

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.
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.
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.

Chapters in Refereed Volumes:

- "Denmark, 1940-1945: Armed Resistance and Agency Slippage in Germany's Model Protectorate" in *Proxy Wars: Suppressing Violence through Local Agents*, edited by Eli Berman & David A. Lake. Cornell University Press. (Forthcoming)

Other:

- "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: "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 Vetoes Peace"

Recent Presentations: "The Secrecy Gambit" (with Alexei Abrahams)
2018: SPSA Annual Meeting: Intelligence and Secrecy
2017: APSA Annual Meeting: New Scholarship on Crisis Dynamics
"Media Bias in Presidential Press Questions" (with Kevin Calderwood)
2018: SPSA Annual Meeting, Media Bias: Perceptions and Reality
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)

Discussion Sections: International Politics & Security (graduate)
Introduction to International Relations (x3)

Research Mentor: Frontiers of Political Science (senior honors thesis course, x2)
Policy Responses to Global Problems (graduate research capstone)
Political Science Research Apprenticeship Program
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: Recruitment Co-Chair – 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:**

Research Grants and Fellowships:

IGCC Herb York Fellowship (2017)
Sanford-Lakoff Research Fellowship (2017)
PDEL / CGT Research Grant (2016)
UCSD Political Science Department Fellowship (2013)

Teaching:

TA Excellence Award – UCSD Political Science (2015; 2016)
WDI Fellow – University of Vermont (2014)
Beihang Exchange Fellowship – Beihang University, Beijing (2014)

Conference Funding:

SPSA Prestage-Cook Travel Award (2018)
UCSD Graduate Student Association Travel Grant (2017)
APSA Annual Meeting Travel Grant (2016; 2017)

Undergraduate Scholarships and Awards:

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)