

Curriculum Vitae

Natalie Overton, M.A., PhD Candidate

Michigan State University, Department of Political Science

Research Interest:

My current research interests involve the use of issue framing to trigger group identities among individuals in an effort to understand the catalysts for pro-environmental political activity and identification with the Environmental movement in the US. On a broader level, I'm interested in the sociology and political dimensions of environmental movements, and political behavior concerning environmental politics and policy.

Education:

BA from UCSB in 2020. Double major in Political Science and Sociology. Completed an MA from San Francisco State University in Political Science. Currently in my 4th year of the PhD program in Political Science at MSU.

Relevant work experience:

Teaching Assistant at MSU

May 2023 - Present

- Worked for multiple classes within the political science department
- Assisted in grading, course communication, and teaching students
- Gaining experience in communicating with students, particularly around unfamiliar and new topics.

Community Engagement Core Research Assistant

August 2022-May 2023

- Worked under Dr. Joe Hamm and Dr. Adam Zwickle
- Assisted in a multifaceted project in collaboration with the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services, surveying residents in areas affected by dioxin contamination.
- Gained experience in project design, data collection, and dissemination

Research Assistant at MSU's Institute for Public Policy and Social Research (IPPSR)

August 2021-May 2022

- Worked for Dr. Matt Grossmann at IPPSR
- Assisted in a research project examining changes in literature reviews across the social sciences from the 1980s to the present.
- Gaining useful research experience: learning how to write up self-surveys and codebooks

Campaign Manager for Kirk Knauer: January 2020-March 2020

- Kirk ran for City Council
- Leading meetings: acted as a bridge and interpreter between different consultants on the campaign, organizing ideas and helping people communicate while guiding the conversations towards our ultimate goals
- Communication facilitation and coordination: over the phone, in person, and over email, worked with top campaign consultants and organized the logistics of meetings, photoshoots, candidate appearances, and campaign material assembly.
- Attending rallies with my candidate to get the word out about him and get a better idea of the issues facing the community
- Working with the Sierra Club political communications coordinator to get Sierra Club mailing list labels for the mailers.

Living Lab Coordinator for UCSB Sustainability: September 2017-June 2019.

- Sustainability Journalism: Engaging with UCSB faculty conducting research in sustainability, preparing for and conducting interviews, and then writing articles explaining and exploring their research.
- Event Organizing for Eco Nerd Nights: Contacting sustainability-related researchers from within UCSB, planning an evening event in Isla Vista with a limited budget that brings an intellectual atmosphere out of the classroom.
 - Writing grant proposals for more funding for this program in the coming years.

Staff Science Writer for the Daily Nexus: January 2016-2017: I set up an in-person interview different researchers each week to discuss and gain a good understanding of their work. I then presented the information in an accessible way. This has helped me develop an approachable and confident professional attitude.

Honors & Awards:

- Accepted to and presented research at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference in Chicago, IL
 - April, 2023
 - April, 2024
- Earned certificate from the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research summer program in quantitative methods, specifically in multilevel models.
 - Summer 2023
- Accepted to and presented research at the Western Political Science Association Conference in Los Angeles, CA
 - May, 2020
- Accepted to and presented research at the Western Political Science Association Conference in Seattle, WA
 - April, 2021
- Dean's Honors
 - January 2017, January 2018, May 2018
 - UC Santa Barbara College of Letters and Sciences

Publications:

Overton, Natalie. (2018, October 19). A Whole New World: The ‘Blue Revolution’ of the 21st Century. <http://www.sustainability.ucsb.edu/a-whole-new-world-the-blue-revolution-of-the-21st-century/>.

Overton, Natalie. (2018, May 2) Looking at the World Through Other Eyes. <http://www.sustainability.ucsb.edu/looking-at-the-world-through-other-eyes/>.

Overton, Natalie. (2018, April 30) Blue Sky Science in the Deep Blue Sea: A Holistic Approach to an Important Mollusk. <http://www.sustainability.ucsb.edu/blue-sky-science-in-the-deep-blue-sea-a-holistic-approach-to-an-important-mollusk/>

Overton, Natalie. (2018, February 20) Water Legislation in California: Deeper than Citizen Engagement. <http://www.sustainability.ucsb.edu/water-legislation-in-california-deeper-than-citizen-engagement/>

Overton, Natalie. (2018, February 20) The Brazilian Cash Cow: How Cattle Ranching is Outsizing the Rubber Industry in Amazonia. <http://www.sustainability.ucsb.edu/the-brazilian-cash-cow-how-cattle-ranching-is-outsizing-the-rubber-industry-in-amazonia/>

Overton, N. E., (2016). Where Science, Nature, and Beauty Co-mingle. *Friends of Acadia Journal, Fall/Winter 2016*

Extracurricular Activities and Community Service:

- Restoration volunteer at Meridian Conservation Corps, 2022-present, Okemos, MI
 - Remove invasive species and sow native seeds as part of a long term restoration project in Meridian Township.
- Tree planter at Your Children’s Trees, 2016-2018, Isla Vista, CA
 - Volunteered to plant oak trees at UCSB’s coal oil point as part of a University restoration effort.
- Adopt-A-Block, 2016-2017, Isla Vista, CA
 - Cleaned up the streets of Isla Vista in an effort to prevent trash from entering the ocean or disturbing wildlife in the area.
- Challah For Hunger, 2016, Isla Vista, CA
 - Braided and baked Challah bread with UCSB Hillel. The bread was sold and the profits go to feed the hungry.

Skills:

-I am a confident speaker and have good interpersonal communication

-I am a good listener

-I think best with big concepts, theories, and abstract themes/patterns

-I’m good at critical thinking and reading

-I am a good technical and creative writer

-I am proficient at a basic level in R and SPSS

