

# Eric R. Schmidt, Ph.D

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CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Government and Politics Millsaps College 1701 N. State St. Jackson, MS 39210	<i>E-mail:</i> <a href="mailto:schmier@millsaps.edu">schmier@millsaps.edu</a> <i>Web:</i> <a href="https://ericrschmidt.com">https://ericrschmidt.com</a>
RESEARCH INTERESTS	American Politics; Party Systems and Long-Term Partisan Change; Mass Partisanship and Ideology; Public Opinion; Political Psychology; Political Sophistication	
ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS	<b>Millsaps College</b> , Jackson, MS – Assistant Professor, Department of Government and Politics (August 2023 - )  <b>Concordia College</b> , Moorhead, MN – Teaching Fellow, Department of Political Science (August 2021 - June 2023) – Pre-Law Advisor, College of Arts & Sciences (August 2022 - June 2023)	
EDUCATION	<b>Indiana University</b> , Bloomington, IN  Ph.D., Political Science, 2021 – Fields: American Politics, Theory & Methods – Outside Minor: Psychology  <b>Duke University</b> , Durham, NC  A.M., Political Science, 2012  <b>University of Wisconsin</b> , Madison, WI  B.A., Political Science; Certificate (minor), Integrated Liberal Studies, 2010 – Senior Honors Thesis: <i>The Institutionalization of Pre-Nomination Presidential Primary Debates in the United States, 1948-1984</i> (thesis directed by Professor Byron E. Shafer) – Member, Pi Sigma Alpha (political science honors society)	
DISSERTATION	<i>Voting in Groups, Thinking Like Ideologues: The Paradox of Partisan Conflict in the United States</i> – Chair: Edward G. Carmines – Committee Members: William T. Bianco, Marjorie R. Hershey, Christopher D. DeSante, Bernard L. Fraga – Recipient, Best Dissertation Award (Indiana University Department of Political Science), AY 2020-2021	
BOOK	<b>Schmidt, Eric R.</b> , Edward G. Carmines, and Paul M. Sniderman. 2025. <i>The Political Dynamics of Partisan Polarization</i> . New York: Cambridge University Press.	

PEER-REVIEWED  
PUBLICATIONS

Badas, Alex and **Eric R. Schmidt**. 2025. "Social Imagery and Subjective Ideological Proximity to the Supreme Court: Evidence from Evangelical Christians." *Political Research Quarterly* 78(2): 768-782. <https://doi.org/10.1177/10659129251321434>

Badas, Alex and **Eric R. Schmidt**. 2024. "Social Imagery and Judicial Legitimacy: Evidence from Evangelical Christians." *Political Research Quarterly* 77(1): 137-151. <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/10.1177/10659129231197207>.

Bianco, William T. and **Eric R. Schmidt**. 2020. "Congressional Credit-Claiming for COVID-19 Assistance: How Home Styles Adapt to Local Context." *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy* 1(4): 631-644. <https://dx.doi.org/10.1561/113.00000025>

Carmines, Edward G. and **Eric R. Schmidt**. 2020. "Prejudice and Tolerance in U.S. Presidential Politics: Evidence from Eight List Experiments in 2008 and 2012." *P.S.: Political Science & Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096520000876>

**Schmidt, Eric R.** 2018. "The Influence of Religious Political Sophistication on U.S. Public Opinion." *Political Behavior* 40(1): 21-53. <https://doi.org/10.1007/s11109-017-9390-z>

Bianco, William T. and **Eric R. Schmidt**. 2017. "Knowing What We Are Getting: Evaluating Scientific Output on the International Space Station." *Social Science Quarterly* 98(4): 1151-1159. <https://doi.org/10.1111/ssqu.12468>

OTHER  
PUBLICATIONS

Badas, Alex and **Eric R. Schmidt**. 2023. "None of the Supreme Court Justices are Evangelicals – But Most Evangelical Christians Don't Realize This." Blog post at *Religion in Public*, 11 Sep. Available <https://religioninpublic.blog/2023/09/11/none-of-the-supreme-court-justices-are-evangelicals-but-most-evangelicals-dont-realize-this/>

Carmines, Edward G., **Eric R. Schmidt**, and Matthew R. Fowler. 2022. "Clarifying our Populist Moment(s): Left-Wing and Right-Wing Populism in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election." In *The Palgrave Handbook of Populism*, ed. Michael Oswald. London: Palgrave MacMillan.

