

Joseph Wright

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Current appointments

Professor, Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University
Co-Director, Global & International Studies Program, Pennsylvania State University

Past appointments

2016 Visiting Researcher, Economic Research Southern Africa (ERSA)
2014-2019 Associate Professor, Pennsylvania State University
2012-2014 Early Career Professor, Department of Political Science, Pennsylvania State University
2008-2014 Assistant Professor, Pennsylvania State University
2008-2009 Visiting Faculty Fellow, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame
2007-2008 Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Princeton University

Education

2007 PhD in Political Science, UCLA
1999 MA in Political Economy, Washington University
1998 BA in Political Economy & Spanish Literature, Washington University

Grants & awards

2017 Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research
2015 Lijphart/Przeworski/Verba Comparative Politics Dataset Award
2014-2015 AidData Research Consortium
2012-2015 Minerva Research Initiative (ONR-N000141211004)
2009-2012 National Science Foundation (BCS-0904463)
2006-2007 Chancellor's Dissertation Year Fellowship, UCLA
2006-2007 Dissertation Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies
2005-2006 Dissertation Fellowship, Institute for Global Conflict and Cooperation, Univ. of California

Books

Under contract Abel Escribà-Folch, Covadonga Meseguer, and **Joseph Wright**. *Migration and Democracy: How Remittances Undermine Dictatorships*. Princeton: Princeton University Press.
Under contract John Chin, **Joseph Wright**, and David Carter. *Historical Dictionary of Modern Coups D'état*. Lanham MD: Rowman & Littlefield.
2018 Barbara Geddes, **Joseph Wright**, and Erica Frantz. *How Dictatorships Work: Power, Personalization, and Collapse*. New York: Cambridge University Press.
Reviews: *Democratization*; *Perspectives on Politics*
2015 Abel Escribà-Folch and **Joseph Wright**. 2015. *Foreign Pressure and the Politics of Autocratic Survival*. New York: Oxford University Press.
Winner of the 2017 Stein Rokkan Prize for Comparative Social Science Research
Reviews: *Commonwealth & Comparative Politics*; *Democratization*; *LSE Rev. of Books*

Journal articles

- Forth-coming Erica Frantz, Andrea Kendall-Taylor, **Joseph Wright**, and Xu Xu. “Personalization of Power and Repression in Dictatorships.” *Journal of Politics*
- Forth-coming **Joseph Wright**. “The Latent Characteristics that Structure Autocratic Rule.” *Political Science Research and Methods*
- 2018 Abel Escribà-Folch, Covadonga Meseguer, and **Joseph Wright**. “Remittances and Political Protest.” *American Journal of Political Science* 62(4):889-904.
- 2018 **Joseph Wright** and Boliang Zhu. 2018. “Monopoly Rents and Foreign Direct Investment in Fixed Assets.” *International Studies Quarterly* 62(2): 341–356.
- 2018 Wonjun Song and **Joseph Wright**. “The North Korean Autocracy in Comparative Perspective.” *Journal of East Asian Studies* 18(2):157–180.
- 2017 Matthew Wilson and **Joseph Wright**. “Autocratic Institutions and Expropriation.” *British Journal of Political Science* 47(1):1–17.
- 2017 George Derpanopoulos, Barbara Geddes, Erica Frantz, and **Joseph Wright**. “Are Coups Good For Democracy? A Response to Miller (2016).” *Research & Politics* 4(2): 1-4
- 2017 **Joseph Wright** and Erica Frantz. “How oil income and missing hydrocarbon rents data influence autocratic survival: A response to Lucas and Richter (2016).” *Research & Politics* 4(3): 1-6
- 2016 George Derpanopoulos, Barbara Geddes, Erica Frantz, and **Joseph Wright**. 2016. “Are Coups Good for Democracy?” *Research & Politics* 3(1):1-7
- 2016 **Joseph Wright** and Daehee Bak. “Measuring Autocratic Regime Instability.” *Research & Politics* 3(1): 1-7
- 2015 Abel Escribà-Folch, Covadonga Meseguer, and **Joseph Wright**. “Remittances and Democratization.” *International Studies Quarterly* 59(3): 571–586.
- 2015 Deniz Aksoy, David Carter, and **Joseph Wright**. “Terrorism and the Fate of Dictators.” *World Politics* 67(3): 423–468.
- 2015 Abel Escribà-Folch and **Joseph Wright**. “Human Rights Prosecutions and Autocratic Survival.” *International Organization* 69(2): 343–373.
- 2015 **Joseph Wright**, Erica Frantz, and Barbara Geddes. “Oil and Autocratic Regime Survival.” *British Journal of Political Science* 45(2): 287–306.
- 2015 Simone Dietrich and **Joseph Wright**. “Foreign Aid Allocation Tactics and Democratic Change in Africa.” *Journal of Politics* 77(1): 216–234.
- 2014 Barbara Geddes, **Joseph Wright**, and Erica Frantz. “Autocratic Breakdown and Regime Transitions: A New Data Set.” *Perspectives on Politics* 12(2): 313–331.
- 2014 Barbara Geddes, Erica Frantz, and **Joseph Wright**. “Military Rule.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 17: 147–162.
- 2012 Deniz Aksoy, David Carter, and **Joseph Wright**. “Terrorism in Dictatorships.” *Journal of Politics* 74(3): 810–826.
- 2012 **Joseph Wright** and Abel Escribà-Folch. “Authoritarian Institutions and Regime Survival: Transitions to Democracy and Subsequent Authoritarian Regimes.” *British Journal of Political Science* 42(2): 283–309.
- 2010 Abel Escribà-Folch and **Joseph Wright**. “Dealing with Tyranny: International Sanctions and the Survival of Authoritarian Rulers.” *International Studies Quarterly* 54(2): 335–359.
- 2010 **Joseph Wright**. “Aid Effectiveness and the Politics of Personalism.” *Comparative Political Studies* 43(6): 735–762.
- 2010 **Joseph Wright** and Matthew Winters. 2010. “The Politics of Effective Foreign Aid.” *Annual Review of Political Science* 13: 61–80.
Reprinted in Helen Milner and Dustin Tingley, eds. 2013. *The Geopolitics of Foreign Aid*. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing.
- 2009 **Joseph Wright**. “How Foreign Aid Can Foster Democratization in Authoritarian Regimes.” *American Journal of Political Science* 53(3): 552–571.

