

**Jatia Wrighten, Ph.D.**  
**Department of Political Science**  
**Virginia Commonwealth University**  
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## **Education**

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Ph.D., Political Science, George Mason University, 2020

Dissertation title: *Who Runs the World: An Examination of Black women and Leadership in State Legislatures*

M.A., Political Science, University of Maryland, College Park, 2011

B.A., Political Science, minor in African American Studies, Virginia Commonwealth University, 2006

## **Academic Appointments**

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Virginia Commonwealth University, Assistant Professor, 2020- present.

James Madison University, Visiting Professor, 2019-2020

## **Research and Teaching Interests**

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American Politics, Race, Gender, Intersectionality, State Legislatures, Leadership, Black women

## **Publications**

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Wrighten, Jatia. Forthcoming. *Oppression Made Us Leaders: Black Women, Heavy Lifting, and Leadership in State Legislatures*. Under Review at Bloomsbury Publishing

McGrath, R. J., Ryan, J., & Wrighten, J. 2025. "[High Hurdles: Legislative Professionalism and the Effectiveness of Women State Legislators](#)". *Journal of Politics*.

Wrighten, Jatia. 2025, April 30. Dismantling DEI is a tool of Oppression. *Richmond Times- Dispatch*. [https://richmond.com/opinion/column/article\\_8251c9c8-9106-49fc-819d-2976e30ae152.html](https://richmond.com/opinion/column/article_8251c9c8-9106-49fc-819d-2976e30ae152.html)

Wrighten, Jatia. 2023. "[Heavy Lifting: Authentic Talent Development and Leadership Obtainment for Black Women State Legislators](#)." *European Journal of Training and Development*. 47 (3-4): 369-386.

Wrighten, Jatia. 2022. "Centering Black Women Political Elites, A Review." *Journal of Women, Politics, and Policy*. 43(3): 417-422.

Wrighten, Jatia. 2021. "[Political Ambition and Community Lift: Stacey Abrams and Fair Fight](#)". Rutgers Eagleton Institute of Politics.

Wrighten, Jatia. 2020. "[Black Women and the Burden of U.S. Democracy](#)". Virginia Commonwealth University.

## **Working Paper**

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Reckendorf, Alexandra and Jatia Wrighten “Experiential Learning and Collective Memory: How a Pilgrimage to the Civil Rights Trail Shaped Students’ Contemporary Politics.”

## **Grants**

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College of Humanities and Sciences Research Fellow. 2-Course Releases      Fall 2024- Summer 2025

Centennial Center Research Grant, American Political Science Association (\$1400) Summer 2002

Center for Effective Law Making, University of Virginia and Vanderbilt University (\$2300) 2021

## **Invited Talks (selected)**

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George Mason University, Leadership Institute, “Speak Truth to Power”. 2024, 2025

League of Women Voters, “Voting Rights and the Trump Administration” 2025

Randolph Macon College, Lauren Bell, Civil Rights, 2024

Eta Tau Chapter of Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, Project 2025, 2024

George Mason University, Dr. Buehlmann, Guest Speaker, Organizational Theory and Management Course, 2022

Women in Legislative Studies Professional Development Seminar Speaker, “How to Integrate Research on Political Minorities in Legislatures into Teaching” 2021

Case Western Reserve University, invited by Dr. Karen Beckwith to lecture her upper-level class titled: Political Losers. March 2021

Louis Stokes Alliance for Minority Participation (LSAMP) “Voter rights and registration” September 2020

## **Teaching Experience**

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U.S. Government and Politics (Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)

Politics of the Civil Rights Movement, Cross-listed with AFAM (Spring 2021, Spring 2023, Winter 2023, Winter 2024, Summer 2025, Winter 2025, Spring 2026)

African American Politics, Cross-listed with AFAM (Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Fall 2022, Spring 2024, Spring 2026)

Research Methods, (Summer 2021, Spring 2022, Summer 2022, Spring 2023)

Senior Seminar, The Politics of Marginalization (Spring 2023, Spring 2024, Fall 2025)

### Study Abroad Courses

Civil Rights Study Away Trip: Ten Days Through the South Summer 2025

What Makes Us Global? Cultural and Political Interconnectedness in Effective Leadership and Management, Milan, Italy Summer 2023

### Public Teaching

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VPAP- Before Virginia Votes, October 2025

Profs and Pints- Voting Rights and the Trump Administration, August 2025

CNN Interview- How will Dems resolve stalemate between Biden and Harris Candidacies? July 2025

Interview panel (Journalism Students at VCU), November 2022

Highland Springs High School 100 Women Challenge, March 2022

Heritage Middle School in Wake Forest, NC, February 2022

Instructor at Policy Pathways with Dr. Pulane Lucas, teaching courses to City of Richmond Public School students on policy issues and civic activism, 2021- 2024

Podcast Guest on Dave Coogan's (VCU associate professor of English) show, "Writing Our Way Out" Episode titled- *Who's Afraid of Critical Race Theory*, October 2021

Aspirational Interviewee for Political Science Graduate student at George Mason University, March 2021

"Faith and Culture Conversations" with Dr. David Coogan (VCU) and Dr. Christine Luckritz Marquis at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, January 2021

