Kyle Lee McWagner

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Academic Appointments

Assistant professor
Sam Houston State University — August 2025 - Present
Department of Political Science

Visiting Assistant Professor
University of Wisconsin — Milwaukee — August 2023 - June 2025
Department of Political Science

Adjunct Professor
Loyola Marymount University — January 2020 – June 2020
Department of Political Science

Teaching Assistant
University of California — Irvine
Department of Political Science — August 2017 – June 2023

Education

PhD *Political Science* — June 2023
University of California — Irvine
Fields: American Politics, Methods
Dissertation: The Existence and Impact of Partisan Political Intolerance

MA *Political Science*, — Jan 2023
University of California — Irvine

MA *Social Science*, — June 2021
University of California — Irvine
Field: Behavioral Mathematics

BA *Political Science*, July 2016
Brigham Young University — Idaho

Research Interests

American Politics, Methods, Public Opinion, Affective Polarization, Partisanship, Political Tolerance, Religion and Politics

Peer-Reviewed Publications

McWagner, Kyle. 2026 "Threading the Needle:A two-mechanism framework for how individuals manage conflicts between their religious dictates and political beliefs" *The Interdisciplinary Journal of Religion and Research* (Forthcoming)

McWagner, Kyle, and William Kidd. 2025. "Affective Polarization and Anti-Democratic Attitudes: A Complex Relationship." *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*, October, 1–21. doi:10.1080/17457289.2025.2558780.

Breznau, Nate et al. 2022. "Observing Many Researchers Using the Same Data and Hypothesis Reveals a Hidden Universe of Uncertainty." *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences* 119(44): e2203150119.

Works In Progress

Under Review

"Affective Leaning Independents-Capturing the partisan feelings of two-click independents" with Melina Much

"European Muslims' Acceptance of Gays and Lesbians: The effect of political context on religious views" with Nasrin Chaleshtari and Tamika Wiesner

In Preparation

"Anti-Democratic Attitudes at very low levels of Affective Polarization: Signal or Noise" With William Kidd

"Done with Conservative Christianity? Exploring Politically Disaffected Christians' Religious Identity Decisions" With Alex Sieber, Noah Sisson, Ahmet Ergunum

"Understanding the Political Incongruence Between The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and its Members"

"Partisan Political Intolerance: Political Intolerance of Mainline political parties in the US"

"The Very Real Impact of Support for Hypothetical violence" with William Kidd

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record

Advanced Political Science Methodology: Machine Learning/Survey Methods
PolSci 935 (Graduate) UWM

Advanced Techniques of Political Science Research
PolSci 702 (Graduate) UWM

American Political Behavior
PolSci 750 (Graduate) UWM

American Politics
POLS 2305 (Undergraduate) SHSU

Current Topics in Political Science: Religion in American Politics
PolSci 711 (Graduate) UWM

Empirical Approaches
Pols 2100 (Undergraduate) LMU

Introduction to Political Science Research
PolSci 203 (Undergraduate) UWM

Scopes and Methods
POLS 5301 (Graduate) SHSU

Techniques of Political Science Research
PolSci 701 (Graduate) UWM

TA Positions

Intro to American Govt

Pol Sci 21A (Undergraduate) UCI

Probability and Statistics
SOC SCI 10A, SOC SCI 10B, & SOC SCI 10C (Undergraduate) UCI

Research Methods
SOCIOL 110 (Undergraduate) UCI

Probability and Statistics
SOCIOL 10A, SOCIOL 10B (Undergraduate) UCI

International Urban Politics
POL SCI 157B (Undergraduate) UCI

Personality theory in Psychology
PSYCH 120P (Undergraduate) UCI

Intro to Psychology in Psychology
PSYCH 9A (Undergraduate) UCI

Contemporary Political Theory
POLSC 365 (Undergraduate) BYUI

Conference Presentations & Service

"The Olympics and Presidential Approval in the United States" with Robert D. Alvarez and Stewart Ulrich Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 23 -26, 2026

"The Very Real Impact of Support for Hypothetical violence" with William Kidd Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 3 - 6, 2025.

"Affective-leaning Independents: Capturing the partisan feelings of two-click independents" BYU Young Scholars Workshop Provo, UT May 17 2024

"Affective-leaning Independents: Capturing the partisan feelings of two-click independents" , Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 4-7, 2024.

"Partisan Political Intolerance", Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 13 -16, 2023.

"Differential Effects of Affective Polarization Across Parties" Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 13 -16, 2023.

"The existence and impact of political intolerance towards the opposing party", Biennial LDS Scholars Workshop, Provo, UT. May 19 -20, 2022

"The existence and impact of political intolerance towards the opposing party", Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 7 – 10, 2022.

Discussant, Virtual Created Panel: Religious Identities Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA. September 28 – October 3, 2021.

"Threading the Needle: How and when members of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints deal with conflict between their religious and political identities" Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Virtual. April 7, 2021.

"Religiously Affiliated Higher Education and the Religious Identity of Students: An interactive model for political participation", Southern California Political Behavior Conference, LA, CA. January 2020

"Racial Attitudes & Education: Evidence for Education as Enlightenment", Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, Irvine, CA. Oct 8, 2019

"Patriotism - Its Dual Nature in Relationship to Societal Security", Biennial 2019 LDS Scholars Workshop, Provo, UT. May 23 -24.

"Patriotism - Its Dual Nature in Relationship to Societal Security", Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 4 -7, 2019.

Discussant, Poster Session: Legislative Politics, Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL. April 4 -7, 2019.

University Service

Research Performance Policy Review	Aug 2026 - Present
Department Newsletter Committee Member	June 2026 - Present
MA, CERT, HIPS Facult	Jan 2026 - Present
Scholarship committee member	Aug 2025 - Present
Master's Committee Member	Nov 2023 - July 2023
Director of the Political Attitudes Lab	Jan 2024 - July 2025
Leader of the Center for the study of Democracies' Graduate student writing group	2020-2023
Co-founder and Co-instructor for the political science department's incoming graduates' statistics and R bootcamp	2021-2022

Grants/Fellowships

Center for the Study of Democracy Seed Grant, June 2020

Associate Dean's Fellowship, October 2019

References

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