

# MICHAEL A. ZILIS

Curriculum Vitae  
Updated September 2020

## CONTACT

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120 Patterson Drive  
Lexington, KY 40506

michael.zilis@uky.edu  
www.michaelzilis.com  
(859) 257-7030

## APPOINTMENTS

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### University of Kentucky

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

### DePaul University

Adjunct Instructor, Department of Political Science, 2014-2015

## 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 for Best Dissertation in Public Law

### 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

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

**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*

Ono, Yoshikuni, and **Michael A. Zilis**. Conditional acceptance. “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*.

**Zilis, Michael A.** Forthcoming. “How Identity Politics Polarizes Rule of Law Opinions.” *Political Behavior*.

**Zilis, Michael A.** Forthcoming. “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*.

**Zilis, Michael A.**, and Justin Wedeking. Forthcoming. “The Strategic Components of Rhetorical Choice: Disagreeable Rhetoric in Supreme Court Opinions.” *Journal of Law and Courts*.

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

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.** 2018. Book Review of Louis Fisher, *Supreme Court Expansion of Presidential Power: Unconstitutional Learnings* (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

Ono, Yoshikuni, and **Michael A. Zilis**. 2020. "Pernicious Bias and Judicial Illegitimacy: Do Americans Perceive Diverse Judges as Inherently Biased?" *Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry*, Discussion Paper 20-E-028. *Revise and resubmit*

"Defying the Supreme Court: The Impact of Overt Resistance to Landmark Legal Rulings." With Xander Borne. *Revise and resubmit*

"Bring the Masks and Sanitizer: The Surprising Bipartisan Consensus about Safety Measures for In-Person Voting during the Coronavirus Pandemic." With Joshua A. Douglas. SSRN #3693286. *Under review*

"The Democratic Crisis of Police Misconduct" With Nicholas Davis and Matthew Hitt. *Under review*

"The Presidency, Partisan Cues, and Public Perceptions of Nonelectoral Institutions." With Ali Masood and Ryan Strickler. *Under review*

"Portrayals and Perceptions of the Supreme Court in a New Media Landscape." With Justin Wedeking

"A Counter-majoritarian Institution in the Public Mind: Judicial Legitimacy of the Federal Constitutional Court in Germany." With Hyeonho Hahm

ONGOING  
PROJECTS

Portrayals and Perceptions of the Supreme Court in a New Media Landscape. National Science Foundation Grant #1849286 with Justin Wedeking. Award: \$275,000 for 2019-2021

"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

*Individual Roots of Institutional Conflict: The Origins and Consequences of Congressional Assaults on the U.S. Supreme Court.* With Alyx Mark. Book project

2019 Collaborative Kentucky Exit Poll. With Benjamin Knoll, Michele Margolis, Dan Hopkins, Jaelyn 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

Full Court Press: The Causes and Consequences of Executive Court Curbing. With Alyx Mark

INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS *Research Institute of Economy, Trade and Industry*, Tokyo, Japan, June 9, 2020  
*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, 2011-2020  
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2012, 2014, 2016-2019  
Kentucky Political Science Association, 2018-2019  
Law and Society Association Annual Meeting, 2016, 2018  
Conference on Empirical Legal Studies, 2015, 2018  
Research Design for Causal Inference, 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 “The Impact of the Pandemic and Protests on 2020 Elections,” June 11, 2020  
Political Science Research Colloquium, 2015–2019 (7x)  
“Constitutional Controversy in the Age of President Trump,” September 18, 2017  
2016 Presidential Election Forum Panelist, October 20, 2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE Research Assistant to Professor Charles Shipan, University of Michigan, 2009-2012  
Undergraduate Research Supervisor, University of Michigan, 2011-2012  
Legal Aid Society, Cleveland, Ohio 2006  
Research Assistant to Professor Mark Sachleben, Miami University, 2005-2006  
Undergraduate Summer Scholar, Miami University, 2005

GRANTS & AWARDS “Portrayals and Perceptions of the Supreme Court in a New Media Landscape,” National Science Foundation Grant #1849286, with Justin Wedeking. Award: \$275,000 for 2019-2021  
“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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HONORS 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, 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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PHD ADVISING Rachael Blandau (chair), Chris Crumrine, Alexander Denison, Peter Lynch, Travis Taylor

THESIS 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, Caitlin Neuhaus, Eric Poore, Brady Rice, Jacinda Rivas, Lauryn Stone, Eteri Tsintsadze-Maase, Courtney Vice, Vanshika Vij, Brianna Vollman, Adam Weissler, Desiree Wilson, Thomas Wright, Rachele Yohe

IND. STUDY Olivia Antigua, Mary Louisa Givens, Samuel Harmon, Danielle Hunt, Lauryn Stone, Brady Rice

DEPARTMENT Executive Committee, 2020-  
 Director of Public Relations, 2019-2020  
 Political Science Colloquium Coordinator, 2017-2020  
 Graduate Program Committee, 2018-  
 Faculty Publications Wall, 2017-2019  
 Vandebosch Outstanding Legal Studies Paper Award Committee, 2017-2019  
 Faculty Hiring Committee, 2017  
 Undergraduate Program Committee, 2015–2017

COLLEGE / COLLEGE Teaching Awards Committee, 2020  
 UNIVERSITY Advisor, UK Moot Court, 2019-  
 Advisor, UK Constitution Club, 2019-  
 “The Impact of the Pandemic and Protests on 2020 Elections” Panelist, 2020  
 Outside Dissertation Examiner, Departments of Anthropology, English, and History  
 2016 Presidential Election Forum Panelist  
 Faculty Mentoring Program, College of Arts & Sciences, 2015-2016

DISCIPLINE Associate Editor, *Journal of Law and Courts*, 2019-  
 APSA Long Term Mentoring Program, 2018-  
 APSA Law and Courts Teaching and Mentoring Award Committee, 2017-2018  
 APSA Law and Courts Service Award Committee, 2016-2017

MEDIA ABC News 36, Lexington (2x); Gray TV, Washington D.C.; LEX 18 NBC, Lexington (7x); Middle  
 Eastern News Agency, Egypt; WKYT CBS, Lexington; UK Student News Network (3x); UK Now  
 (3x); *USA Today*; 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 Behavior*; *Politics, Groups, and Identities*; *Law and Society Review*; *Journal of Law and Courts*;  
*Journal of Empirical Legal Studies*; *Perspectives on Politics*; *Journal of Legislative Studies*; *Oxford Research  
 Encyclopedia*; *Law and Politics Book Review*; *Journal for the Scientific Study of Religion*; New York University  
 Press; George Mason University Press