

# MICHAEL A. ZILIS

Curriculum Vitae

## CONTACT

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Lexington, KY 40506

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(859) 257-7030

## APPOINTMENTS

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### ACADEMIC

#### **University of Kentucky**

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, 2020-present  
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2015-2020

#### **DePaul University**

Instructor, Department of Political Science, 2014-2015

### MAJOR

#### **University of Kentucky**

### ADMINISTR.

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science, 2021-present  
Executive Committee, Department of Political Science, 2020-present  
Graduate Council, University Senate, 2023-2024  
Founder, Law and Justice Major/Minor Program, 2022-present

## EDUCATION

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#### **University of Michigan**

Ph.D. Political Science, 2013

\* Fields: American Politics, Methods, Psychology

\* Recognition: APSA Edward S. Corwin Award nominee

#### **Miami University**

Bachelor of Arts, 2007

\* Fields: Political Science, History, Mathematics

\* Honors: *summa cum laude*, University Honors with Distinction, Major Honors

## RESEARCH

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### BOOKS

Wedeking, Justin, and **Michael A. Zilis**. *Compliance and the Rule of Law in America: How the Emergence of the New Media Landscape and Framing Shapes Attitudes Towards the Supreme Court*. Cambridge University Press, Elements in Experimental Political Science Series. Under contract, expected delivery fall 2024.

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2021. *The Rights Paradox: How Group Attitudes Shape U.S. Supreme Court Legitimacy*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

\* Reviews: *Perspectives on Politics, Political Science Quarterly*

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2015. *The Limits of Legitimacy: Dissenting Opinions, Media Coverage, and Public Responses to Supreme Court Decisions*. Ann Arbor: University of Michigan Press.

\* Recognition: 2015 Exemplary Law Book, selected by Lee Epstein for the *Green Bag Almanac & Reader*

\* Reviews: *Perspectives on Politics, Political Science Quarterly, Political Studies Review, Journal of Supreme Court History*

#### ARTICLES

Masood, Ali, Ryan Strickler, and **Michael A. Zilis**. Forthcoming. “The Presidency, Partisan Cues, and Public Perceptions of Nonelectoral Institutions.” *American Politics Research*.

Ono, Yoshikuni, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2023. “Do Americans Perceive Diverse Judges as Inherently Biased?” *Politics, Groups, and Identities* 11(2): 335-344.

Ono, Yoshikuni, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2022. “Ascriptive Traits and Perceptions of Impropriety in the Rule of Law: Race, Gender, and Public Assessments of Whether Judges Can Be Impartial.” *American Journal of Political Science* 66(1): 43-58.

\* Coverage: The Journalist’s Resource

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2022. “How Identity Politics Polarizes Rule of Law Opinions.” *Political Behavior* 44: 179-199.

Douglas, Joshua A., and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2021. “Bring the Masks and Sanitizer: The Surprising Bipartisan Consensus about Safety Measures for In-Person Voting during the Coronavirus Pandemic.” *Georgia Law Review* 55: 1585-1620.

\* Coverage: Politico

**Zilis, Michael A.**, and Rachael Blandau. 2021. “Judicial Legitimacy, Political Polarization, and How the Public Views the Supreme Court.” *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.

**Zilis, Michael A.**, and Xander Borne. 2021. “Defying the Supreme Court: The Impact of Overt Resistance to Landmark Legal Rulings.” *Social Science Quarterly* 102(2): 920-938.

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2021. “Cognitive Heuristics, Inter-Institutional Politics, and Public Perceptions of Insulated Institutions: The Case of the U.S. Supreme Court.” *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 33(1): 76-98.

**Zilis, Michael A.**, and Justin Wedeking. 2020. “The Sources and Consequences of Political Rhetoric: Issue Importance, Collegial Bargaining, and Disagreeable Rhetoric in Supreme Court Opinions.” *Journal of Law and Courts* 8(2): 203-227.

Denison, Alexander, Justin Wedeking, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2020. "Negative Media Coverage of the Supreme Court: The Interactive Role of Opinion Language, Coalition Size, and Ideological Signals." *Social Science Quarterly* 101(1): 121-143.

Mark, Alyx, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2019. "The Conditional Effectiveness of Legislative Threats: How Court Curbing Alters the Behavior of (Some) Supreme Court Justices." *Political Research Quarterly* 72(3): 570-583.

\* Coverage: *Pacific Standard Magazine*, London School of Economics and Political Science Blog

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2018. "Minority Groups and Judicial Legitimacy: Group Affect and the Incentives for Judicial Responsiveness." *Political Research Quarterly* 71(2): 270-283.