Carmines, Edward G. and **Eric R. Schmidt**. 2018. "Critical Elections, Partisan Realignment, and Long-Term Electoral Change in American Politics." Published at *Oxford Bibliographies Online*. Available <http://www.oxfordbibliographies.com/view/document/obo-9780199756223/obo-9780199756223-0246.xml>

Carmines, Edward G., Michael W. Wagner, and **Eric R. Schmidt**. 2018. "Issue Evolution." In *Polling America: An Encyclopedia of Public Opinion*, ed. Samuel J. Best and Richard L. Clark. Westport, CT: Greenwood Publishing Group.

Carmines, Edward G. and **Eric R. Schmidt**. 2020. "Analyzing the Evidence: Is the Public as Polarized as Congress?" Chapter insert for *American Government: Power and Purpose*, 16th edition, ed. Theodore J. Lowi, Benjamin Ginsberg, Kenneth Shepsle, and Stephen Ansolabehere. New York: W.W. Norton and Company.

Carmines, Edward G. and **Eric R. Schmidt**. 2017. "A Discussion of Katherine J. Cramer's *The Politics of Resentment: Rural Consciousness in Wisconsin and the Rise of Scott Walker*." Contribution to book review symposium. *Perspectives on Politics* 15(2): 527-528. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1537592717000299>

CURRENT PROJECTS	<p>“Social Imagery and Perceived Judiciousness of the U.S. Supreme Court” (<i>with Alex Badas</i>) (under review at <i>American Politics Research</i>)</p> <p>“Informed Ideologues and Long-Term Partisan Change, 1972-2024” (working paper)</p>
SELECTED PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS	<p>League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area. November 2024. “Election autopsy” panel to discuss the results of the November 2024 U.S. presidential election.</p> <p>Saint Andrew’s Episcopal Cathedral (Jackson, MS). October 2024. “Getting By For Now: Pre-Election Notes from a Political Scientist.”</p> <p>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2024. “Informed Ideologues and Long-Term Partisan Change, 1972-2020.”</p> <p>University of Houston American Politics Workshop. April 2023. “Social Imagery and Judicial Legitimacy: Evidence from Evangelical Christians” (<i>with Alex Badas</i>)</p> <p>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2023. “A Silver Lining for American Democracy? Political Engagement Promotes Support for Institutions of Representative Government.”</p> <p>Concordia College Centennial Scholars Lecture, March 2023. “A Silver Lining for American Democracy? Political Engagement Promotes Support for Institutions of Representative Government.”</p> <p>Concordia College Politics Café, November 2022. “Understanding the 2022 Midterm Elections: What Happened and Why?”</p> <p>Concordia College Politics Café, October 2022. “The Roberts Court No Longer? Assessing the U.S. Supreme Court’s Conservative Turn.”</p> <p>Concurrent Session, Concordia College’s Faith, Reason, and World Affairs Symposium Day, September 2022. “Learning to Disagree: Point-of-View Diversity at Concordia.”</p> <p>Concordia College Politics Café, March 2022. “American Democracy in Crisis: Understanding the January 6 Insurrection.”</p> <p>American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2021. “Voting in Groups, Thinking Like Ideologues: The Paradox of Partisan Conflict in the United States.”</p> <p>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2021. “Ideology is Easier These Days: Party Policy, Not Group Composition, is Easier for Americans to Understand.”</p> <p>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2019. “Are a Group-Centric and an Ideological Public One and the Same? Evidence from Observational and Experimental Data.”</p> <p>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2019. “Clarifying our Populist Moment(s): Operational and Symbolic Populism in the 2016 U.S. Presidential Election” (<i>with Edward G. Carmines and Matthew R. Fowler</i>).</p> <p>Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2018. “The Two Faces of Populism” (<i>with Edward G. Carmines and Matthew R. Fowler</i>).</p>

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2017. “Presidential Litmus Tests: Voter Discomfort with African American, Gay, Mormon, and Muslim Presidential Candidates” (*with Edward G. Carmines*).

