May 2026

Michael D. Wales

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Appointments

Clemson University *August 2024-Present*
Lecturer, Department of Political Science

Dartmouth College *September 2022-June 2024*
Postdoctoral Research Associate and Manager of the Class of 1964 Policy Research Shop

Education

University of Missouri *2022*
Ph.D. in Political Science, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs
Concentrations: Public Policy and Administration, International Relations
Committee: Jake Haselswerdt (chair), Lael Keiser, Peverill Squire, Weijie Wang
Dissertation: Evaluating the Performance of Performance-Based Budgeting: How Do States Intend to Use Performance Measures in the Budget Process, and Do They Do It?

University of Missouri *2010*
M.P.A, Truman School of Public Affairs

Missouri State University *2005*
B.S., Political Science; minors in Journalism and Religious Studies

Research and Teaching Interests

Public administration and policy; public budgeting and finance; state politics and policy; American political institutions; foreign policy analysis; religion and politics; research methods.

Research

Peer-Reviewed Articles

"Rebel Resource Efficiency and the Escalation of Civil Conflict." 2022. *Journal of Global Security Studies*, 8(1). (With Bryce W. Reeder, Dongjin Kwak, and John R. Smith)

Select Conference Presentations

"Getting Nothing for Something: Contract Oversight and Performance Measurement." Association for Budgeting and Financial Management Annual Conference, Atlanta, GA, October 2025.

"Income in the Mix: Local Income Taxes and Social Welfare." Association for Budgeting and Financial Management Annual Conference, Cleveland, OH, September 2024.

"Is a Three-Legged Stool More Stable? State Revenue Sources and Budget Volatility." State Politics and Policy Conference, Charlottesville, VA, June 2024.

"State Budget Processes as Determinants of State Spending." Association for Budgeting and Financial Management Annual Conference, Denver, CO, October 2023.

"How Performance Measures Influence Public Budgets: Interviews with State Legislators." Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 2023.

"Does Anyone Care About Performance Measures? Legislator and Public Opinion on the Effect of Performance on Appropriations." State Politics and Policy Conference, Tallahassee, FL, April 2022.

"Religious Freedom for Everybody, Everywhere, All the Time? An Evaluation of the International Religious Freedom Act." International Studies Association Midwest Annual Conference, St. Louis, MO, November 2021.

Working Papers

"Performance Budgeting and Public Opinion: Survey Experiments on Budget Preferences."

"The Welfare Effects of Local Income Taxes Relative to Other Forms of Taxation."

"How Do Legislators Use Performance Information? Appropriations and Performance Measures in Texas."

"Religious Freedom for Everybody, Everywhere, All the Time? An Evaluation of the International Religious Freedom Act."

Teaching Experience

At Clemson University:

Instructor of Record
American National Government, Fall 2024, Summer 2025, Fall 2025
Quantitative Methods in Political Science, Fall 2024

Research Methods (online), Fall 2024, Fall 2025
Public Data Analysis (online), Spring 2025, Spring 2026
Public Financial Management (online), Spring 2025, Fall 2025, Spring 2026
Public Administration, Spring 2025, Spring 2026
Applied Political Science Research, Spring 2026

At Dartmouth College:

Instructor of Record
Introduction to Public Policy, Summer 2023

Faculty Mentor
Introduction to Public Policy Research, Fall 2022, Fall 2023

At University of Missouri:

Instructor of Record
Public Policy, Spring 2022
Religion and Politics, Fall 2021
American Government, Summer 2021 (online)
International Relations, Summer 2020 (online), Fall 2020, Spring 2021

Lab Instructor
Introduction to Political Research, Fall 2019
International Relations, Fall 2018

Teaching Assistant
The Science of Politics, Spring 2020
Constitutional Rights, Spring 2019
American Foreign Policies, Spring 2018
Global Human Rights, Spring 2018
Constitution and Civil Liberties, Fall 2017

Relevant Professional Experience

Budget Analyst, Texas Legislative Budget Board, 2014-2017

Fiscal Analyst, Kansas Legislative Research Department, 2010-2014

Awards, Grants, and Funding

Professional development grant, Office of Teaching Excellence and Innovation, Clemson University, Summer 2025

Carsey Scholar, State Politics and Policy Conference, Spring 2022

Conference Presentation Travel Award, University of Missouri Graduate Professional Council, Fall 2021

Research Funding, Department of Political Science, University of Missouri, Summer 2021

Robert N. Epsten Scholarship for International Studies, Harry S. Truman Good Neighbor Award Foundation, 2020

Scholarship for ICPSR Summer Program, Department of Political Science, University of Missouri, Summer 2019

Summer Research Funding, Department of Political Science, University of Missouri, Summer 2018

Graduate Assistantship, Department of Political Science, University of Missouri, Fall 2017-Present

Skills

Stata, R, LaTeX

Additional Training
Future Faculty Teaching Series, Dartmouth College, 2023
Online Teaching Certification, University of Missouri System, 2020
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, University of Michigan, 2019
Summer Statistics Institute, University of Texas at Austin, 2018

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association

- Public Administration, Public Policy, and State Politics and Policy sections

Association for Budgeting and Financial Management

The Association for Public Policy Analysis and Management

Midwest Political Science Association

Service

Member, Academic Technology Committee, Clemson University College of Behavior, Social, and Health Sciences, 2025-Present

Member, Student Awards Committee, Department of Political Science, Clemson University, 2025-Present

Co-President and Board Member, Dartmouth College Postdoctoral Association, 2023-Present

Postdoctoral Scholar member, Dartmouth College Council on the Libraries, 2023-Present

Treasurer, Graduate Association of Political Scientists, University of Missouri, 2019-2020

Student Representative, Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Political Science, University of Missouri, 2018-19

Department Representative, Graduate Student Association, University of Missouri, 2018

References

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