- 2008 **Joseph Wright**. “Insurance or Investment? How Authoritarian Time Horizons Impact Foreign Aid Effectiveness.” *Comparative Political Studies* 41(7): 971–1000.
- 2008 **Joseph Wright**. “Do Authoritarian Political Institutions Constrain? How Legislatures Affect Economic Growth and Investment.” *American Journal of Political Science* 52(2): 322–343.
- 2008 **Joseph Wright**. “Political Competition and Democratic Stability in New Democracies.” *British Journal of Political Science* 38(2): 221–245.

Other publications – peer reviewed

- 2013 Simone Dietrich and **Joseph Wright**. “Foreign Aid and Democratic Consolidation in Africa.” in Nicolas van de Walle and Danielle Resnik, eds. *Democratic Trajectories in Africa: Unraveling the Impact of Foreign Aid*. Oxford University Press
- 2010 **Joseph Wright**. “Exit During Crisis.” *Kellogg Institute for International Studies Working Paper #367*

Other publications – not peer reviewed

- 2019 **Joseph Wright**. Review of *Dictators and their Secret Police: Coercive Institutions and State Violence*. Sheena Greitens. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2016. *H-Diplo International Security Studies Forum Roundtable*, Volume X, No. 26.
- 2019 Erica Frantz and **Joseph Wright**. “How Democratic Breakdown Paves the Path to Personalist Rule.” *APSA-Comparative Democratization*. Volume 17, issue 1
- 2017 Andrea Kendall-Taylor, Erica Frantz, and **Joseph Wright**. “The Global Rise of Personalized Politics.” *The Washington Quarterly* 40(1):9-17.
- 2016 Andrea Kendall-Taylor, Erica Frantz, and **Joseph Wright**. “The New Dictators: Why Personalism Rules.” *Foreign Affairs* Snapshot: September 26, 2016.
- 2016 Abel Escribà-Folch and **Joseph Wright**. “Sanctions, Autocratic Regimes, and Conflict.” *APSA-Comparative Democratization*. Volume 14, issue 2
- 2015 **Joseph Wright**. Review of *The Politics of Authoritarian Rule*. Milan Svobik. New York: Cambridge University Press, 2012. *Perspectives on Politics*. Volume 13, issue 2
- 2014 Barbara Geddes, **Joseph Wright**, and Erica Frantz. “The Autocratic Regimes Data Set.” *APSA-Comparative Politics*. Volume 24, issue 2
- 2014 **Joseph Wright**. “The Classification of Autocracies: A Principal Components Approach.” *APSA-Comparative Politics*. Volume 24, issue 1
- 2013 Erica Frantz, Barbara Geddes, and **Joseph Wright**. “Autocratic Rule.” *APSA-Comparative Democratization*. Volume 11, issue 2
- 2012 Simone Dietrich and **Joseph Wright**. “Foreign Aid and Democratic Development in Africa.” *UNU-WIDER Working Paper* No. 2012/20
- 2009 Abel Escribà-Folch and **Joseph Wright**. “Are Dictators Immune to Human Rights Shaming?” *IBEI Working Paper* 2009/25
- 2008 Abel Escribà-Folch and **Joseph Wright**. “Dealing with Tyranny: International Sanctions and Autocrats’ Duration.” (with Abel Escribà-Folch) *IBEI Working Paper* 2008/16
- 2008 **Joseph Wright**. Review of *Social Democracy in the Global Periphery*. Sandbrook, et al. (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2007) *Comparative Political Studies*

