

James R. G. Kirk

E: jkirk6@nd.edu

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science (American Politics; Methodology), expected graduation 2025
Dissertation: *Which Shepherds to Follow?: Cross-Pressured Catholic Politics in a Polarized America*
Committee: Geoff Layman, Dave Campbell, Christina Wolbrecht, Michael Hoffman

M.A. in Political Science, May 2022
University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, In.
Notebaert Premier Fellow

BS in Political Science and Economics, May 2018
Frostburg State University, Frostburg, MD
Summa cum laude, GPA: 4.0/4.0

Research and Teaching Interests

American Politics
Political behavior, political parties and elections, public opinion, political geography, religion and politics

Methodology
Survey design and research, social network analysis, experiments, causal inference

Publications

Layman, Geoffrey C., Levi G. Allen, James R. G. Kirk, Wayde Z. C. Marsh, and Benjamin Radcliff. 2023. "The Pandemic and Political Behavior: Staying the Course." *PS: Political Science and Politics* Forthcoming.

Campbell, David E., Kirk, James R. G. and Layman, Geoffrey C.. 2021. "Religion and the 2020 Presidential Election: The Enduring Divide." *The Forum* 18, no. 4: 581-605. <https://doi.org/10.1515/for-2020-2104>

Kirk, James. 2019. "Understanding Security: Factors Influencing National Military Expenditures." *Issues in Political Economy* 28 (2): 5-21.

Works in Progress

Under Review

"Landscape of Distrust: Political Trust Across America's Urban-Rural Divide" (Revise and resubmit at *American Politics Research*)

"Megastudy Identifying Effective Interventions to Strengthen Americans' Democratic Attitudes" with Jan G. Voelkel, James Druckman, David Rand, Robb Willer, and others (Revise & resubmit at *Science*)

"God's Country: Perceptions of Religious and Place-based Candidate Identities" with Levi Allen (Under review at *Political Behavior*)

"Populism, Partisanship, and Protection: Populism and U.S. Public Opinion on NATO" with Harrison Greenleaf (Under review at the *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*)

In Preparation

"The Religious Foundations of America's Urban-Rural Divide" with Levi Allen

"Looking Out for These Parts': Measuring Place-based Attitudes on Government Trust and Responsiveness"

“The Universities are the Enemy:’ Political Attitudes on Higher Education”

“Rural or Racial Resentment?: Evidence from a Conjoint Experiment” with Levi Allen

“Coal Mine Closures and Support for Environmental Ballot Measures” with Bill Kakenmaster

Teaching Experience

University of Notre Dame

Instructor, POLS 30118: “The Politics of Polarization,” August 2023-December 2023

Senior Undergraduate Thesis Advisor, “Rural Movers and Rural Consciousness,” August 2023-May 2024

Teaching Assistant, POLS 30028: “Religion in American Politics,” January 2023-May 2023

Teaching Assistant (Discussion Section 1), POLS 10100/20100: “Introduction to American Politics,” August 2021-December 2021

Teaching Assistant (Discussion Section 2), POLS 10100/20100: “Introduction to American Politics,” August 2021-December 2021

University of Notre Dame Kaneb Center for Teaching Excellence

Striving for Teaching Excellence Certificate, May 2022

Advanced Teaching Scholar Certificate, *In progress*, expected December 2023

Frostburg State University

Teaching Assistant/Peer Mentor, FSU Connection for First-Year Honors Students: “Power, Culture and Polarization in America,” August 2015-December 2015

Research Experience

Graduate Fellow, Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns, August 2023-May 2024

Research Assistant, Dr. Erin Rossiter, University of Notre Dame, “R software integration for virtual social science experiments,” January 2022-May 2022

Graduate Certificate in Civic Engagement and Public Scholarship, Notre Dame Center for Social Concerns, May 2021

Professional Service

Editorial Assistant, *Political Behavior*, Geoffrey Layman and Benjamin Radcliff, Co-Editors, July 2022-December 2022

Journal Reviewer: *Political Behavior*

Religion and Politics

Discussant, NPSA 2023 Annual Meeting

Research Presentations

Kirk, James. “The Universities are the Enemy:’ Political Attitudes on Higher Education” (2023 NPSA Conference)

Kirk, James. “Looking Out for These Parts’: Measuring Place-based Attitudes on Government Trust and Responsiveness” (2023 MPSA Conference)

Kirk, James. “Catholic Church Elites and Political Cues in American Politics” (2022 MPSA Conference, 2022 APSA Conference, 2022 SSSR Conference)

