

Sam Trachtman

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EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

PhD, Political Science

2015 - 2021

MA, Political Science

Pomona College

BA, Economics

2008 - 2012

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Berkeley Economy and Society Initiative (BESI)

Senior Researcher

September, 2024 - present

- Leading applied research program on the California political economy, with a focus on California's unaffordability problem.

The Possibility Lab

Senior Researcher

August, 2022 - May, 2024

- Designed and led a several million dollar research program aimed at developing equity-oriented supply-side policy agenda for California.
- Led research collaboration with Alameda County Probation Department to analyze the effects of several novel interventions on successful reintegration of incarcerated individuals.
- Led research collaboration with New York Civilian Complaints Review Board analyzing administrative data to inform interventions that could increase the proportion of complaints fully investigated.

Consortium on the American Political Economy

Postdoctoral Fellow

July, 2021 - August, 2022

PUBLICATIONS

Trachtman, S., Inal, I., & Meckling, J. (2025). Building winning climate coalitions: Evidence from U.S. States. *Energy Policy*. 114628. <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.enpol.2025.114628>.

Meckling, J., & **Trachtman, S.** (2023). The home state effect: How subnational governments shape climate coalitions. *Governance*.

Trachtman, S., Anzia, S. F., & Hill, C. (2023). Age-group identity and political participation. *Research & Politics*, 10(2), 20531680231166838.

Trachtman, S. (2023). State Policy and National Representation: Marijuana Politics in American Federalism. *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, 48(1), 3-35.

Trachtman, S. (2023). Policy feedback and interdependence in American federalism: Evidence from rooftop solar politics. *Perspectives on politics*, 21(2), 462-477.

Mildenberger, M., Howe, P. D., **Trachtman, S.**, Stokes, L. C., & Lubell, M. (2022). The effect of public safety power shut-offs on climate change attitudes and behavioural intentions. *Nature Energy*, 7(8), 736-743.

Trachtman, S., & Meckling, J. (2022). The climate advocacy gap. *Climatic Change*, 172(3-4), 24.

Lerman, A. E., & **Trachtman, S. (2020).** Where policies and politics diverge: awareness, assessments, and attribution in the ACA. *Public Opinion Quarterly*, 84(2), 419-445.

Trachtman, S. (2020). What drives climate policy adoption in the US states?. *Energy Policy*, 138, 111214.

Trachtman, S. (2020). When state policy makes national politics: the case of “Obamacare” marketplace implementation. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 45(1), 111-141.

Trachtman, S. (2019). Building climate policy in the states. *The Annals of the American Academy of Political and Social Science*, 685(1), 96-114.

Trachtman, S. (2019). Polarization, participation, and premiums: how political behavior helps explain where the ACA works, and where it doesn't. *Journal of Health Politics, Policy and Law*, 44(6), 855-884.

Lerman, A. E., Sadin, M. L., & **Trachtman, S. (2017).** Policy uptake as political behavior: Evidence from the affordable care act. *American Political Science Review*, 111(4), 755-770.

Jacobs, P. D., Banthin, J. S., & **Trachtman, S. (2015).** Insurer competition in federally run marketplaces is associated with lower premiums. *Health Affairs*, 34(12), 2027-2035.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UC Berkeley Political Science Department

Lead Instructor

Spring, 2022

- Designed and taught seminar for advanced undergraduates: *Public Policy Challenges in American Politics*.

Graduate Student Instructor

Fall, 2020

- Assisted Professor Joel Middleton in teaching the first course in the quantitative methods sequence for Political Science PhD students, covering topics including: regression, parametric models, probability theory, missing data, and causal inference.

Graduate Student Instructor

Fall, 2019

- Assisted Professor Paul Pierson in teaching Introduction to American Politics.

NON-ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

Congressional Budget Office

Assistant Analyst for Healthcare Policy

September, 2013 - June, 2015

- Analyzed data from first two years of Affordable Care Act health insurance marketplaces, leading to co-authored journal article published in *Health Affairs*.
- Refined data model to improve projections of disability insurance applications.
- Contributed to data model estimating future gaps in providers of primary care.

Southern California Edison

Regulatory Policy Analyst

August, 2012 - August, 2013

GRANTS, HONORS, AWARDS

Climate Social Science Network Research Grant (Jonas Meckling, 2021)

\$44,019 for research on climate advocacy and opposition in the U.S. states.

UC Center Sacramento Emerging Scholar Award (2021)

Mike Synar Graduate Research Fellowship (2019)

Awarded to distinguished UC Berkeley graduate students writing dissertations on an aspect of American politics.

Odegard Award (2018)

Awarded each spring to one doctoral student in their third year who has performed exceptionally well on coursework and preliminary examinations.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (2015-2018)

SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

- Programming in R and Stata, including data wrangling, data analysis, data visualization, and machine learning.
- Research design and methods for causal inference.
- Expertise in energy policy, healthcare policy, and housing policy.