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2016. “(Religious) Knowledge Matters: Survey Evidence for Clergy Influence on Parishioners’ Political Attitudes.”

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2016. “(Religious) Knowledge Matters: Survey Evidence for Clergy Influence on Parishioners’ Political Attitudes.”

**Note:** for a complete list of on-campus presentations during my graduate studies at Indiana University and Duke University, please email me at [schmier@millsaps.edu](mailto:schmier@millsaps.edu).

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### **Instructor-of-Record, Millsaps College**

- *FYCS-1110: First-Year Connections: Psychological Profiles of Political Leaders* (Fall 2025)
- *PATH 1051: Introduction to Pathways* (Fall 2024, Fall 2025)
- *GOVT 2520: The U.S. Presidency* (Spring 2025)
- *GOVT 3000: Campaigns & Elections* (Fall 2024)
- *GOVT 2850: Neighborhood Development Service, Internship Credit* (Fall 2025)
- *GOVT 2850: Legislative Fellowship Program, Internship Credit* (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)
- *GOVT 3770: Free Speech: Wisdom or Weapon?* (Spring 2024)
- *GOVT 2650: Introduction to Political Theory* (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)
- *GOVT 1000: Introduction to American Government* (Fall 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Spring 2025, Fall 2025)
- *GOVT 2770: Political Parties & Interest Groups* (Fall 2023)
- *GOVT 4000: Applied Research in Politics* (Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)

### **Instructor-of-Record, Concordia College**

- *PSC 380a: Renewing American Democracy: Challenges and Opportunities* (Spring 2022; Summer 2022)
- *PSC 487: Directed Research* (Spring 2022, with Brayden Hafner)
- *PSC 211: The U.S. Political System* (Fall 2021; Spring 2022; Fall 2022; Spring 2023)
- *PSC 381: Political Parties and Interest Groups* (Fall 2021; Fall 2022)
- *PSC 380b: The First Amendment* (Spring 2023)

### **Instructor-of-Record, Indiana University**

- *POLS Y353: The Politics of Gender and Sexuality* (Fall 2020; *online course*)
- *POLS Y103: Introduction to American Politics* (Summer 2019)

### **Associate Instructor, Indiana University**

- *POLS Y490: Parties, Polarization, & Gridlock* (Spring 2021, *online course*; Instructor, Dr. Edward Carmines)
- *POLS Y315: Political Psychology and Socialization* (Fall 2020, *online course*; Instructor, Dr. Edward Carmines)

- *POLS Y315: Political Psychology and Socialization* (Fall 2018; Instructor, Dr. Edward Carmines)
- *POLS Y103: Introduction to American Politics* (Summer 2018, *online course*; Instructor, Dr. William Bianco)
- *POLS Y315: Political Psychology and Socialization* (Fall 2017; Instructor, Dr. Edward Carmines)
- *POLS Y103: Introduction to American Politics* (Summer 2017, *online course*; Instructor, Dr. William Bianco)
- *POLS Y576: Political Data Analysis II (Graduate Level)* (Spring 2017; Instructor, Dr. William Bianco)
- *POLS Y103: Introduction to American Politics* (Fall 2016; Instructor, Matthew Kuchem)
- *POLS Y103: Introduction to American Politics* (Summer 2016, *online course*; Instructor, Dr. William Bianco)
- *POLS Y221: Introduction to Law* (Spring 2016; Instructor, Dr. Jacek Dalecki)
- *POLS Y100: Introduction to American Political Controversies* (Fall 2015; Instructor, Dr. Jacek Dalecki)
- *POLS Y103: Introduction to American Politics* (Summer 2015, *online course*; Instructor, Dr. William Bianco)

