

Matthew Charles Wilson

Professional Contact Information

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Academic Appointments

2021- Associate Professor and Director of Graduate Studies,
Political Science, University of South Carolina
2019-2021 Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of South Carolina
2015-2018 Assistant Professor, Political Science, West Virginia University

Education

2015 Ph.D., Pennsylvania State University
2011 M.A., Pennsylvania State University
2009 B.S., Clemson University

Publications

Journal Articles

- 2024 "The principal components of electoral regimes – Separating autocracies from pseudo-democracies." *Royal Society Open Science* (with Karoline Wiesner and Samuel Bien).
- 2023 "Episodes of Regime Transformation." *Journal of Peace Research* (with Seraphine F. Maerz, Amanda B Edgell, Sebastian Hellmeier, and Staffan I Lindberg).
- 2023 "Concept Mapping and Reading Comprehension." *Journal of Political Science Education* (with Christopher Howell, Kelsey Martin-Morales, and Sanghoon Park).
- 2022 "Contestation and participation: Concepts, measurement, and inference." *International Area Studies Review* (with Vanessa Boese).
- 2022 "Episodes of Liberalization in Autocracies: A New Approach to Quantitatively Studying Democratization." *Political Science Research and Methods* (with Juraj Medzihorsky, Seraphine F. Maerz, Patrik Lindenfors, Amanda Edgell, Vanessa Boese, and Staffan Lindberg).
- 2020 "Geographical Coverage in Political Science Research." *Perspectives on Politics*, (with Carl Henrik Knutsen).
- 2020 "The Matthew effect in political science: head start and key reforms important for democratization." *Humanities and Social Sciences Communications*, 7(106) (with Staffan Lindberg and Patrik Lindenfors).
- 2019 "A Closer Look at the Limits of Consociationalism." *Comparative Political Studies*, 53(5): 700–733.
- 2019 "Contested or Established? A Comparison of Legislative Powers across Regimes." *Democratization*, 26(4): 585-605 (with Josef Woldense).
- 2018 "State of the world 2017: autocratization and exclusion?" *Democratization*, 25(8): 1321-1340 (with Anna Lührmann, Valeriya Mechkova, Sirianne Dahlum, Laura Maxwell, Moa Olin, Constanza Sanhueza Petrarca, Rachel Sigman, and Staffan I. Lindberg).
- 2018 "Crowdsourcing and Self-Instruction: Turning the Production of Teaching Materials into a Learning Objective." *Journal of Political Science Education*, 14(3): 400-408.
- 2018 "Militarism and Dual-Conflict Capacity." *International Interactions*, 44(1): 156-172 (with Carla Martinez-Machain).
- 2017 "Trends in Political Science Research and the Progress of Comparative Politics." *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 50(4): 979-984.

- 2017 “Understanding the experiences, attitudes, and behaviors of sexual orientation and gender identity minority employees.”
Journal of Vocational Behavior, 103: 1-6 (with Larry R. Martinez and Katina B. Sawyer).
- 2017 “Autocratic Legislatures and Expropriation Risk.”
British Journal of Political Science, 47(1): 1-17 (with Joseph Wright).
- 2015 “Using Sequences to Model Crises.”
Political Science Research and Methods, 3(2): 381-397 (with Gretchen Casper).
- 2014 “A Discreet Critique of Discrete Regime Type Data.”
Comparative Political Studies, 47(5): 689-714.
- 2013 “Dictatorships and Terrorism: Conditioning Effects of Regime Type on Terrorism.”
American Journal of Political Science, 57(4): 941–955 (with James Piazza).

Books

- 2022 *One road to riches? How state building and democratization affect economic development*.
Cambridge Elements Series. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
(with Carl Henrik Knutsen, Tore Wig, and Haakon Gjerløw).