### Conferences

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University of Virginia Institutions Conference, presenter (invited), 2025

Southern Political Science Association Conference (SPSA), status committee member, committee on African Americans in the discipline, invited by the SPSA president, Marc Heatherington, January 2023

53rd Annual Meeting of the National Conference of Black Political Scientist (NCOBPS), presenter, March 2022

Women in Legislative Studies Conference (WILS), presenter, October 2022, 2023, 2024

11<sup>th</sup> Annual African, African American and Diaspora Studies (AAAD) Interdisciplinary Studies conference, presenter, February, 2021

American Political Science Association (APSA), presenter, September 2020, 2021

## **Service**

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### **Academic Service to the Discipline:**

NCAPSA (National Capital Area Political Science Association) Member 2023-2026

Editorial Board Member for *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, 2021-2025

Southern Political Science Association (SPSA), status committee member on race in the association, 2022-2023

Section head for Race and Ethnic Politics section, Midwest Political Association Program, 2023

Chair for the Race, Ethnicity, and Politics section, Midwest Political Science Association, 2023

Manuscript Reviewer: *National Review of Black Politics* (2021 x1)

### **Service to the Department:**

Curriculum Committee, 2025-

Preview Day Host, September 2025

Muddling Bar 2024, 2025

Awards Committee (Fall 2024-Spring 2025)

Search Committee for Tenure Track Position: Race and Ethnic Politics (Fall 2024, Spring 2025)

Letters of Recommendation written: (2020/2021x4; 2021/2022 x3; 2023x2; 2024 x4)

African American Studies Department Affiliate Faculty Member 2022-present

Political Science Ad Hoc Committee Member on Institute for Democracy, Pluralism and Community Empowerment, 2022-2023

Political Science DEI Committee Member, 2021- 2022

Preview Day Host with Nathan Bickett, April 2022

Keynote Speaker for Political Science winter commencement, December 2021

Political Science Outreach and Programming Committee, 2020/2021

Political Science Department Election Panel, “What Does it All Mean?”, November 2021

Political Science Department Graduate School Panel, November 2021

Political Science Ad Hoc Committee on Graduate Programs (2021)

### **Service to the Community:**

Interviews and Comments:

["Previewing the 4th District Democrat Firehouse Primary"](#), Virginia Public Radio, November 2022.

["Virginia Gov. Glenn Youngkin reaches out to Black voters while stoking racial division"](#), Washington Post, September 2022.

["After Spanberger win, Virginia 'may be on the list of purple states in 2024'"](#), Potomac Local News, November 2022

["Critics say Virginia Republicans are using SOL scores to further politicize education"](#), Capital News Service, April 2022.

["Climate change 'serious issue' for Hampton Roads, but not in recent election"](#), Capital News Service, November 2022.

["What's in a word? Youngkin takes aim at 'equity'"](#), Washington Post, March 2022.

["Virginians narrowly support 15-week abortion ban, shows Wason poll"](#), Capital News Service, November 2022

["Black Voters Mull Biden's Record in Office"](#), Voices of America, December 2021

["The Right-Wing Mothers Fueling The School-Board Wars"](#), The New Yorker, October 2022

["Glenn Youngkin's Health Chief doubts racial disparities"](#), The Washington Post, June 2022

["Here's What Virginia Could Look Like Under Governor Youngkin"](#), NBC Washington 4- clip of prime-time interview and article, November 2021.

["Black voters secured Joe Biden's win. He can now pick the supreme court's first Black female justice"](#), The Guardian, January 2022.

["Glenn Youngkin appealed to White women voters in Virginia"](#), The Washington Post, November 2021.

["Looming Midterm Elections Put US Voting Rights in Spotlight"](#), Voices of America, May 2022.

["Ralph Northam almost resigned as Virginia Governor over blackface scandal"](#), Washington Post, January 2022.

["Stacey Abrams joins Terry McAuliffe to urge Black Virginians to vote"](#), Washington Post, October 2021.

["Barack Obama hits campaign trail in bellwether Virginia race as Democrats try to galvanize Black Voters"](#), USA Today, October 2021.

["Hala Ayala vs. Winsome Sears: Virginia's next lieutenant governor will make history"](#), USA Today, November 2021.

["Virginia Holds Two Special Elections Tuesday to Fill Seats in House of Delegates"](#), dcist, January 2021.

["Supreme Court fight shows why Americans have such a hard time talking about equity for Black women"](#), USA Today, February, 2022.

["5 Things that could decide Virginia election \(and 2022\): Biden, Trump, culture wars and more"](#), USA Today, November 2021

[" Nuevo gobernador de Virginia levantara orden de mascarillas en escuelas y hara cambios a politicas de COVID"](#), Telemundo Washington DC, January 2022.

### **Professional Development**

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Georgetown University Race and Ethnic Politics Workshop, May 2022

Department DEI training given by Faye Belgrade, April 2022

Sent working paper for colleagues, Mirya Holman's course at Tulane University, March 2021

### **Professional Memberships**

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Southern Political Science Association Member- 2023

Midwest Political Science Association Member- 2023

National Conference of Black Political Scientists- 2022-present

American Political Science Association Member 2020- present