

# Ezekiel Luther Wright

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## EDUCATION

University of Minnesota – Twin Cities, Minneapolis, MN <b>PhD</b> , American Politics and Methodology (Political Psychology minor)	2016 — current
University of Rhode Island, Kingston, RI <b>MA</b> , Political Science	2014 — 2016
Ithaca College, Ithaca, NY <b>BA</b> , Politics and Writing (Feature Writing concentration)	2003 — 2007

## RESEARCH

### **“An American Pastime? Immigration and political scapegoating”** (ongoing)

How do legislative term limits affect state lawmaker's propensity to scapegoat, defined here as a political blame-avoidance strategy? Term-limited legislators may be less inclined to take the “easy way out” by shifting blame, but they may also be less responsive to shifting demographics.

### **“Measuring the Strength and Salience of Partisan Identity”** April 2016

Experimental survey extends findings in the literature to explore the nature and potential intractability of partisanship using explicit measures of attitudes and feelings toward in- and out-groups and an Implicit Association Test. Results of a nonpartisan prime designed to decrease party identity generally support an interaction between identity strength and political knowledge.

### **“Contracting Out: States' use of private force”** December 2015

Research evaluates the use of private military and security companies in politically unstable states between 1990 and 2007, quantitatively identifying key characteristics of those states that contracted for services.

### **“Red States, Blue States, Brown Eyes, Blue Eyes”** May 2015

Research corroborates that of Iyengar, Sood, and Lelkes (2012), who conceive of mass polarization as an affective, not ideological, division in the American electorate. Using the most recent data in the American National Election Study, the results strengthen their hypothesis.

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Teaching Assistant**, September 2015 — May 2016

Led recitation sections for Political Science undergraduate courses at the University of Rhode Island.

PSC 113: Introduction to American Politics  
PSC 116: Introduction to International Politics

## **WORK EXPERIENCE**

**Editorial Assistant**, August 2014 — September 2015

Editorial staff member at the Newport Mercury, an alternative print weekly covering arts and entertainment on Aquidneck Island. Duties entailed writing and editing articles and composition of weekly calendar listings.

**Staff Writer**, June 2010 — September 2013

Journalist at the Bennington Banner, a daily print newspaper in southern Vermont where coverage included soft and hard news, features, and profiles at the local, school, and state level.

## **CONFERENCES**

**Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, Chicago, Illinois, April 7-10, 2016

Poster presentation at the MPSA annual meeting for the project “Measuring the Strength and Salience of Partisan Identity through Experimental Design.”

## **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Midwest Political Science Association

## **REFERENCES**

Available on request.

*(Last update: 8/27/2016)*