Online contributions

- 2019 John Chin, David Carter, and **Joseph Wright**. “No, the Trump impeachment inquiry is not a coup.” The Monkey Cage. *Washington Post*. October 15.
- 2019 Erica Frantz, Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Joseph Wright**. “Why the fragmentation of European politics could bode poorly for democracy.” The Monkey Cage. *Washington Post*. June 5.
- 2018 Erica Frantz, Andrea Kendall-Taylor and **Joseph Wright**. “Did Xi Jinping just become China’s strongman? Not quite.” The Monkey Cage. *Washington Post*. March 13.

- 2016 **Joseph Wright**, Barbara Geddes, Erica Frantz and George Derpanopoulos. “Are coups good for democracy?” The Monkey Cage. *Washington Post*. February 22.
- 2014 Erica Frantz, Barbara Geddes and **Joseph Wright**. “How oil helps dictatorships survive.” The Monkey Cage. *Washington Post*. June 17.
- 2014 Katie Paulson-Smith, Simone Dietrich, and **Joseph Wright**. “How Does Aid Impact Democratic Change in Africa?” *AidData Blog*. August 6.

Invited lectures, presentations, and workshops

- 2019 University of Arizona (scheduled); Gothenburg University; Center for New American Security
- 2018 Gothenburg University; London School of Economics
- 2017 University of Konstanz; London School of Economics; Gothenburg University; USAID; Georgetown University; University of Southern California
- 2016 USAID; University of Notre Dame, Peace Science Workshop; Virtual International Political Economy Society Meeting; School of International Affairs, Penn State University
- 2015 Texas A&M, Political Economy Workshop; University of Virginia, Lansing B. Lee Seminar in Global Politics; Juan March Institute, Carlos III University “Institutions of Protection: The Organization of Security and Justice System Institutions in Autocracies”; Yale University “Political Institutions and the Behavior of States in the International System”; Georgetown University, “Foreign Aid and Government Legitimacy”
- 2014 University of Illinois, Comparative Politics Workshop; University of Oslo, Summer School in Comparative Social Science Studies
- 2013 Duke University, Frontiers in Comparative Political Economy; ISA Venture Workshop, Best Practices in the Collection and Presentation of Conflict Data; NSF/UK Research Councils, Transforming Security Research Workshop; Minerva Initiative, Fourth Annual Conference, Washington D.C.
- 2012 U.S. Institute of Peace, Conference on Preventing Violent Conflict (postponed); Minerva Initiative, Third Annual Conference, Washington D.C.; Nanjing University, Dept. of Politics and Public Administration; Stockholm University, Dept. of Economics/ Swedish International Development Agency; Rice University, “The International Politics of Autocracies”
- 2011 United Nations University, WIDER; Minerva Initiative, Second Annual Conference, Washington D.C.
- 2010 Yale University, Leitner Program, “Non-Democratic Regimes”
- 2008 University of Notre Dame, Kellogg Institute for International Studies; Instituto Juan March, Center for Advanced Study in the Social Sciences; Institut Barcelona d’Estudis Internacionals; Princeton University, “Dictatorships: Their Governance and Social Consequences”; Princeton University, International Relations Colloquium
- 2007 Yale University, Comparative Politics Workshop; Yale University, Political Economy of Post-Industrial Societies Working Group Meeting

Teaching

Undergraduate courses

Dictators & Their Demise; Global Studies Pathways; Foreign Policy & Authoritarian Politics

Graduate courses

Comparative Authoritarianism; Comparative Politics Seminar; Politics of Development

PhD dissertation chair/co-chair

- Current M. Rosemary Pang
- 2019 Xu Xu (Postdoc, Stanford University)

- 2018 Wonjung Song (Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, Pennsylvania State University; Postdoc University of Macau)
- 2017 Christopher Culver (Assistant Professor, U.S. Air Force Academy)
- 2016 Thomas Brawner (post-doc Harvard Univ. IQSS; Vice President & Principal Data Scientist, TeraCrunch; Faculty Affiliate Center for Research Methods & Data Analysis, Kansas Univ.)
- 2015 Matthew Wilson (Assistant Professor, West Virginia Univ.; Postdoctoral Research Associate, Gotenburg Univ.; Assistant Professor, Univ. of South Carolina)

