

# Rob Williams

---

## CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science  
Washington University in St. Louis  
One Brookings Drive  
St. Louis, Missouri 63130

✉ [rob.williams@wustl.edu](mailto:rob.williams@wustl.edu)  
🌐 [jayrobwilliams.com](http://jayrobwilliams.com)  
👤 [jayrobwilliams](#)  
🆔 0000-0001-9259-3883

## APPOINTMENTS Washington University in St. Louis

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Political Science 2019-

## EDUCATION The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D., Political Science 2019

- Dissertation: "The Geography of Secession"
- Committee: Mark Crescenzi (chair), Navin Bapat, Stephen Gent, Patricia Sullivan, and Santiago Olivella
- Concentrations: *International Relations* and *Political Methodology*

M.A., Political Science 2016

### Haverford College

B.A., Political Science, Departmental Honors 2012

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Oswald, Christian, Melanie Sauter, and Sigrid Weber, and Rob Williams.\* 2020. "Under the Roof of Rebels: Civilian Targeting After Territorial Takeover in Sierra Leone." *International Studies Quarterly* 64(2): 295–305. doi:[10.1093/isq/sqaa009](https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqaa009).

Scogin, Shana, Johannes Karreth, Andreas Beger, and Rob Williams. 2019. "BayesPostEst: An R Package to Generate Postestimation Quantities for Bayesian MCMC Estimation." *Journal of Open Source Software* 4(42): 1722. doi:[10.21105/joss.01722](https://doi.org/10.21105/joss.01722).

Williams, Rob, Daniel J. Gustafson, Stephen E. Gent, and Mark J.C. Crescenzi. 2020. "A Latent Variable Approach to Measuring and Explaining Peace Agreement Strength." *Political Science Research and Methods*. doi:[10.1017/psrm.2019.23](https://doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2019.23).

## UNDER REVIEW "The Curse of Geography: How Governments Preempt Secession Attempts" Revise & Resubmit.

## SOFTWARE

Karreth, Johannes, Shana Scogin, Rob Williams, and Andreas Beger. [BayesPostEst: Generate Postestimation Quantities for Bayesian MCMC Estimation](#). 2019. Available on CRAN, version 0.2.0.

<b>PAPERS IN PREPARATION</b>	<p><i>"PASS: Peace Agreement Strength Scores"</i></p> <p><i>"Terrorism, Repression, and Stealth Aggression" with Navin Bapat and Daniel Gustafson</i></p> <p><i>"Unsettled Borders in a Market Context" with Bailee Donahue and Mark Crescenzi</i></p> <p><i>"Border Walls, Cooperation and Illicit Trade" with David Carter and Bailee Donahue</i></p> <p><i>"Mapping Extremist Networks with Visual Imagery"</i></p> <p><i>"Extracting Road Networks from Spatial Data" with Ryan Denniston, Juan Tellez, and Howard Liu</i></p> <p><i>"Gaussian Process Models for Spatial Data"</i></p>														
<b>CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS</b>	<table> <tr> <td>International Studies Association Midwest</td><td>2019</td></tr> <tr> <td>Peace Science Society (International)</td><td>2016, 2018, 2019</td></tr> <tr> <td>American Political Science Association</td><td>2019</td></tr> <tr> <td>Politics and Computational Social Science</td><td>2019</td></tr> <tr> <td>Society for Political Methodology</td><td>2018, 2019</td></tr> <tr> <td>International Studies Association</td><td>2017, 2019</td></tr> <tr> <td>Midwest Political Science Association</td><td>2018</td></tr> </table>	International Studies Association Midwest	2019	Peace Science Society (International)	2016, 2018, 2019	American Political Science Association	2019	Politics and Computational Social Science	2019	Society for Political Methodology	2018, 2019	International Studies Association	2017, 2019	Midwest Political Science Association	2018
International Studies Association Midwest	2019														
Peace Science Society (International)	2016, 2018, 2019														
American Political Science Association	2019														
Politics and Computational Social Science	2019														
Society for Political Methodology	2018, 2019														
International Studies Association	2017, 2019														
Midwest Political Science Association	2018														
<b>INVITED TALKS</b>	University of Missouri Kansas City, Spring 2020 (scheduled)														
<b>RESEARCH INTERESTS</b>	Rebel goals and aims, conflict preemption, low level political violence, conflict resolution, Bayesian inference, measurement models, spatial statistics														
<b>AWARDS AND HONORS</b>	<p>Thomas M. Uhlman Summer Research Fellowship (2016, 2018, 2019), \$6,000</p> <p>Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching (2019), \$2,500</p> <p>Dean's Graduate Fellowship (2018-2019), \$5,000</p> <p>Graduate Student Transportation Grant (2019), \$1,000</p> <p>Graduate and Professional Student Federation Travel Award (2018), \$400</p> <p>ISA Annual Conference Travel Grant (2017), \$180</p> <p>Whit Ayres Travel Award (2017), \$160</p> <p>Departmental Honors in Political Science (2012)</p>														
<b>TEACHING INTERESTS</b>	Conflict processes, terrorism and political violence, conflict management and resolution, quantitative methodology, spatial modeling														
<b>TEACHING EXPERIENCE</b>	<p><b>Washington University in St. Louis</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Instructor</b></p>														

