Assistant

Associate Instructor

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

High-School Substitute Teacher

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

High-School Substitute Teacher

Leahy, Eisenberg, and Frankel (Chicago, IL) 2014

Paralegal

Lake Station Community Schools (Lake Station, IN) Lake Station/River Forest Alternative Program Senior Paraprofessional	2011-2014
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Temple Beth El (Munster, IN) Sunday School Teacher	2011-2012
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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