Book Chapters

- 2024 “Identifying Episodes of Autocratization.” *The Routledge Handbook of Autocratization*, Aurel Croissant and Luca Tomini (Eds.). New York: Routledge (with Vanessa Boese-Schlosser, Amanda B. Edgell, Sebastian Hellmeier, Seraphine F. Maerz, Yuko Sato, and Staffan I. Lindberg).
- 2023 “Autocratization—Not an ‘Illiberal Turn’.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Illiberalism*, Marlene Laruelle (Ed.). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press (with Amanda B. Edgell, Yuko Sato, Vanessa Boese-Schlosser, and Staffan I. Lindberg).
- 2019 “Time and Regime Change.” In *The Oxford Handbook of Time and Politics*, Klaus Goetz (Ed.). Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
- 2014 “Governance Built Step-by-Step: Analyzing Sequences to Explain Democratization.”
In *Advances in Sequence Analysis: Methods, Theories and Applications*, Philippe Blanchard, Jacques-Antoine Gauthier, and Felix Bühlmann (Eds.). New York: Springer.

Working Papers

- 2023 “The Hidden Dimension in Democracy.” University of Gothenburg, Varieties of Democracy Institute: Working Paper No. 137 (with Karoline Wiesner and Samuel Bien).
- 2021 “A Framework for Understanding Regime Transformation: Introducing the ERT Dataset.”
University of Gothenburg, Varieties of Democracy Institute: Working Paper No. 113
(with Seraphine F. Maerz, Amanda B. Edgell, Sebastian Hellmeier, and Staffan I. Lindberg).
- 2020 “Empirical Dimensions of Electoral Democracy.”
University of Gothenburg, Varieties of Democracy Institute: Working Paper No. 109
(with Vanessa A. Boese).
- 2020 “Democratic Legacies: Using Democratic Stock to Assess Norms, Growth, and Regime Trajectories.”
University of Gothenburg, Varieties of Democracy Institute: Working Paper No. 100
(with Amanda B. Edgell, Vanessa A. Boese, and Sandra Grahn).
- 2018 “Strengthening the Rubber Stamp: Comparing Legislative Powers across Regimes.” University of Gothenburg, Varieties of Democracy Institute: Working Paper No. 82 (with Josef Woldense).
- 2018 “Successful and Failed Episodes of Democratization: Conceptualization, Identification, and Description.” University of Gothenburg, Varieties of Democracy Institute: Working Paper No. 79
(with Staffan I. Lindberg, Patrik Lindenfors, Anna Lührmann, Laura Maxwell, Juraj Medzihorsky, and Richard Morgan).
- 2018 “Stairways to Denmark: Does the Sequence of State-building and Democratization Matter for Economic Development?” University of Gothenburg, Varieties of Democracy Institute: Working Paper No. 72
(with Haakon Gjerlow, Carl Henrik Knutsen, and Tore Wig).

Last Updated October 2024.

- 2017 “Autocratic Legislatures and Party Institutionalization.”
University of Gothenburg, Varieties of Democracy Institute: Working Paper No. 7.
- 2016 “Beyond First Elections: The Importance of Consistency in the Timing of Recurrent Elections.”
University of Gothenburg, Varieties of Democracy Institute: Working Paper No. 32
(with Staffan Lindberg).

Media Contributions

- 2024 *Supporting ‘democracy’ is hard for many who feel government and the economy are failing them.*
[The Conversation](#), 03 May.
- 2022 *Episodes of Regime Transformation: Improving our Understanding of Democratization and Autocratization.* [PodScholars.com](#), 16 October.
- 2022 *Nicaragua has kicked out hundreds of NGOs – even cracking down on Catholic groups like nuns from Mother Teresa’s order.* [The Conversation](#), 30 September (with Kelsey Martin Morales).
- 2022 *What’s a banana republic? A political scientist explains.* [The Conversation](#), 12 August.
Re-published by [Interesse Nacional](#), 25 August, and [The Academic Minute](#), 08 September.
- 2018 *One-third of the world’s population lives in a declining democracy. That includes the United States.*
The Monkey Cage, [Washington Post](#), 04 July (with Anna Lührmann).
- 2017 *Is democracy on the decline? Not as much as some pundits want you to believe.*
The Monkey Cage, [Washington Post](#), 26 June (with Anna Lührmann and Valeriya Mechkova).