Allen, Levi and James Kirk. “God’s Country: Perceptions of Religious and Place-based Candidate Identities” (2022 APSA Conference, 2022 SSSR Conference)

Kirk, James. “The Urban-Rural Political Trust Gap: Rurality, Political Trust, and Partisan Support in American Elections” (2021 ISPP Conference, 2021 APSA Conference)

Campbell, David E., Kirk, James R. G. and Layman, Geoffrey C.. “Religion and the 2020 Presidential Election: The Enduring Divide” (2021 Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy workshop)

Kirk, James. “An Analysis of Issues in Contemporary American Political Polling” (2018 Frostburg State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium)

Adams, Eddy, James Kirk, and Nicole Leighty Kirk. “A Millennial Engagement: Bernie Sanders and Political Communications in the Digital Age” (2017 Frostburg State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium)

Kirk, James. “The Quiet Decline of Cuba’s Education System: How Industry and International Relations Impact Public Education” (2016 Frostburg State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium)

Kirk, James. "Unless You're Free: R. Bowen Hardesty, Dorothy Howard, Jerry Howie, and the Fight for Free Speech at Frostburg State College" (2015 Maryland Collegiate Honors Conference, 2015 Frostburg State University College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium)

Grants Awarded

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame International Security Center, research grant (2023, \$2,000)
University of Notre Dame, Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy, research grant (2022, \$2,000)
University of Notre Dame, Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, Graduate Student Research Award (2021, \$3,500)
University of Notre Dame, Rooney Center for the Study of American Democracy, research training grant (2021, \$2,600)
Frostburg State University, Beall Institute for Public Affairs Experiential Learning Grant (2017, \$3,000)
Frostburg State University, Beall Institute for Public Affairs Experiential Learning Grant (2016, \$2,000)

Honors and Awards (Selected)

Campus Compact
Newman Civic Fellowship, 2017-2018

Frostburg State University
Department of Political Science Honors, May 2018
Department of Economics Honors, May 2018
Honors in General Education, May 2018
Outstanding Student Leadership Award, College of Business, May 2018
Dean's List, 2014-2018 (every semester)
Pillar of the Community Award, May 2018
Emerging Leader Award, May 2015

Quantitative and Technical Experience

Coursework
Experimental design (graduate), Causal inference (graduate), Social network analysis I (ICPSR), Regression I (graduate), introduction to quantitative methods (graduate), introductory and intermediate statistics, linear regression analysis, calculus, econometrics, introductory and intermediate political science research methods

Software competency
R statistical learning environment
Stata statistical software
Microsoft Excel
EViews statistical software
SPSS statistical software

Professional Experience

Frostburg State University, Office of University Advancement (Frostburg, MD)
Development Officer, August 2018-July 2020

Roger Manno for Congress (Cumberland, MD)
Western Maryland Field Coordinator, March 2018-June 2018

Office of United States Senator Ben Cardin (Washington, DC)
Legislative Intern, May 2017-July 2017

American Society for Civil Engineers, Government Relations Office (Washington, DC)
Government Relations Intern, May 2016-August 2016

Law Firm of Hidey, Coyle, and Monteleone (Cumberland, MD)
Legal Intern, December 2014-January 2015, December 2015-January 2016

University and Community Service (Selected)

University of Notre Dame
Political Science Graduate Student Organization (POGO) 2020-2022
(President, American Politics Field Representative, First-Year Representative)

University System of Maryland
University System of Maryland Student Council 2015-2018
(President, Vice President for Undergraduate Affairs, Campus Representative)

Frostburg State University
Student Government Association, 2014-2018
(President, Vice President, Senate Finance Chair, Freshman Senator)
University Advisory Council, 2016-2018
Student Alumni Ambassadors, 2015-2018

External Community Service
Knights of Columbus Council 1442, 2018-present
Allegany County Democratic Central Committee, 2018-2020
Western Maryland Democratic PAC, 2019-2021
Maryland Democratic Party Coordinated Campaign, 2016
Chris Van Hollen for Senate, 2016

Academic and Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association
International Society of Political Psychology
Midwestern Political Science Association
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion
Northeastern Political Science Association
Pi Sigma Alpha, *national political science honor society*
Omicron Delta Epsilon, *international economics honor society*
Phi Eta Sigma, *national first-year honor society*
Beta Gamma Sigma, *AACSB international business honor society*