Oral Defense Announcement
University of Missouri – St. Louis Graduate School

An oral examination in defense of the dissertation for the degree
Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

Zachary Schwartz

M.A. in Political Science, December, 2017, University of Missouri-St. Louis
B.A. in Political Science, May, 2011, University of Missouri-St. Louis

White Voters and Minority Animus in the Era of Trump

Date: Friday, November 19, 2021
Time: 11:00am central
Place: Remote

Abstract
The election and continued popularity of Donald Trump, a president who has on a number of occasions used racist and anti-immigrant rhetoric in stump speeches and on Twitter, demonstrates that the conversation on white animus toward minority groups in the United States is complex, and much more analysis is needed. In this dissertation I seek to address various dimensions of white Americans’ feelings toward minority groups in the era of Donald Trump. In Chapter 2 I seek to observe whether Trump and non-Trump voters produce contrasting reactions to subtle environmental cues on immigrants. This study demonstrates Trump and non-Trump voters become increasingly polarized on their support for a government voter registration program and feelings of anger toward the program when presented with a subtle immigrant cue in a photograph. In Chapter 3 I seek to observe how voters’ feelings of resentment toward Blacks might continue to serve as a driver of support for Trump beyond the 2016 election. I also examine the degree to which animus toward immigrants from Central and South America acts as a driver to support Trump after 2016, and to vote for Republican candidates in the 2018 midterms as well. In chapter 4 I examine the partisan nature of changes in white voters’ attitudes toward racial minorities and immigrants, and analyze demographic factors like level of educational attainment and age amongst white voters from 1980 to 2010. I examine differences between partisan groups to see if some association with one partisan group or another exists, and if so, how it changes over time.

Defense of Dissertation Committee
David Kimball, Ph.D.
Anita Manion, Ph.D.
Todd Swanstrom, Ph.D.
Adriano Udani, Ph.D.