Media Mentions

- 2018 John Oliver, [Last Week Tonight](#).
- 2018 Jeffrey Sachs, “Trump is taking US down the path to tyranny.” [CNN](#), 24 July 2018.

Other Contributions

- 2023 “Thinking about Regime Transformation.”
[The American Political Science Association Democracy and Autocracy Newsletter](#),
21(1): 10-11 (with Amanda Edgell and Staffan Lindberg).
- 2022 “Empirical Indicators of Democracy and Authoritarianism.” Annotated bibliography entry in
The Oxford Bibliographies Online. Oxford University Press (with Sanghoon Park).
- 2021 “Episodes of Regime Transformation: Assessing Democratization and Autocratization since 1900.”
[The American Political Science Association Comparative Politics Newsletter](#),
31(1): 5-14 (with Amanda Edgell and Seraphine F. Maerz).
- 2020 “Geographical Coverage in Political Science Research.” [Midwest Political Science Association blog](#),
07 October (with Carl Henrik Knutsen).
- 2020 “Democracy and Freedom during Covid-19.” [Codebook v.1.1](#).
- 2020 “Teaching Tactics: A Simple Hack for Maintaining Personal Connections to Students.”
[Incubator for Teaching Innovation blog](#), College of Arts & Sciences at the University of South Carolina,
13 April. Re-published by the [Midwest Political Science Association blog](#), 17 June.
- 2018 “Comparative Trends.” (https://mcwilson215.shinyapps.io/comparative_trends/).
- 2018 “Crowd-Sourcing and Self-Instruction.” [Active Learning in Political Science](#), 13 August.
- 2018 “The Value of Descriptive Sequences in Historical Institutional Research.” [The American Political Science Association \(APSA-CD\) Comparative Democratization Newsletter](#), 16(2): 9-13.
- 2018 “United States: Liberal Democracy Under Stress.” *V-Dem Annual Democracy Report*.

Convention Activity

American Political Science Association meetings:

2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Midwest Political Science Association meetings:

2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Southern Political Science Association meetings: 2015, 2016, 2017, 2024.

European Consortium for Political Research meetings: 2011, 2019.

International Political Science Association meetings: 2011, 2021.

Latin American Studies Association: 2014, 2015.

Grants and Awards

2024 McCausland Award for online course development, **\$54930**.

2024 Walker Institute Faculty Grant Award, **\$2500**.

2024 Institute for Humane Studies, **\$5000**.

2022 Faculty Research Initiative, College of Arts and Sciences, **\$9044**.

2021 McCausland Faculty Fellowship, College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Carolina, **\$20000**.

2021 Southeastern Conference (SEC) Visiting Faculty Travel Grant, **\$1550**

2020 College of Arts and Sciences Innovative Teaching Associate, University of South Carolina, **\$10000**.

2014 Alumni Association Dissertation Award, PSU, **\$5000**.

2013 Outstanding Graduate Student Award, Department of Political Science, PSU, **\$1500**.

2013 Career Development Award, Center for Global Studies, PSU, **\$2000**.

2013 Comparative Initiative, Department of Political Science, PSU, **\$2000**.

2013 Research Grant on Democratic Innovation, Penn State Democracy Institute, PSU, **\$2000**.

2012 RGSO College Dissertation Support Competition, College of Liberal Arts, PSU, **\$2000**.

2011 Nordic Research Opportunity (NRO), **\$12000**;

2011 National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (NSF GRFP), **\$30000** per year (3 years).

2011 Conference Travel Award, University of Lausanne, **\$2000**.

2009 Graduate Fellowship, Phi Theta Kappa, **\$4000**.

2009- Conference Travel Awards, Department of Political Science, PSU, **\$8000**.

2009 Award for Most Outstanding Undergraduate Research, College of Business and Behavioral Science, Clemson University, **\$500**.

2009 Faculty Scholarship Award, Clemson University.

2009 James F. Byrnes Award, Department of Political Science, Clemson University.

Professional Experience

Temporary and other Appointments

2018- Research Fellow, Varieties of Democracy Project, University of Gothenburg.