PhD dissertation committees

- Current Aubrey Waddick
- Current Omer Yalcin
- Current Sebastian Hellmeier (PhD candidate, Konstanz Univ.)
- Current Adam Casey (Phd candidate, Univ. of Toronto)
- 2017 John Chin (Phd Princeton; post-doc Institute for Politics and Strategy, Carnegie Mellon)
- 2017 Michael Kenwick (post-doc Univ. of Pennsylvania; Assistant Professor, Rutgers Univ.)
- 2016 Neslihan Burcin Tamer (Research Scientist, Computing Research Association)
- 2016 Hao Hong (PhD Economics, Senior Quantitative Modeling Associate, Freddie Mac)
- 2016 Muhammed Idris (post-doc Univ. of Montreal)
- 2014 Andrew Boutton (post-doc Univ. of Texas; Assistant Professor, Univ. of Central Florida)
- 2013 Daehee Bak (Assistant Professor, Texas Tech Univ.)
- 2013 Vito D’Orazio (post-doc Harvard University IQSS; Assistant Professor, Univ. of Texas-Dallas)
- 2013 Jessica Maves (Assistant Professor, Univ. of Arizona)
- 2011 Simone Dietrich (post-doc Princeton; Assistant Professor, Univ. of Missouri; tenured Essex Univ. and Univ. of Geneva)

MA committees

- 2019 Jia Li (chair, Best MA award); Taegyoon Kim (chair)
- 2018 M. Rosemary Pang (chair); Aubrey Waddick
- 2017 Dellea Copeland (chair)
- 2015 Minhyung Joo; Laurie Tumaneng
- 2014 Gustavo Lara (chair); Wonjun Song
- 2013 Molly Ariotta; Muhammed Idris (chair, Best MA award)
- 2012 Thomas Braun (chair, Best MA award); Matthew Lane; Joseph Simons (chair)
- 2011 Matthew Wilson
- 2010 Beatrice Mankse; Jessica Maves

BA honors theses

- 2019-2020 Siobhan Leonard
- 2018-2019 Katherine Bartuska, Center for Global Studies & Pi Sigma Alpha Thesis Awards
- 2017-2018 Phelim Giblin
- 2014-2015 Mary Herman
- 2014 Shidhara Torres (McNair Scholar)
- 2013-2014 Jay Matthias
- 2012-2013 Yelena Novopachennaia

Service

Reviewer, journals

African Studies Quarterly, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Business and Politics, Comparative Political Studies, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Democratization, Development Policy Review, The Economic Journal, Economic Letters, European Journal of Political Research, Foreign Policy Analysis, Journal of Global Security Studies, Governance, International Political Science Review, International Interactions, International Organization, International Studies Quarterly,

Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of East Asian Studies, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, Latin American Politics and Society, Perspectives on Politics, Political Research Quarterly, Political Science and Research Methods, Problems of Post-Communism, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Research & Politics, Social Science Quarterly, Southern Economic Journal, Studies in Comparative International Development, Third World Quarterly, World Development, World Politics

Reviewer, university presses

Oxford University Press, University of Michigan Press

Reviewer, grant agencies and research foundations

European Research Council, German Research Foundation, National Science Foundation (U.S. NSF), Netherlands Organisation for Scientific Research, MacArthur Fellows Program, Research Grants Council (RGC) of Hong Kong, Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC), Swiss National Science Foundation, Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences

Reviewer, other

APSA Comparative Democratization Best Paper Award Committee (2014), APSA Comparative Democratization Best Article Award Committee (2015), APSA Comparative Politics Best Data Set Award (2016), Kellogg Institute for International Studies Visiting Fellows Program, Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics

Reviewer, promotion

Essex University; Shanghai University of Finance and Economics; Texas Tech University; University of Wisconsin, Milwaukee

Department service

- 2018-2019 Director, Program in Comparative Political Studies; Comparative Politics Sub-Field Examiner; Advisory Committee
- 2017-2018 Director, Program in Comparative Political Studies; Graduate Studies Committee; Board of Visitors Lecture; International Relations Faculty Search Committee; Global Studies Faculty Search Committee
- 2016-2017 Graduate Admissions Committee; Director, Program in Comparative Political Studies; Comparative Politics Sub-Field Examiner; Graduate Studies Committee
- 2014-2015 Director, Program in Comparative Political Studies; Graduate Studies Committee
- 2013-2014 Graduate Studies Committee; Comparative Politics Strategic Planning Committee; Board of Visitors Lecture
- 2012-2013 Comparative Politics Strategic Planning Committee; Awards and Travel Committee
- 2011-2012 Comparative Politics Sub-Field Examiner; Asian Politics Faculty Search Committee
- 2010-2011 Comparative Politics Sub-Field Examiner; Energy Politics Faculty Search Committee
- 2009-2010 Comparative Politics Faculty Search Committee

College service

- 2018-2019 Co-Chair Global Studies Faculty Search Committee
- 2016-2020 Co-Director, Global & International Studies Program
- 2013-2014 Global Studies Steering Committee; College of Liberal Arts "For the Future" fund-raising campaign, interview

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