

BENJAMIN YOEL

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EDUCATION

Michigan State University (East Lansing, MI) 2021 - Spring 2026 (*expected*)

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science

Subfields: Comparative Politics (Major), Research Methods (Minor)

Dissertation Title: “Three Essays on Resistance to Democratic Backsliding”

Dissertation Committee: Erica Frantz (**Chair**), Ana Bracic, Andy Halterman, Michael Wahman

M.A., Political Science 2023

University of Chicago 2024 - 2025

Visiting PhD Student, Chicago Center on Democracy

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

Comparative Politics: Democratic Backsliding, Authoritarian Politics, Political Violence, Violent and Nonviolent Resistance, Middle Eastern Politics, Public Opinion, and Ethnic Politics.

Research Methods: Quantitative (Time Series Analysis, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Text Analysis), **Qualitative** (Comparative Historical Analysis, Case Studies), **Survey Experiments.**

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

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

Yoel, Benjamin. 2024. “Review of Resisting Backsliding: Opposition Strategies against the Erosion of Democracy. 2022. By Laura Gamboa. Cambridge University Press.” *Democratization* 31(3): 681-682.

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

Yoel, Benjamin, Ashtaan Rapanos, Angelina Benli, Caleb Lucas, and Matt Grossmann. “The Core Drivers of Congress: Analyzing Members, Constituents, and Committees with CongressData.” *Revise and Resubmit at Legislative Studies Quarterly.*

Grossmann, Matt, Caleb Lucas, and **Benjamin Yoel.** “Introducing CongressData and Correlates of State Policy.” *Under Review at Nature Scientific Data.*

Lopez Villegas, Alejandra, and **Benjamin Yoel.** “Leader Tenure and Women’s Representation in Cabinets in Backsliding Democracies and Dictatorships.” *In Preparation.*

Yoel, Benjamin, Hannah Baron, Jessica Gottlieb, Rob Blair, Laura Paler, Julie Weaver, and Rodrigo Balvanera. “Introducing the Democratic Erosion Event Dataset (DEED).” *In Preparation.*

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Halevy, Lotem, and **Benjamin Yoel.** “Playing by the rules or changing the rules? A comparison of democratic erosion in Hungary and Israel.”

Yoel, Benjamin. “We Only Have One Country: Multiethnic Coalitions and Public Support for Resistance to Democratic Backsliding.”

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

Yoel, Benjamin. “International Pressure and Support for Resistance to Democratic Backsliding.”

Yoel, Benjamin. “Ruling Party Strength, Political Institutions, and Election Violence.”

DATASETS

Lucas, Caleb, and **Benjamin Yoel.** 2024. CongressData Project. **v.1.5.** IPPSR.

Yoel, Benjamin. 2024. Culture War, Economic, and other Issue Area Bill Introduction. IPPSR.

Yoel, Benjamin, and Ashtaan Rapanos. 2023. Correlates of State Policy Project. **v.2.7.** IPPSR.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

External

Institute for Humane Studies, Residency Funding (\$6,000) 2025

German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD) Predoctoral Fellowship (declined) 2024

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, 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 2022-2024

Michigan State University, ICPSR Scholarship (\$3,000) Summer 2022

Michigan State University, IPPSR Graduate Fellowship 2021-Present

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 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

“Leader Tenure and Women’s Representation in Cabinets,” with Alejandra Lopez-Villegas. Presented at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 2024.

“The Core Drivers of Congress: Analyzing Members, Constituents, and Committees with Congress-Data,” with Matt Grossmann, Angelina Benli, and Ashtaan Rapanos. Presented at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 2024.

“We Only Have One Country: Diverse Coalitions and Public Support for Resistance to Democratic Backsliding.” Presented at the Midwest Political Science Conference, April 2024.

“Leader Tenure and Women’s Representation in Cabinets,” with Alejandra Lopez-Villegas. Presented at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 2023.

“U.S. Democratic Backsliding and the Decline of Democratic Support Abroad,” with Amnon Cavari and Amichai Magen. Presented at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, April 2023.

“In the Name of the President,” with Amnon Cavari and Hannah Lowenkamp. Presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, September 2020.

TEACHING AND MENTORING

Co-Instructor

Michigan State University

Pandemics and Social Science, with Professor Erica Frantz Summer 2024

Teaching Assistant

Michigan State University

Introduction to Comparative Politics, Professor Jeff Conroy-Krutz Summer 2022, 2023

Reichman University

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

Guest Lecturer

Democratic Backsliding (undergraduate seminar), Reichman University December 2024

Mentorship

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

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

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-Present

Development of the Democratic Erosion Event Dataset (DEED) on behalf of the Democratic Erosion Consortium. I am responsible for conducting data analysis and visualization as well as training experts from the National Democratic Institute and the State Department's Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor on democratic erosion as part of a **U.S. Department of State** grant.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow, Institute for Public Policy and Social Research.	2021-Present
Research Assistant, Professor Amnon Cavari.	2018-2023
Researcher, Comparative Agendas Project, Reichman University.	2018-2023
Research Assistant, Professor Nazita Lajevardi.	2022
Research Assistant, Professor Amichai Magen.	2020-2021
Researcher and Internship Advisor, American Public Opinion Toward Israel Project.	2020-2021
Research Assistant, Professors Lesley Terris and Carmela Lutmar.	2021
Research Intern, Moshe Dayan Center, Tel Aviv University.	2018-2020

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

ICPSR Summer Program

Time Series Analysis I (EITM Certification)	Summer 2022
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LANGUAGES

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

TECHNICAL SKILLS

L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office, **R**, Stata, Shiny, GitHub, Python (basic), Qualtrics (basic)

Methods Training: Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Survey Experiments, Multilevel Modeling, Structural Equation Modeling, Machine Learning and Text Analysis, Time Series Analysis.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association (APSA)

International Studies Association (ISA)

PERSONAL

Countries resided in: Thailand (1998-2011), Israel (2011-2021), United States (2021-present)

American and Israeli citizenship

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

Jessica Gottlieb, Ph.D., Associate Professor, University of Houston jagottli@uh.edu

Last updated: January 15, 2025.