

Brandon Merrell

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Education: **University of California, San Diego**
Ph.D., Political Science (2013-present)
Dissertation: *Wars for the People: Leaders, Audiences, and the Use of Force*
Committee: David Lake (chair), Branislav Slantchev, Eli Berman,
Lauren Prather, Phil Roeder
M.A., Political Science (2015)
Southern Illinois University
B.A., Economics and Political Science, *Cum Laude* (2011)
Western Kentucky University
Undergraduate (2007-2009)

Academic Appointments: **Lewis & Clark College**
Debate Coach, College of Arts & Sciences (2011-2012)

Publications: Refereed Articles:

1. Debate across the Disciplines: Structured Classroom Debates in Interdisciplinary Curricula
with Kevin Calderwood and Todd Graham
Forthcoming in *Journal of Contemporary Argumentation and Debate*
2. [Back to its Roots: Accuracy as the Litmus Test for Topicality](#)
with Todd Graham
Parliamentary Debate, Vol. 13, No. 2, pp. 21-68, November 2016.
- Abridged and reprinted in: *The Parliamentary Debate Prepbook*,
edited by Kyle Dennis. Liberty, MO: NPTE.
3. [Contrasting Structures, Conditional Strategies: Designing Format-Specific Theories for Competitive Debate](#)
with Todd Graham
Parliamentary Debate, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 1-37, May 2016.
- Abridged and reprinted in: *The Parliamentary Debate Prepbook*,
edited by Kyle Dennis. Liberty, MO: NPTE.
4. [The Intersection of Competitions and Classrooms in Forensics Pedagogy](#)
with Kevin Calderwood and Richard Flores
Communication Studies, Vol. 66, No. 4, pp. 433-47, August 2015.

Other:

1. Illegal Wildlife Trafficking – The Unseen Environmental Harms
with Thomas Schally
in *Up for Debate: U.S. Foreign Policy Options Towards the Greater Horn of Africa*,
edited by D. Cantrell & B. Brickey, pp. 1-24. La Mirada, CA: Picket Fence, 2009.

Working Papers: “Occupied Denmark: Armed Resistance and Agency Slippage in a Model Protectorate” (under review)
 “The War Referendum”
 “The Secrecy Gambit” (with Alexei Abrahams)
 “Media Bias in Presidential Press Questions” (with Kevin Calderwood)
 “The Politics of Agency Reorganization” (with Richard Flores)

Other Projects: “The Agency Dilemma in Crisis Decision Making”
 “The Vetoed Peace”

Recent Presentations: “The Secrecy Gambit” (with Alexei Abrahams)
 2017: APSA Annual Meeting, New Scholarship on Crisis Dynamics
 “Media Bias in Presidential Press Questions” (with Kevin Calderwood)
 2017: APSA Annual Meeting, Media Bias in the Mainstream Media
 “The Politics of Agency Reorganization” (with Richard Flores)
 2017: APSA Annual Meeting, Agency Performance and Executive Leadership
 “A Model Protectorate? Armed Resistance and Agency Slippage in Occupied Denmark”
 2016: Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University
 “Pandering to War: Military Escalation in Response to Public Demand”
 2016: APSA Annual Meeting, Public Opinion and International Conflict

Teaching: Instructor: [Crisis Areas in World Politics](#)
[Introduction to American Politics](#)
[Mathematical and Statistical Foundations](#) (graduate, x2)

TA: Frontiers of Political Science (senior honors thesis course, x2)
 International Politics & Security (graduate)
 Introduction to International Relations (x3)
 Policy Responses to Global Problems (graduate research capstone)
 Postwar Politics in Japan (graduate)

Grader: East Asian Thought (x2), Insurgency and Terrorism,
 Politics and Warfare, Supreme Court & Constitution,
 U.S. Foreign Policy, War and Society (x2),
 Weapons of Mass Destruction

Related Experience: RA for Gerry Mackie and Population Council (2017)
 RA for Eli Berman & David Lake (2014-2017)
 RA for David Lake (2014)

Disciplinary & University Service: VP: Recruitment – UCSD Political Science Graduate Council (2016-2017)
 Selected as U.S. Representative to China – NCA-CIDD (2012)
 Adjudicator – Oregon State Penitentiary Debate (2011)
 Speaker – Installation Ceremony of SIU Chancellor Rita Cheng (2011)
 Course Selection Advisory Committee – SIU Honors Program (2009-2011)

**Grants, Awards,
& Honors:**

IGCC Herb York Dissertation Fellowship (2017)
Sanford-Lakoff Research Fellowship (2017)
PDEL / CGT Research Grant (2016)
Travel Grant – APSA Annual Meeting (2016; 2017)
TA Excellence Award – UCSD Political Science (2015; 2016)
WDI Fellow – University of Vermont (2014)
Beihang Exchange Fellowship – Beihang University, Beijing (2014)
UCSD Political Science Department Fellowship (2013)
Frank L. Klingberg Scholarship – SIU Political Science (2011)
Levina Micken Scholarship – SIU Communication Studies (2011)
SIU Multi-Ethnic Academic Student Excellence Award (2011)
National Parliamentary Debate Association All-American Award (2011)
SIU Scholastic Honor Award (2009-2011)
AT&T Foundation Academic Scholarship (2009-2011)
SIU Full-Ride Debate Scholarship (2009-2011)
#1 U.S. Debate Partnership – NPTE Season Rankings (2009-2010)
WKU Full-Ride Forensics Scholarship (2007-2009)