2014 Visiting Scholar, Vanderbilt University.

2013 Visiting Scholar, *Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica* (CIDE),
Mexico City, Mexico (Fall).

2012 Visiting Scholar, Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), Oslo, Norway (Summer).

Invitations

2023 Workshop on democratization, Aarhus, Denmark, September.

2023 Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame, Indiana, January.

2022 Research work and Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes, Sendai, Japan, October.

2019 Workshop on legislative closures, London, United Kingdom, December.

2019 Varieties of Democracy Internal Research Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden, May.

2018 Aarhus University, Aarhus, Denmark, December.

2018 University of Oslo, Oslo, Norway, November.

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- 2018 Workshop on State Capacity, Gothenburg, Sweden, June.
- 2018 Varieties of Democracy Internal Research Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden, May.
- 2018 Durham University, Durham, United Kingdom, April.
- 2017 University of Mannheim, Mannheim, Germany, November.
- 2017 Varieties of Democracy Internal Research Conference, Gothenburg, Sweden, May.
- 2017 The New Politics of Authoritarianism, Oxford, United Kingdom, March.
- 2016 University of Gothenburg, Gothenburg, Sweden, January.
- 2014 University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom, December.
- 2013 *Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económica (CIDE)*, Mexico City, Mexico, October.
- 2012 Peace Research Institute, Oslo (PRIO), Norway, June.
- 2012 Conference on Sequence Analysis, University of Lausanne, Switzerland, June.
- 2011 University of North Carolina Charlotte, Charlotte, North Carolina, September.

Fieldwork Experience

- 2013 Field research in Mexico City, Mexico, August-November.
- 2007 Field research in Otavalo, Ecuador, May-July.

Research Interests

Comparative Politics: Democratization; Autocracy; Comparative institutions, Civil Conflict.
 International Relations: Civil Conflict, Democratic Diffusion, Autocracy.
 Political Methodology: Quantitative methods; Time dependence; Sequence analysis.

Teaching Interests

Comparative Politics: Political Institutions; Democratization and Authoritarianism; Latin American Politics.
 International Relations: Civil Conflict.
 Political Methodology: Research Design and Methods; Linear Regression, Maximum Likelihood Estimation.

Teaching Experience

- 2024 Dictatorship and Democracy (U), Advanced Methods of Political Analysis (G), American National Government (U).
- 2023 Dictatorship and Democratization (U), Advanced Methods of Political Analysis (G), Introduction to Politics (U).
- 2022 Dictatorship and Democracy (G), Advanced Methods of Political Analysis (G), American National Government (U).
- 2021 Introduction to Global Politics (U), Advanced Methods of Political Analysis (G), American National Government (U).
- 2020 Introduction to Global Politics (U), Advanced Methods of Political Analysis (G), American National Government (U).
- 2019 Governments of Latin America (U), Dictatorship and Democracy (G), American National Government (U).
- 2017 Dictatorship and Democratization (U), Dictatorship and Democracy (G).
- 2016 Governments of Latin America (U), Introduction to Comparative Politics (U), Advanced Quantitative Analysis (G).
- 2015 Democracy and Dictatorship (U), Comparative Politics Core Seminar (G).
- 2014 Invited lecturer, graduate seminar on Sequence Analysis.
University of Warwick, Coventry, United Kingdom, December.
- 2014 Instructor, Dictators and their Demise (PL SC 414)—Spring, Pennsylvania State University.
- 2011 Cosponsor, short course on Sequence Analysis, American Political Science Association—Fall (with Philippe Blanchard).

