

# BENJAMIN YOEL

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## EDUCATION

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**Michigan State University (East Lansing, MI)** 2021 - Spring 2026 (*expected*)  
Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science  
Subfields: Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methods, International Relations  
Dissertation Title: “Essays on Resistance to Democratic Backsliding”  
Dissertation Committee: Erica Frantz (**Chair**), Ana Bracic, Andy Halterman, Michael Wahman  
M.A., Political Science 2023

**Johns Hopkins University** 2025 - 2026  
Predoctoral Fellow, SNF Agora Institute. Supervisor: Consuelo Amat

**IQMR Summer Program (Syracuse, NY)** 2025  
Qualitative and Mixed Methods Training

**University of Chicago** 2024 - 2025  
Visiting PhD Student, Chicago Center on Democracy, Supervisor: Susan Stokes

**ICPSR Summer Program (Ann Arbor, MI)** 2022  
Time Series Analysis I (EITM Certification)

**Reichman University (Herzliya, Israel)**  
M.A., Government 2021  
Specialization in Diplomacy and Conflict Studies (Summa Cum Laude)  
B.A., Government 2020  
Specializations in Middle Eastern Studies and Counterterrorism (Summa Cum Laude)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**Substantive:** Democratic Backsliding, Authoritarian Politics, International Pressure, Political Violence, Nonviolent Resistance, Middle Eastern Politics, Public Opinion, Ethnic Politics.  
**Methods:** **Quantitative** (Time Series Analysis, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Text Analysis), **Qualitative** (Case Studies, Interviews, Multi-Method Research), and **Survey Experiments**.

## PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

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Grossmann, Matt, Caleb Lucas, and **Benjamin Yoel**. 2025. “Introducing CongressData and Correlates of State Policy.” *Nature: Scientific Data* 1-5.

Cavari, Amnon, Amichai Magen, and **Benjamin Yoel**. 2024. “U.S. Democratic Backsliding and the Decline of Democratic Support Abroad.” *International Journal of Public Opinion Research* 36(2): 1-13.

- Coverage: [Center for Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law, Stanford University](#), and [“Achsania”, Liberty and Responsibility Institute, Reichman University, Israel \(Hebrew\)](#).

Cavari, Amnon, **Benjamin Yoel**, and Hannah Lowenkamp. 2021. “In the Name of the President.” *American Politics Research* 49(6): 666-680.

- Coverage: [LSE US Politics and Policy Blog](#).

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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**Yoel, Benjamin**. 2025. “Review of Post-Soviet Graffiti: Free Speech in Authoritarian States. 2025. By Alexis Lerner. University of Toronto Press.” *International Affairs*, 101(5): 1-2.

**Yoel, Benjamin**. 2024. “Review of Resisting Backsliding: Opposition Strategies against the Erosion of Democracy. 2022. By Laura Gamboa. Cambridge University Press.” *Democratization*.

**Yoel, Benjamin**. 2018. “Oman’s Economic Diversification from Oil and ‘Omanization’ Policies.” *Iqtisadi* 8(11): 1-9.

**Yoel, Benjamin**. 2018. “The Ethiopia-Eritrea Peace Deal: Why Now?” *Ifriqiya* 4(5): 1-6.

## WORKING PAPERS

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Hannah Baron, Jessica Gottlieb, Rob Blair, Laura Paler, Julie Weaver, and **Benjamin Yoel**. “The Democratic Erosion Event Dataset (DEED).” *Revise and Resubmit at Nature: Scientific Data*.

**Yoel, Benjamin**. “We Only Have One Country: Multiethnic Coalitions and Public Support for Resistance to Democratic Backsliding.” [PAP](#). *Under Review at Comparative Political Studies*.

López Villegas, Alejandra, and **Benjamin Yoel**. “Leader Tenure and Women’s Representation in Cabinets in Backsliding Democracies and Dictatorships.” *Under Review at Democratization*.

- Winner of the 2024 Best Graduate Student Paper Award, Political Science Department, MSU.

**Yoel, Benjamin**, Caleb Lucas, and Matt Grossmann. “Drivers of Congressional Behavior.” *Under Review at American Politics Research*.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

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**Yoel, Benjamin**. “International Endorsements and Resistance to Democratic Backsliding.”

**Yoel, Benjamin**. “International Pressure and Support for Opposition to Backsliding.”

**Yoel, Benjamin**. “Introducing the United States Secretary of State Remark Corpus, 1997-2025.”

**Yoel, Benjamin**, and Hannah Ridge. “Democratic Backsliding and Attitudes Toward Ethnic Minorities: Experimental Evidence from Israel.” [PAP](#).

**Yoel, Benjamin**, Iliya Liampert, Caleb Lucas, and Matt Grossmann. “Introducing SenateData.” Morucci, Marco, and **Benjamin Yoel**. “Assessing the Effects of Political Bias in LLMs.”

## DATASETS

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**Yoel, Benjamin**. 2025. U.S. Secretary of State Remarks Dataset (N=17,034), 1997-2025.