\* Coverage: London School of Economics and Political Science Blog

Mark, Alyx, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2018. "Restraining the Court: Assessing Accounts of Congressional Attempts to Limit Supreme Court Authority." *Legislative Studies Quarterly* 43(1): 141-169.

Wedeking, Justin, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2018. "Disagreeable Rhetoric and the Prospect of Public Opposition: Opinion Moderation on the U.S. Supreme Court." *Political Research Quarterly* 71(2): 380-394.

Mark, Alyx, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2018. "Blurring Institutional Boundaries: Judges' Perceptions of Threats to Judicial Independence." *Journal of Law and Courts* 6(2): 333-353.

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2018. "The Political Consequences of Supreme Court Consensus: Media Coverage, Public Opinion, and Unanimity as a Public-Facing Strategy." *Washington University Journal of Law & Policy* 54: 229-243.

**Zilis, Michael A.**, Justin Wedeking, and Alexander Denison. 2017. "Hitting the 'Bullseye' in Supreme Court Coverage: News Quality in the Court's 2014 Term." *Elon Law Review* 9(2): 489-523.

Maltzman, Forrest, Alyx Mark, Charles R. Shipan, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2014. "Stepping on Congress: Courts, Congress, and Inter-Institutional Politics." *Journal of Law and Courts* 2(2): 219-240.

BOOK  
REVIEWS

**Zilis, Michael A.** Forthcoming. Book Review of Dave Bridge, *Pushback: The Political Fallout of Supreme Court Decisions* (University of Missouri Press). *Journal of Church and State*.

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2021. Book Review of Brandon L. Bartels and Christopher D. Johnston, *Curbing the Court: How the Public Constrains Judicial Independence* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press). *Public Opinion Quarterly* 85(2): 719-722.

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2018. Book Review of Louis Fisher, *Supreme Court Expansion of Presidential Power: Unconstitutional Leanings* (Lawrence, Kansas: University Press of Kansas). *Law and Politics Book Review* 28(4): 42-44.

**Zilis, Michael A.** 2016. Book Review of Richard Davis, *Covering the United States Supreme Court in the Digital Age* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press). *Perspectives on Politics* 14(3): 882-883.

- WORKING PAPERS “Supreme Court Legitimacy in a New Media Landscape: How Differences in Media Coverage Polarize Attitudes Concerning Judicial Legitimacy.” With Justin Wedeking.
- “The TikTok Addiction: TikTok Messaging and the Future of the Supreme Court.” With Justin Wedeking
- “The Double Bind: Ascriptive Heuristics, Partisan Polarization, and Public Opposition to Non-White Prosecutors.” With Yoshikuni Ono
- “Democratic Institutions Under Threat: Corrosive Issue Frames, Internet News, Social Media, and the Case of the U.S. Supreme Court.” With Justin Wedeking
- ONGOING PROJECTS “Courts in the Crosshairs: Understanding the Rise in and Ramifications of Threats and Violence Directed at the U.S. Judiciary.” With Justin Wedeking. Under review at the National Science Foundation, Law and Science. Proposed: \$297,911
- “Portrayals and Perceptions of the Supreme Court in a New Media Landscape.” National Science Foundation Grant #1849286 with Justin Wedeking. Award: \$275,000 for 2019-2023
- “The Impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 Elections in Kentucky and Beyond,” UK CURE COVID-19 Pilot Program, subproject to National Institute of Health Grant #UL1TR001998, with Joshua A. Douglas. Award \$9600 for 2020
- “2019 Collaborative Kentucky Exit Poll.” With Benjamin Knoll, Michele Margolis, Dan Hopkins, Jaclyn Johnson, Ryan Lloyd, Michael Hail, Josiah Marineau, Shawn Williams, Andrew Lewis, Jack Mewhirter, and David Azizi.
- \* Coverage (selected): FiveThirtyEight, Seattle Post-Intelligencer, Pittsburgh Post-Gazette, San Antonio Express, Arizona Republic, SFGate, Yahoo News UK, Yahoo News France, WTHR-Indianapolis, FOX 13-Tampa Bay, Albany Times Union, Daily Herald-Illinois, Oklahoman
- INVITED TALKS, WORKSHOPS & ROUNDTABLES “Author Meets Critics” Panelist, *Constitutional Powers and Politics* by Eileen Braman, MPSA, 2024
- “Author Meets Critics” Panelist, *Black and Blue* by James Gibson and Michael Nelson, MPSA, 2019
- Law and Courts Workshop*, St. Louis University, October 12-13, 2018
- Speaker Series*, University of Mannheim, September 10, 2018
- The Future of the Supreme Court*, Miami University, September 22, 2016
- Judgment-Rationale Inconsistency in the Supreme Court*, Ohio State University, April 23, 2016
- ATHGO International Symposium*, World Bank, July 5-7, 2006
- CONFERENCE Midwest Political Science Association National Conference, 2011-2024
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2012, 2014, 2016-2019, 2021
- Kentucky Political Science Association, 2018-2019, 2022
- Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, 2016, 2018
- Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, 2015, 2018

