

Kenneth Bryant Jr.
Associate Professor
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Contact Information

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Current Position

Current Academic Rank: Associate Professor

Degrees

2017	Ph.D., Political Science, University of Missouri , Columbia, Missouri, United States
2014	M.A., Political Science, University of Missouri , Columbia, Missouri, United States
2009	B.A., Political Science, Wright State University, Dayton, Ohio, United States

Work Experience

2022 - Ongoing

Associate Professor, University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler, Texas, United States

2017 - 2022

Assistant Professor, University of Texas at Tyler, Tyler, Texas

2013 - 2017

Graduate Assistant , University of Missouri, Columbia, Missouri

Scholarly Contributions and Creative Productions

Book

Completed/Published

Owens, M., Wink, K. A., & Bryant, K. (2022). *Battle for the Heart of Texas: Political Change in the Electorate* (p. 200). Norman, OK: University of Oklahoma Press. [Attachment]

<https://www.oupres.com/9780806190747/battle-for-the-heart-of-texas/>

Bryant, K., Lopez, E. A., & Owens, M. (2019). *Game of Politics: Conflict, Power, & Representation* Tyler, TX: The University of Texas at Tyler. [Attachment]

In Progress

Bryant Jr., K. (Ed.). (2024). *Is There a Bright Side? Empowering Students in an Age of Cynicism* [Attachment]

Chapter

Completed/Published

Bryant Jr., K. (2019). Policing Communities of Color: A Historical Examination of Social Control and Protest Management Strategies. In *Political Authority, Social Control and Public Policy*. Emerald Insight Publishers. [Attachment]

This chapter uses a critical lens to first investigate the historical social control strategies used against communities of color by law enforcement (beginning with antebellum “beat companies” to more contemporary “broken windows” policies). Next, I observe that, in addition to institutional evolution, police behavior (specifically related to community policing and responses to community protests) have accordingly shifted since the nineteenth-century. For example, I discuss the three current strategies of protest management (escalated force, negotiated management, and strategic incapacitation) that have

all been embraced to varying degrees with relationship to police response to black community protests. Last, I explore the iterative process of police “command and control” policies and black community protests, noting that these competing forces have “coevolved,” mirroring one another, and feature antagonistic attitudes from both sides.

In Progress

Lopez, E. A., & Bryant, K. (2019). Civil Rights and Liberties: In Modern Society. In *Game of Politics: Conflict, Power, & Representation*. Tyler, TX: The University of Texas at Tyler.
Addendum chapter on civil rights and liberties to be included in second edition of Game of Politics textbook.

Journal Article

Completed/Published

Bryant Jr., K. (2019). Blue Response Matters. *Critical Issues in Justice and Politics* 11, 65-92. [Attachment]
Using a unique national survey experiment, this paper finds that overall black attitudes are mostly negative toward violent responses to protests, while generational and gender differences among black respondents tell a more nuanced story. Upon reading this analysis, a police agency interested in maintaining order and its reputation among constituents of color it serves will be compelled to explore alternative means of responding to black protests. This is especially the case when the protests were prompted by perceived police misconduct (i.e. the killing of an unarmed person of color). Policy-wise, this may mean embracing more negotiated management strategies, as the nonviolent responses in this experiment, which in many ways echoed negotiated management, were largely seen as appropriate.

Other

Completed/Published

Bryant Jr., K. (2020). Patriot Athletics Faculty and Staff Survey Report. *UT Tyler Athletics Department*. [Attachment]

A survey and report commissioned to gauge faculty and staff on topics related to race, racism, social justice, and belonging.

Bryant Jr., K. (2020). Patriot Athletics Student-Athlete Survey Report. *UT Tyler Athletics Department*. [Attachment]

A survey and report commissioned to gauge student-athletes on topics related to race, racism, social justice, and belonging.

Bryant, K. (2019). Commentary: The conflicting attitudes of Texans on a wall and border policies. *Austin American-Statesman*. [Attachment]

<https://www.statesman.com/opinion/20190311/commentary-conflicting-attitudes-of-texans-on-wall-and-border-policies>

This Op-Ed in the Austin American-Statesman breaks down how public opinion about extending the wall along the Texas-Mexico border varies across the state. The narrative contrasts the opinion of the state with the opinions held by communities along the border and how closely attitudes towards the wall are aligned with approval for President Donald Trump. This was a co-authored piece by the directors of the Center for Opinion Research who shared the responsibilities of writing/editing and data analysis.

Other Teaching Materials

Completed/Published

Bryant Jr., K. (2020). *OneLanguage Resource Guide*. *UT Tyler Athletics Department*. [Attachment]

A comprehensive glossary of terms used in conversations regarding social justice, diversity, and equity. This resource guide is a tool meant to build a shared language of understanding.

Poster Presentation

Completed/Published

Bryant Jr., K., Owens, M., & Wink, K. A. (2020, May). *How Did a Split-Debate Stage Impact Voters? A View from Texas*. *American Association for Public Opinion Research*. Atlanta, GA.

Presentation

Completed/Published

Bryant Jr., K. (2021, January). “Culture of Giving” in Athletics Patriot Club Virtual Luncheon. UT Tyler Athletics.

<https://www.facebook.com/uttylersports/videos/1350225732001609>

A panel discussion focused on a "culture of giving" at the University of Texas at Tyler and within the East Texas community.

Bryant Jr., K. (2021, February). *"For The Culture" Discussion Panel Black History Month event*. UT Tyler: Department of Student Engagement.