---

\*Equal authorship statement

- PS 3090: The Scientific Study of Civil War (Spring 2020)
- PS 3171: International Conflict Management & Resolution (Fall 2019)

### The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

#### Instructor

- Poli 281 Quantitative Research in Political Science (Spring 2019)
- Poli 891 Lab for Advanced Topics in Political Data Science (Fall 2017, Fall 2018)
  - Received Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching

#### Teaching Assistant

- Poli 787 Advanced Topics in Political Data Science (Fall 2017, Fall 2018)
- Poli 150 Introduction to International Relations and World Politics (Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018)
- Poli 203 Race, Innocence, and the Decline of the Death Penalty (Spring 2016)

### ICPSR Summer Program

#### Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to Applied Bayesian Modeling (Summer 2017)

#### TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical computing in R, Python, and Stata, Bayesian inference with Stan and JAGS, reproducible research with R Markdown, GIS in R, version control with git, high performance computing, containerization with Singularity, Bash

#### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

### The Odum Institute for Research in Social Science

- **Data Verification:** Performed replication and verification of author submitted R, Python, and Stata code for manuscripts accepted for publication in *The American Journal of Political Science* and *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, contributed to the development of best practices for authors (2016-2019)
- **Teaching Assistant** Assisted faculty instructors in a weeklong course targeted towards working data science professionals (2015)

### ITS Research Computing

- **Support Specialist:** Assisted users of high performance clusters and virtual computing resources on campus, taught introductory R course to research community at UNC (2019)

## SERVICE

### Workshop Organization

- “Measuring and Conceptualizing Rebel Governance,” 2019 PSS(I) Annual Meeting, with Amelia Hoover Green
- “Advancing Measurement in the Study of Conflict and Political Violence,” 2018 PSS(I) Annual Meeting, with Johannes Karreth & Elizabeth Menninga

### Panel Organization

- “Measuring the Less Violent Tools of Statecraft,” 2019 ISA Midwest Annual Conference
- “Measuring Strategic Interaction in Conflict with Event Data,” 2019 APSA Annual Conference, with Johannes Karreth

### Departmental Service

- Graduate student peer mentor (2019)
- Coordinator, Methods and Design Workshop (2018-2019)
- Coordinator, Spatial Methods Working Group (2016-2018)

### Reviewer

*International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Civil Wars, Oxford University Press*

## AFFILIATIONS

Peace Science Society (International), International Studies Association, Society for Political Methodology, American Political Science Association

## REFERENCES

Mark Crescenzi  
Professor

*The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
[crescenzi@unc.edu](mailto:crescenzi@unc.edu)

Stephen Gent  
Associate Professor

*The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
[gent@email.unc.edu](mailto:gent@email.unc.edu)

Santiago Olivella  
Assistant Professor

*The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*  
[olivella@email.unc.edu](mailto:olivella@email.unc.edu)