Research Design for Causal Inference, Northwestern University 2017  
Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2016-2017  
Annual Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology, 2012  
Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2006, 2011  
New York State Political Science Association Annual Conference, 2006  
International Young Researchers Conference, 2006

INTERNAL  
TALKS

“Courts in the Crosshairs: Understanding the Rise in and Ramifications of Threats and Violence Directed at the U.S. Judiciary.” With Justin Wedeking. Rosenberg College of Law, Faculty Research Seminar, University of Kentucky, November 6, 2024  
“Panel with Professors,” October 19, 2022  
“Building a Better Society: Coping with COVID,” September 28, 2021  
“Election 2020 – Is American Democracy at Risk?” October 22, 2020  
“The Impact of the Pandemic and Protests on 2020 Elections,” June 11, 2020  
“Constitutional Controversy in the Age of President Trump,” September 18, 2017  
2016 Presidential Election Forum Panelist, October 20, 2016

GRANTS &  
AWARDS

“Courts in the Crosshairs: Understanding the Rise in and Ramifications of Threats and Violence Directed at the U.S. Judiciary.” With Justin Wedeking. Under review at the National Science Foundation, Law and Science. Proposed: \$297,911  
Andrew Carnegie Fellows Program, 2024-2025 cycle, Junior Fellow nominee of the University of Kentucky  
“Portrayals and Perceptions of the Supreme Court in a New Media Landscape,” National Science Foundation Grant #1849286, with Justin Wedeking. Award: \$275,000 for 2019-2023  
“Framing, Debate, and Opinion Change in the Social Media Age,” Research and Creative Activities Program, University of Kentucky, with Justin Wedeking. Award: \$3000 for 2021-2022  
“Computational Account of Framing in Arguments,” National Science Foundation, with Justin Wedeking, Brent Harrison, Arnav Jhala, and Justus Robertson. Declined for 2021  
“The Impact of COVID-19 on the 2020 Elections in Kentucky and Beyond,” UK CURE COVID-19 Pilot Program, subproject to National Institute of Health Grant #UL1TR001998, with Joshua A. Douglas. Award: \$9600 for 2020  
German Internet Panel (GIP), seven item allotment regarding judicial legitimacy, 2017  
*The Limits of Legitimacy*, 2015 Exemplary Law Book, *Green Bag Almanac & Reader*  
Southern Political Science Association Artinian Award, \$500 travel award, 2016  
APSA Edward S. Corwin Award (nominated), Best Dissertation in Public Law, 2014  
Rackham Dissertation Fellowship, University of Michigan, 2013  
Gerald R. Ford Fellowship, \$3500 research grant, University of Michigan, 2011-2013  
Rackham Predoctoral Fellowship Program (nominated), University of Michigan, 2012  
University of Michigan Thesis Grant, 2011  
University of Michigan Fellowship, Department of Political Science, 2010-2011  
IDEAS / IGERT Fellowship, Center for the Study of Complex Systems, University of Michigan,

2007-2008

## TEACHING

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- RECOGNITION University of Kentucky College of Arts & Sciences Outstanding Teacher, 2019  
University of Kentucky Outstanding Teacher (finalist), 2019  
Woodrow Wilson National Fellowship for Excellence in Teaching (nominated), 2018
- COURSES Judicial Politics (undergraduate, graduate), American Political Institutions (graduate), American Political Behavior (graduate), Constitutional Law, First Amendment Rights, Politics of Law and Courts, Law and the Political System, Public Opinion, Criminal Courts and Process in the U.S., The American Presidency, Introduction to American Government, Research Internship, Honors Capstone
- TRAINING & EXPERIENCE Center for the Enhancement of Learning & Teaching Workshop, University of Kentucky, 2016  
MyGuru, Senior Tutor, 2010-2015  
Walter Gross Jr. Family Student-Athlete Development Center, Miami University, 2006-2007  
Bernard B. Rinella, Jr. Learning Center, Miami University, 2005-2007
- PEDAGOGICAL WRITING Skoskiewicz, Mark, Lucas Fink, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2015. *Plan, Prepare and Perform: A Strategic Approach to Test Prep*. E-book

