Omer Yair

The Institute for Liberty and Responsibility
Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy
Reichman University
HaUniversita 8, Herzliya, Israel, 4610101

Email: omer.yair@post.runi.ac.il
Website: omeryair0.wixsite.com/site

Academic Position

Reichman University, 2021–present

> Research associate, The Institute for Liberty and Responsibility at the Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy

The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2018–2021

> Postdoctoral Scholar, The Federmann School of Public Policy

Stony Brook University, 2017–2018

> Visiting Postdoctoral Scholar, Department of Political Science

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. 2012–2018

M.A. Political Science (Magna Cum Laude), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. 2010–2012

B.A. Political Science and International Relations (Magna Cum Laude), The Hebrew University of Jerusalem. 2007–2010

Research Interests

Public opinion; political behavior; political psychology; behavioral public administration; Israeli politics; political polarization; conspiracy theories

Publications

Peer-reviewed [** - with preregistered experiment(s)]

(19**) Graham, Matthew H., and Omer Yair. 2025. "Less Partisan but No More Competent: Expressive Responding and Fact-Opinion Discernment." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 89(1): 7–30 [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

(18**) Efrat, Asif, and Omer Yair. 2025. "Foreign Agents? Public Attitudes toward Nongovernmental Organizations in a Backsliding Democracy." *Political Studies* 73(1): 218–239 [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

(17**) Cavari, Amnon, Asif Efrat, and Omer Yair. 2025. "Do International Rankings Affect

Public Opinion?" *British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 27(1): 349–368 [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

(16) Yair, Omer, Amnon Cavari, and Asif Efrat. 2024. "Conspiracy Thinking and Electoral Trust During Tumultuous Times: The Case of Israel." *International Journal of Public Opinion Research*. 36(2): edae014. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

(15**) Graham, Matthew H., and Omer Yair. 2024. "Expressive Responding and Belief in 2020 Election Fraud." With Matt Graham. *Political Behavior* 46(2): 1349–1374. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

      * Awarded the best paper presented at the 2022 MPSA by an Emerging Scholar
      * Featured in CNN

(14) Efrat, Asif, and Omer Yair. 2024. "Should We Sell Arms to Human Rights Violators? What the Public Thinks." *Defence and Peace Economics* 35(6): 694–712. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

(13) Peffley, Mark, Omer Yair, and Marc Hutchison. 2024. "Right-Left Social Identity and the Polarization of Political Intolerance." *Political Research Quarterly* 77(1): 30–44. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

(12) Efrat, Asif, and Omer Yair. 2023. "International Rankings and Public Opinion: Compliance, Dismissal, or Backlash?" *The Review of International Organizations* 18(4): 607–629. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

(11**) Yair, Omer, and Brian F. Schaffner. 2023. "Response Decoupling and Partisans' Evaluations of Politicians' Transgressions." *Political Behavior* 45(4): 1711–1733. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

(10) Oshri, Odelia, Omer Yair, and Leonie Huddy. 2022. "The Importance of Attachment to an Ideological Group in Multi-Party Systems: Evidence from Israel." *Party Politics* 28(7): 1164–1175. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]
      * Featured in the7eye [Hebrew]; LSE blog; another blog post [Hebrew]

(9) Sulitzeanu-Kenan, Raanan, Markus Tepe, and Omer Yair. 2022. "Public Sector Honesty and Corruption: Field Evidence from 40 Countries." *Journal of Public Administration Research and Theory* 32(2): 310–325. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

(8**) Yair, Omer. 2021. "The Hostile Mediator Phenomenon: When Threatened, Rival Partisans Perceive Various Mediators as Biased against Their Group." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 85(3): 864–886. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]
      * Featured in Ha'aretz [Hebrew]

(7) Yair, Omer, and Raanan Sulitzeanu-Kenan. 2021. "Distance Breeds Alienation: Perceived Ideological Distance Lowers Students' Evaluations of Their Professors." *Journal of Political Science Education* 17(Sup. 1): 794–806. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