#### SERVICE

#### **Millsaps College (Jackson, MS)**

- Co-coordinator and faculty supervisor, internship program in coordination with the Neighborhood Development Service (May 2025 - present)
- Member, Writing Council (May 2025 - present)
- Member, Human Subjects Review Committee (May 2025 - present)
- Chair, Pre-Law Steering Committee (April 2025 - present)
- Co-coordinator and co-moderator, Mayoral Candidates Forum (held at Millsaps College; co-sponsored by the League of Women Voters of the Jackson Area and Greater Belhaven Foundation) (March 2025)
- Sciences Division Representative, Major Declaration Day (March 2025)
- Pre-Law Advisor (January 2025 - present)
- Co-Coordinator, Millsaps Civil Discourse Project (December 2024-present)
- Featured faculty member, pre-election Q&A session with the Millsaps Government and Politics Club (November 2024)
- Moderator, Jackson Braver Angels Forum on “Fears and Hopes for America’s Future: A Red-Blue Conversation” (October 2024)
- Co-Coordinator, panel on “Choosing Our Future: A Community Conversation on Voting Rights” (co-sponsored by the Millsaps Truth, Racial Healing, and Transformation Campus Center, the Millsaps Department of Government & Politics, the Medgar and Myrlie Evers Institute; and *Mississippi Today*)
- Moderator, Pre-Law Society panel featuring Jane Walton Carroll of Disability Rights Mississippi (October 2024)
- Faculty representative to the Board of Trustees Academic Affairs Committee (August 2024 - present)
- Coordinator, Law, Politics and Social Leadership Pathway (August 2024-present)
- Member, Faculty Council (May 2024 - present)

- Faculty Supervisor, Millsaps Pre-Law Society (May 2024-present)
- Judge, Student Research Showcase (Sciences Division) (April 2024)
- Coordinator and moderator, campus visit by Mississippi Secretary of State Michael Watson (March 2024)
- Judge, Mock Congress Regional Competition (hosted by Millsaps; sponsored by the Mississippi High School Activities Association)
- Moderator, panel featuring U.S. Rep. Bennie Thompson (D-MS), U.S. House Minority Whip James Clyburn (D-SC), and Mississippi State Rep. Robert Johnson III (D-Adams, Franklin, Jefferson) (October 2023)
- Faculty Supervisor, Common Cause Democracy Fellows program (AY 2023-2024)
- Coordinator and Faculty Supervisor, Millsaps Legislative Fellows program (October 2023-present)
- Faculty Supervisor, Young Democrats (August 2023-present)
- Faculty Supervisor, College Republicans (August 2023-present)

#### **Concordia College (Moorhead, MN)**

- Presenter, concurrent session on “Learning to Disagree: Point-of-View Diversity at Concordia.” (Fall Symposium, September 2022)
- Faculty Respondent, panel discussion on “Engaged Citizenship Through Political Participation” (Fall Symposium, September 2022)
- Faculty Respondent, Lecture by Dr. Yuval Levin (Lorentzen Center for Faith and Work, September 2022)
- Pre-Law Advisor (AY 2022-2023)
- Faculty Supervisor, Pre-Law Society (AY 2022-2023)
- Chair, Pre-Law Steering Committee (AY 2022-2023)
- Selection Committee, Phillips Scholars Program (to select internal candidates to forward to statewide competition) (AYs 2021-2022 and 2022-2023)
- Coordinator, Constitution Day activities (fall 2021)
- Coordinator, Politics Cafés (Department of Political Science, AYs 2021-2022 and 2022-2023)