## SERVICE

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- RECOGNITION Excellent Undergraduate Research Mentor Award (nominated), 2024
- PHD ADVISING Audrey Baricovich (chair), Rachael Blandau (chair), Alex Smith (chair), Chris Crumrine, Alexander Denison, Kelly Grenier, Kay Hales, Chris Kirkwood, Peter Lynch, Abbie Saulsbury, Travis Taylor
- THESIS Olivia Antigua, Alexander Borne, Elizabeth Dade, Sydney Darwin, Kathryn Price
- RESEARCH LAB Olivia Antigua, Alexander Borne, Hannah Britt, Bear Brown, Erica Cherry, Elizabeth Dade, Tanner Dowdy, Mary Louisa Givens, Samuel Harmon, Joshua Hollan, Danielle Hunt, Paige Kregor, Deirdre Lawler, Caitlin Neuhaus, Eric Poore, Haley Powell, Brady Rice, Jacinda Rivas, Lauryn Stone, Eteri Tsintsadze-Maase, Payton Sinkbeil, Courtney Vice, Vanshika Vij, Brianna Vollman, Adam Weissler, Desiree Wilson, Anamei Walli, Thomas Wright, Ayshe Yeter, Rachele Yohe
- IND. STUDY Olivia Antigua, Mary Louisa Givens, Samuel Harmon, Danielle Hunt, Lauryn Stone, Brady Rice, Anamei Walli
- DEPARTMENT Director of Graduate Studies, 2021-  
Executive Committee, 2020-

Department Manager Search Committee, 2024  
Faculty Search Committee, 2017, 2022 (chair), 2024  
Faculty Merit and Review Committee, 2020, 2024  
Director of Public Relations, 2019-2020  
Graduate Program Committee, 2018-  
Political Science Colloquium Coordinator, 2017-2020  
Faculty Publications Wall, 2017-2019  
Vandenbosch Outstanding Legal Studies Paper Award Committee, 2017-2019  
Undergraduate Program Committee, 2015-2017

COLLEGE & UNIVERSITY Founder, Law and Justice Major/Minor, 2022-present  
Graduate Council, 2023-2024  
Trunzo Scholarship Committee, 2024  
College Strategic Planning Workgroup: Building Trust, Transparency, and Accountability, 2022-2023  
Evaluation Committee for Tenure and Promotion, Martin School of Public Policy, 2023  
External Writer for Tenure and Promotion, Gender and Women's Studies, 2023  
Advisor, UK Moot Court, 2019-2022  
Advisor, UK Constitution Club, 2019-2022  
"Building a Better Society: Coping with COVID," Panelist, 2021  
College Teaching Awards Committee, 2020  
"Election 2020 – Is American Democracy at Risk?" Panelist, 2020  
"The Impact of the Pandemic and Protests on 2020 Elections" Panelist, 2020  
"2016 Presidential Election Forum: Panelist, 2016  
Outside Dissertation Examiner for Anthropology, English, History, and Public Policy  
Faculty Mentoring Program, College of Arts & Sciences, 2015-2016  
Internal Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion (2x)

DISCIPLINE "Author Meets Critics" Panelist, *Constitutional Powers and Politics* by Eileen Braman, MPSA, 2024  
Editorial Board, *Communication and Democracy*, 2023-present  
Editorial Board and stand-in Associate Editor, *Journal of Law and Courts*, 2019-2020  
APSA Long Term Mentoring Program, 2018-2020  
"Author Meets Critics" Panelist, *Black and Blue* by James Gibson and Michael Nelson, MPSA, 2019  
APSA Law and Courts Teaching and Mentoring Award Committee, 2017-2018  
APSA Law and Courts Service Award Committee, 2016-2017  
External Reviewer for Tenure and Promotion (2x)

MEDIA ABC News 36, Lexington (2x); Gray TV, Washington D.C.; LEX 18 NBC, Lexington (7x); Middle Eastern News Agency, Egypt; Spectrum News 1; WKYT CBS, Lexington (5x); UK Student News Network (3x); UK Now (3x); *USA Today*; *Washington Times*; WION TV India

DISCUSSANT & CHAIR Midwest Political Science Association National Conference, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Law and Society Association Annual Meeting

REVIEWER *American Political Science Review; American Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics; Political Research Quarterly; Political Analysis; Political Science Research and Methods; Political Behavior; Politics, Groups, and Identities; Social Science Quarterly; Law and Society Review; Journal of Law and Courts; Journal of Empirical Legal Studies; Justice System Journal; Criminology; Law & Social Inquiry; Perspectives on Politics; PS: Political Science & Politics; Journal of Legislative Studies; Congress & the Presidency; Law & Policy; Artificial Intelligence Review; Oxford Research Encyclopedia; Law and Politics Book Review; Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion; Journal of Church and State; Democratization; Criminology; Mobilization; National Science Foundation; Cambridge University Press; New York University Press; George Mason University Press*