(6) Leonie Huddy, and Omer Yair. 2021. "Reducing Affective Polarization: Warm Group Relations or Policy Compromise?" *Political Psychology* 42(2): 291–309 [Link] [Appendix] [Data]
      * Featured in FiveThirtyEight; Behavioral Scientist(1)(2); TheMarker blog [Hebrew]

(5) Yair, Omer, and Gregory A. Huber. 2020. "How Robust is Evidence of Partisan Perceptual Bias in Survey Responses? A New Approach for Studying Expressive Responding." *Public Opinion Quarterly* 84(2): 469–492. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

(4) Yair, Omer, Raanan Sulitzeanu-Kenan, and Yoav Dotan. 2020. "Can Institutions Make Voters Care about Corruption?" *Journal of Politics* 82(4): 1430–1442. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]
    * Featured in Maariv [Hebrew]; The Global Anticorruption Blog

(3) Yair, Omer, and Raanan Sulitzeanu-Kenan. 2018. "When Do We Care about Political Neutrality? The Hypocritical Nature of Reaction to Political Bias," *PLoS ONE* 13(5): e0196674. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]
    * Featured in PsyPost

(2) Yair, Omer, and Dan Miodownik. 2016. "Youth Bulge and Civil War: Why a Country's Share of Young Adults Explains Only Non-Ethnic Wars," *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 33(1): 25–44. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

(1) Yair, Omer, and Raanan Sulitzeanu-Kenan. 2015. "Biased Judgment of Political Bias: Perceived Ideological Distance Increases Perceptions of Political Bias," *Political Behavior* 37(2): 487–507. [Link] [Appendix] [Data]

Book chapter

Amitai, Yair, Noam Gidron, and Omer Yair. 2025. "Political Polarization in Israel, 1992–2022," in *The Elections in Israel 2022*, edited by Michal Shamir, Gideon Rahat, and Noam Gidron. Routledge, pp. 21–41.

Ongoing Research Projects

Under review

Conspiracy Thinking and Political Conspiracy Theories: A Moderating Effect of Political Congruence? With Shira Hebel-Sela, Asif Efrat, and Amnon Cavari (Invited to revise and resubmit at *Political Psychology*)

"Contemplating Conquest: Public Opinion on the Forceful Seizure of Territory." With Asif Efrat and Amnon Cavari

"Public Sector Culture Does Not Increase Honest Behavior: Evidence from RCTs in Five Countries." With Raanan Sulitzeanu-Kenan, Markus Tepe, Saar Alon-Barkat, Florian Erlbruch, Michael Jankowski, and Christine Prokop (Invited to revise and resubmit at *Behavioral Public Policy*)

Work in progress

"Armed Conflict Increases Conspiracy Mentality: Evidence from Correlational and Panel Data." With Shira Hebel-Sela, Boaz Hameiri, Eran Halperin, Asif Efrat, and Amnon Cavari

"Not Our Fault: Expressive Responding and Subjective Economic Perceptions." With Matt Graham

"Affective Polarization in Israel After the October 7 Terror Attack." With Yair Amitai, Noam Gidron, Asif Efrat, and Amnon Cavari

"The Politicizing of a Conspiracy Theory: The Case of the 'Betrayal from Within' on October 7 in Israel"

Other Writing (Selected publications from the last three years)

"Famine in Gaza? The Israelis are Not Moved." September 2025, *Zman Israel*. [link] [Hebrew]

"A Warning Sign." September 2025, *The7Eye*. With Asif Efrat [link] [Hebrew]

"Many Israelis Fear that the Next Elections Will Not be Fair." July 2025, *Zman Israel*. [link] [Hebrew]

"A Small and Vocal Minority." June 2025, *The7Eye*. [link] [Hebrew]