A panel on African American culture, terminology, food, politics, and racism.

Bryant Jr., K., & Masthay, T. J. (2021, April). *Issue Ownership Revisited: Public Opinion, Partisanship, and Sex Crimes*. *Midwest Political Science Association*.

We argue that the concept of issue ownership should be disaggregated. We use candidate statements and original polling data to demonstrate that Democrats "own" the issue of sex crimes.

Bryant Jr., K. (2020, October). *"One Language" Guide*. *Social Justice & Equity Awareness Week* UT Tyler Athletics. [Attachment]

Bryant Jr., K. (2020, October). *"Building a UT Tyler Culture of Inclusion" Panel Discussion* *Social Justice & Equity Awareness Week*. [Attachment]

Ross, C. E., Bryant, K., Dubre, Librarian UT Tyler, V., Schug, Professor, UT Arlington, K., Keith, senior UT Tyler, E., Swanson, grad student UT Tyler, J., & Moore, junior, UT Tyler, M. (2020, July). *Working with Underprepared Students: a Panel Discussion*

C. Ross plus chemistry professor from the UT System Academy of Distinguished Teachers teaching at UT Arlington, an assistant professor of political science from UT Tyler, a research librarian from UT Tyler, and three UT Tyler students: a graduate student, a senior, and an undergraduate. Course Hero Teaching Summit. Online: Course Hero. [Attachment]

Bryant Jr., K., & Masthay, T. (2020, April). *Rethinking Issue Ownership: The Partisan Legacy of #MeToo* *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL.

Bryant Jr., K., & Masthay, T. (2020, April). *Sub-Issue Ownership: Sex Crimes, #MeToo, and Political Parties* *Western Political Science Association*. Los Angeles, CA.

Bryant, K., Owens, M., & Wink, K. A. (2020, March). *Debate Effects in the Texas Electorate: When There are 'More Candidates Than You Can Shake a Stick At*. *The Citadel Symposium on Southern Politics* Charleston, SC: The Citadel.

Bryant Jr., K., & Masthay, T. (2019, April). *Sub-Issue Ownership: #MeToo and the Matter of Sex Crimes* *Western Political Science Association*. San Diego, CA.

Bryant Jr., K. (2018, January). *Public Unrest, Police Response, and Black Attitudes*. *Southern Political Science Association*. New Orleans, LA. [Attachment]

Bryant Jr., K. (2018, April). *Neighborhood-Status, Black Public Opinion, and Police Responses to Unrest* *Midwest Political Science Association*. Chicago, IL. [Attachment]

Bryant Jr., K. (2018, May). *Race and Ethnicity in Higher Education*. *The American Democracy Project at Stephen F. Austin State University*. Stephen F. Austin State University. [Attachment]

Review

Completed/Published

Bryant Jr., K. (2022). *Unequal America : Class Conflict, the News Media, and Ideology in an Era of Record Inequality*. Populism. [Attachment]

Grants

Completed

New Faculty Grants Program, Funded by The University of Texas at Tyler Office of Research and Scholarship (September 1, 2019) (**\$10,000.00**), Completed, Summer 2020, PI Kenneth Bryant Jr.

Honors

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| 2023 | Regents' Outstanding Teaching Awards (ROTA), University of Texas System Board of Regents |
| 2022 | Distinguished Meritorious Service , University's Military and Veterans Success Center |
| 2019 | Prestige Impact Award, College of Arts and Sciences
New Faculty Grant, Office of Research and Scholarship |

Community Service/Civic Service Activities

Fall 2017 - Ongoing

UT Tyler poll finds Joe Biden leads among Democrats in Texas, KLTV ABC News

UT Tyler hosts local democratic debate focus group, KLTV ABC News

What it means to be antiracist: UT Tyler's Dr. Kenneth Bryant Jr., The Tyler Loop

How you can register to vote on National Voter Registration Day, KTRE ABC 9

Joe Biden builds 5-point lead over Donald Trump in red Texas as some voters sour on handling of virus, Dallas Morning News

Biden builds 5-point lead over Trump in Texas: poll, The Hill

New UT Tyler-Dallas Morning News poll shows Texas Dems support Biden; Trump approval up, Tyler Morning Telegraph

Trump and Biden Would Tie in Texas if Presidential Election Were Held Today: Poll, Newsweek

Election Night Coverage , CBS 19

Texans wary of flying because of coronavirus, cautious about in-person shopping, Dallas News-UT Tyler poll shows, Dallas Morning News

Texans overwhelmingly want gun background checks, are open to red flag laws, DMN-UT Tyler poll finds, Dallas Morning News

Support for Black Lives Matter movement has decreased significantly since June, local and national polls agree, Dallas Morning News

Featured Article, Wright State Alumni Association

EDEN Film Series (Bedlam), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (The Kids We Lose), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (Real Women Have Curves), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (hillbilly), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (The Promise), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (American Factory), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (Disclosure), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (They Shall Not Grow Old), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (Muhammad Ali's Greatest Fight), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (El Norte), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (Seadrift), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (Chosin), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (Do the Right Thing), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (Suffragette), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (The Case Against 8), Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (Bastards' Road), UT Tyler Military and Veterans Success Center

"Let's Discuss the 2020 Election" Panel Discussion, Department of Political Science

EDEN Film Series (Missing), Department of Political Science

Tyler expert: Voter apathy puts 'vibrant democracy' at stake, Tyler Morning Telegraph