#### **Indiana University (Bloomington, IN)**

- Moderator, online panel (November 2020) on “Mathematics and Politics: Conundrums of Representative Democracies”; panel organized by the Indiana University College of Arts and Sciences to promote public outreach to IU alumni during the 2020 presidential election
- Project Manager, Cooperative Congressional Election Study (IU Center on American Politics’ team module), 2017-2020
- Coordinator, Indiana University American Politics Workshop, 2017-2018; 2020

## General Service to Discipline

- Reviewer: *Political Behavior*, *Journal of Politics*, *Politics and Religion*
- Panel Chair or Discussant, Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2018, 2021, 2024).
- Panelist, Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, 2016. Panel commemorating the fifteenth anniversary of *Christian Clergy in American Politics*, ed. Sue S.M. Crawford and Laura R. Olson
- Panel Chair, Southern Association for Public Opinion Research (2011)

## HONORS, GRANTS & AWARDS

Recommended for commendations in teaching and research, **Millsaps College**, AY 2023-2024

*Faculty Travel Grant*, **Millsaps College**, AY 2023-2024

*Student Government Association Distinguished Service Award (Faculty)*, AY 2022-2023; **Concordia College**

Selected for the *Dovre Mentoring Program*, **Concordia College**; AY 2022-2023

*Centennial Scholars Research Grant*, **Concordia College** (summer 2022); for “Democratic Backsliding in the United States: Assessing Americans’ Support for the Institutions of Representative Government” (*with Lucas Eyster*)

*Best Dissertation Award* (2021-2022 Ph.D cohort), **Indiana University** Department of Political Science

Nominated for the *Ole and Lucy Flaatt Distinguished Teaching Award*, **Concordia College**; AY 2021-2022

Selected for the *Inclusive Classroom and Diversity Leadership Certificate Program*, **Concordia College**; AY 2021-2022

*Outstanding Associate Instructor*, *Indiana University Department of Political Science* (\$500); AY 2019

*Indiana University College of Arts of Sciences Dissertation Research Fellowship* (\$20,000); AY 2019-2020

*John V. Gillespie Memorial Scholarship*, *Indiana University* (\$2000); May 2018

- Presented annually to “outstanding graduate students who have demonstrated superior analytical abilities and research skills in positive political theory, mathematical modeling, or the use of quantitative methods to the study of political phenomena.”

*IU Center on American Politics Research Grant* (\$500); May 2018

*IU Katherine C. Greenough Fellowship* (\$500); August 2017

*Department of Political Science (IU) Best Graduate Student Paper* (\$500); May 2017

- For “The Influence of Religious-Political Sophistication on U.S. Public Opinion.”

*IU Center on American Politics Research Grant* (\$500); May 2017 (shared with Matthew

R. Fowler)

- For “Assessing the Reliability and Validity of a New Index of Populist Attitudes in the United States”

*Warner O. Chapman Summer Fellowship, IU Department of Political Science* (\$4,000); May 2015, May 2016, May 2017

*Graduate and Professional Student Government Conference Travel Grant, Indiana University* (\$500); January 2016

*Indiana University Graduate Fellowship* (\$18,000); September 2014 - May 2015

*Summer Fellowship, Political Institutions and Public Choice (PIPC) Program* (Duke University, \$2,000); June 2011, June 2012

MEDIA  
APPEARANCES

WJTV News (November 2023, June 2024); JSU-TV’s live-streamed Election Night coverage (November 2023)

MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association

SOFTWARE

**R**, Stata, Kaltura, Canvas, Moodle/Course Connect

REFERENCES

**Dr. Paul Sniderman**

Fairleigh S. Dickinson, Jr. Professor of  
Public Policy  
Stanford University  
[paulms@stanford.edu](mailto:paulms@stanford.edu)

**Dr. Victoria Gorham**

Chair and Assistant Professor  
Department of Government and Politics  
Millsaps College  
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**Dr. Alex Badas**

Associate Professor of Political Science  
University of Houston  
[abadas@central.uh.edu](mailto:abadas@central.uh.edu)

**Dr. Ken Foster**

Director of Sustainability  
Vassar College  
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**Dr. William Bianco**

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