"The Negative Attitude toward Arabs and Ultra-Orthodox in Israel—a Cause for Concern." May 2025, *Zman Israel*. [link] [Hebrew]

"Polarization is Dangerous, but Its Effect is Not Deterministic." April 2025, *ICON-S-IL Blog*. With Yair Amitai [link] [Hebrew]

"Political Preferences Predict Belief in Conspiracy Theories Regarding the War." March 2025, *Zman Israel*. [link] [Hebrew]

"More Than a Year After 10/7, Jews Prefer to Keep Their Distance from Arabs." January 2025, *Zman Israel*. [link] [Hebrew]

"Do Israelis Believe Scientific Conspiracy Theories?" October 2024, *Zman Israel*. [link] [Hebrew]

"What Led to the Disaster, According to the Public." August 2024, *Ha'aretz*. [link] [Hebrew]

"Do Israelis Believe Conspiracies? Surveys Provide Surprising Results." July 2024, *Ha'aretz*. [link] [Hebrew]

"Not Defining Themselves as Rightists, But…" June 2024, *Ha'aretz*. [link] [Hebrew]

"The Public is Prouder to Be an Israeli Since October 7." May 2024, *Ma'ariv*. [link] [Hebrew]

"Don't Be Quick to Determine That the Israeli Public 'Moved to the Right'." January 2024, *Ha'aretz*. [link] [Hebrew]

"Did the Gaza War Reduce Animosity Between Rightists and Leftists?" December 2023, *Ma'ariv*. [link] [Hebrew]

"Who Believes the 'Betrayal from Within' Conspiracy?" November 2023, *Liberal*. [link] [Hebrew]

"Do Israelis Have Friends Across the Political Aisle?" September 2023, *Zman Israel*. [link] [Hebrew]

Selected Conference Presentations (from the last two years)

- "The Politicizing of a Conspiracy Theory: The Case of the 'Betrayal from Within' on October 7 in Israel," paper presented at the annual meeting of the:
  - Israeli Political Science Association, Jan. 2026 (scheduled)

- "Political Polarization in Israel After the October 7 Terror Attack," paper presented at the annual meeting of the:
  - American Political Science Association, Sept. 2025.

Professional Experience

Ad-hoc Reviewer:
American Political Science Review; American Politics Research; British Journal of Political Science; British Journal of Politics and International Relations; Cogent Social Sciences; Collabra: Psychology; Contemporary Politics; Cross-Cultural Research; Electoral Studies; European Journal of Political Research; European Journal of Social Psychology; European Political Science Review; International Interactions; International Journal of Public Opinion Research; International Studies Quarterly; Journal of African and Asian Studies; Israel Affairs; Israel Studies Review; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Journal of Elections, Public Opinion, & Parties; Journal of Experimental Political Science; Journal of Politics; Media, War, & Conflict; Nature Communications; Nature Human Behavior; Party Politics; Political Behavior; Political Communication; Political Psychology; Political Research Quarterly; PS: Political Science & Politics; Political Science Research and Methods; Public Opinion Quarterly; Research & Politics; Research in Social Movements, Conflict and Change; Social Forces; Social Sciences; Societies

Teaching Experience:
Instructor, "Advanced Research Methods for MA," M.A. course, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy, Reichman University, 2021–22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Instructor, "Research Methods for MA," M.A. course, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy, Reichman University, 2021–22, 2022-23, 2023-24, 2024-25, 2025-26
Instructor, "Behavioral Public Administration," M.A. course, Lauder School of Government, Diplomacy and Strategy, Reichman University, 2021–22, 2022-23
Instructor, "Quantitative Research Methods," M.A. course, Federmann School of Public Policy, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2020–21

Membership in Professional Associations:
American Political Science Association, Israel Political Science Association

Languages:

Hebrew, English, Spanish (basic)

Computer Software Skills:

Stata, R, Qualtrics

Last updated: December 2, 2025