Lucas, Caleb, and **Benjamin Yoel**. 2024. CongressData Project. **V.2.0**. IPPSR.

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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### External

Johns Hopkins University, Predoctoral Fellowship Stipend (\$50,000) 2025-2026

Polarization Research Lab, Stanford University, Survey Support (with Hannah Ridge) Fall 2025

Institute for Humane Studies, Survey Support Grant (with Hannah Ridge) (\$5,000)	Fall 2025
American Political Science Association Travel Grant (\$200)	Fall 2025
APSA Political Communication Section Conference Travel Grant (\$600)	Fall 2025
Institute for Humane Studies, Conference Support Grant (\$2,000)	Fall 2025
Institute for Humane Studies, Humane Studies Fellowship (\$2,500)	Summer 2025
Visiting Scholar, Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, GWU ( <i>declined</i> )	2025-2026
Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) Scholarship	Summer 2025
Institute for Humane Studies, Residency Funding (\$6,000)	Spring 2025
German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Predoctoral Fellowship ( <i>declined</i> )	2024-2025
Harrell Rodgers Travel Scholarship for the MPSA Conference (\$500)	2024
Institute for Liberty and Responsibility Research Grant, Israel (\$2,000)	2023-2024

### **Internal**

Michigan State University, Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative (\$1,500)	Summer 2025
Michigan State University, 2024 Best Graduate Student Paper Award (\$250)	2025
Michigan State University, Graduate Office Fellowship (\$500)	August 2024
Michigan State University, College of Social Science Research Award (\$4,500)	Spring 2024
Michigan State University, Summer Funding Award	2022-2025
Michigan State University, Recruitment Fellowship (\$2,000)	2021
Reichman University, M.A. Degree Merit Scholarship	2020-2021
Reichman University, Dean's List	2017-2020

### **INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOPS**

University of Chicago, Workshop on International Politics (WIP)	Spring 2025
University of Notre Dame, Comparative Politics Workshop (CPW)	Spring 2025
University of Montreal, Summer School on Democratic Backsliding and Resilience	August 2024
Michigan State University, Shiny Apps and Interactive Visualizations in R	March 2024
University of Michigan, Interdisciplinary Workshop in Comparative Politics	January 2024

### **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

<b>American Political Science Association Annual Conference</b>	2020, 2025
<b>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference</b>	2023, 2024, 2025
<b>International Studies Association Annual Conference</b>	2025

### **TEACHING AND MENTORING**

#### **Co-Instructor**

*Michigan State University*

Pandemics and Social Science, with Professor Erica Frantz	Summer 2024, 2025
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#### **Teaching Assistant**

*Michigan State University*

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Professor Jeff Conroy-Krutz	Summer 2022, 2023
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## *Reichman University*

Perspectives on Law and Security, Professor Daphné Richemond-Barak Fall 2020

### **Guest Lecturer**

Comparative Judicial Politics (undergraduate seminar), University of Delaware April 2025

Democratic Backsliding (undergraduate seminar), Reichman University December 2024

### **Mentorship**

Graduate Student Mentor, MSU Provost Undergraduate Research Initiative Summer 2025

Graduate Student Mentor, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research 2021-Present

Graduate Student Mentor, Democratic Erosion Consortium (DEC) 2024-2025

Internship Advisor, American Public Opinion toward Israel (APOI) 2020-2021

Managing Tutor, Reichman University English Writing Center 2018-2020

### **SERVICE**

*Discipline:* *Journal of Politics*, Editorial Assistant 2022-2024

*University:* “Reflecting on the Holocaust: a Panel and Discussion” February 2022

### **CONSULTANCY**

**Democratic Erosion Consortium - Data Consultant** January 2024 - January 2025

Development of the Democratic Erosion Event Dataset. Conducted data analysis and visualization and training practitioners from the State Department, Freedom House, the National Democratic Institute, and the International Republican Institute as part of a **U.S. State Department** grant.

### **RESEARCH EXPERIENCE**

Research Fellow, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research. 2021-Present

Research Assistant, Professor Amnon Cavari (RU). 2018-2023

Researcher, Comparative Agendas Project, Reichman University. 2018-2023

Research Assistant, Professor Nazita Lajevardi (MSU). 2022

Research Assistant, Professor Amichai Magen (RU). 2020-2021

Research Intern, Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University. 2018-2020

### **LANGUAGES**

English (native), Hebrew (native), Arabic (basic), Thai (basic)

### **TECHNICAL SKILLS**

L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Microsoft Office, R, Stata, Shiny, GitHub, Python (basic), Qualtrics (basic)

### **REFERENCES**

Amnon Cavari, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Reichman University cavari@runi.ac.il

Erica Frantz, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Michigan State University frantzer@msu.edu

Matt Grossmann, Ph.D., Professor, Michigan State University grossm63@msu.edu

Michael Wahman, Ph.D., Associate Professor, Michigan State University wahmanmi@msu.edu

Last updated: August 15, 2025.