Ph.D. Dissertation Chair

Current	Edwina Chen
Current	Kuan-Wu Chen
Current	Sanghoon Park
Current	Kelsey Martin-Morales

Ph.D. Dissertation Committees

Current	Emily Harmon
Current	Adam Alrowaiti (Student, West Virginia University)
2024	Madison Shanks
2023	Rahul Hemrajani
2021	Shaoshuang Wen (Visiting Assistant Professor, Colgate University)

Professional Service Activities

Department Service

2024	Chair, Target of opportunity hire search. Committee service, University of South Carolina: Chair search committee, Tenure and Promotion committee, Advisory committee.
2023- 2023	Faculty mentor (Howard Liu). Chair, IR faculty search. Chair, Third-year review. Committee service, University of South Carolina: Advisory committee.
2022- 2022	Graduate director, Department of Political Science, University of South Carolina. Committee service, University of South Carolina: Advisory committee, Scholarship committee.
2021	Placement director, Department of Political Science, University of South Carolina. Committee service, University of South Carolina: Comprehensive exam chair, Graduate committee, Third-year review committee. Judge, Internal Graduate Research Competition, University of South Carolina.
2020	Committee service, University of South Carolina: Comprehensive exam grader, Graduate committee.
2019	Committee service, University of South Carolina: Task force on B.S. degree in political analysis, Graduate committee, Undergraduate scholarships committee.
2019	Judge, Internal Graduate Research Competition, University of South Carolina.
2017	Head of Graduate Professionalization Colloquia, West Virginia University.
2017	Workshop Organizer, Consortium for Faculty and Course Development in International Studies.
2015-2017	Committee service, West Virginia University: Comprehensive exams committee, Graduate professionalization committee, Search committee, Undergraduate scholarships committee.

University Service

2023-	Top Scholar Mentor, University of South Carolina
2023	McCausland Review Committee, University of South Carolina.
2022	Distributed Learning Advisory Board, University of South Carolina.
2021-2022	Graduate Council, University of South Carolina.
2021-2022	Walker Institute Search Committee, University of South Carolina
2020-2022	Carolina Judicial Council, University of South Carolina.
2020-	Truman Fellowship Committee, University of South Carolina.

Past and Current Memberships in Professional Associations

American Political Science Association (APSA), European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), International Political Science Association (IPSA), International Studies Association (ISA), Latin American Studies Association (LASA), Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA), Peace Science Society (International) (PSS), Society for Political Methodology (PolMeth), Southern Political Science Association (SPSA).

Reviewing

Acta Política, American Journal of Political Science, Bulletin of Latin American Research, Comparative Political Studies, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Constitutional Political Economy, Contemporary Politics, Economics of Governance, F1000, Government and Opposition, International Interactions, International Migration, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of African and Asian Studies, Journal of Aggression, Conflict and Peace Research, Journal of Comparative Politics, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Defense and Peace Economics, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Political Science Education, Journal of Politics, Latin American Politics and Society, Polity, Political Opinion Quarterly, PS: Politics & Political Science, Research and Politics, Revista de Ciencia Política, Social Science Research, Terrorism and Political Violence, World Politics.

Other Activities

2021 Discussant and Chair, Conference of the Taiwan and Asia Program.
Gamecock Teaching Days, College of Arts and Sciences, University of South Carolina.
2020- MPSA mentor.
2020 MPSA virtual panel on online education, 05 June.
2020 Conversations About Teaching (CAT Corner), University of South Carolina, 04 March.
2019- Faculty Associate, Walker Institute of International Studies, University of South Carolina.
2019 Participant, INCUBATE Design Challenge, College of Arts and Sciences,
University of South Carolina.
2019 Participant, APSA Preprints Panel.
2017 Faculty Chaperone and Translator, Global Brigades trip to Nicaragua.
2015-17 Faculty Associate, Latin American Studies Program, WVU.
2013 Volunteer, Ralph Bunche workshop on CV writing.
2011 President, the Graduate Association for Political Science, PSU.
2011 Assistant to the Executive Director, Peace Science Society—Glenn Palmer, Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University: managed subscriptions for *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, the *Journal of Peace Research*, the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, and *International Interactions*. Managed memberships to the Peace Science Society, organized annual meetings of the Peace Science Society; and scheduled departmental presentations as part of a department series.

Professional Skills

Languages English: native. Spanish: fluent.
Programming R, STATA, LaTeX, Python.