

Rob Williams

CONTACT INFORMATION

Weidenbaum Center
Washington University in St. Louis
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APPOINTMENTS Washington University in St. Louis

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Weidenbaum Center 2020

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Political Science 2019-2020

EDUCATION The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D., Political Science 2019

- Dissertation: "The Geography of Secession"
- Committee: Mark J.C. Crescenzi (chair), Navin A. Bapat, Stephen E. Gent, Patricia L. 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 Williams, Rob. "The Curse of Geography: How Governments Preempt Secession Attempts" conditionally accepted at *Conflict Management and Peace Science*

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. 2021. "A Latent Variable Approach to Measuring and Explaining Peace Agreement Strength." *Political Science Research and Methods* 9(1): 89-105. doi:[10.1017/psrm.2019.23](https://doi.org/10.1017/psrm.2019.23).

UNDER REVIEW "PASS: Peace Agreement Strength Scores"

"Unsettled Borders in a Market Context" with Bailee Donahue and Mark Crescenzi

WORKING PAPERS	<p><i>“Non-Combatants or Counter-Insurgents? The Strategic Logic of Violence against UN Peacekeeping” with Patrick Hunnicutt and William G. Nomikos</i></p> <p><i>“Terrorism, Repression, and Stealth Aggression” with Navin Bapat and Daniel Gustafson</i></p>														
PAPERS IN PREPARATION	<p><i>“Border Walls, Cooperation, Illicit Trade” with David Carter and Bailee Donahue</i></p> <p><i>“Mapping Extremist Networks with Visual Imagery”</i></p> <p><i>“Gaussian Process Models for Spatial Data”</i></p>														
OTHER WRITING	Nomikos, William G., Melanie Sauter, Rob Williams, and Patrick Hunnicutt. 2020. “The military has ousted Mali’s president. That raises questions about the country’s ongoing security challenges.” <i>Washington Post</i> .														
CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	<table> <tr> <td>American Political Science Association</td> <td>2020</td> </tr> <tr> <td>International Studies Association Midwest</td> <td>2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Peace Science Society (International)</td> <td>2019, 2018, 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Politics and Computational Social Science</td> <td>2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Society for Political Methodology</td> <td>2019, 2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>International Studies Association</td> <td>2019, 2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Midwest Political Science Association</td> <td>2018</td> </tr> </table>	American Political Science Association	2020	International Studies Association Midwest	2019	Peace Science Society (International)	2019, 2018, 2016	Politics and Computational Social Science	2019	Society for Political Methodology	2019, 2018	International Studies Association	2019, 2017	Midwest Political Science Association	2018
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Society for Political Methodology	2019, 2018														
International Studies Association	2019, 2017														
Midwest Political Science Association	2018														
INVITED TALKS	University of Missouri Kansas City, Spring 2020														
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Conflict preemption, low level political violence, micro-level conflict dynamics, conflict resolution, Bayesian inference, measurement models														
AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS	<table> <tr> <td>Thomas M. Uhlman Summer Research Fellowship, \$6,000</td> <td>2019, 2018, 2016</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching, \$2,500</td> <td>2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Dean’s Graduate Fellowship, \$5,000</td> <td>2018-2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Graduate Student Transportation Grant, \$1,000</td> <td>2019</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Graduate and Professional Student Federation Travel Award, \$400</td> <td>2018</td> </tr> <tr> <td>ISA Annual Conference Travel Grant, \$180</td> <td>2017</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Whit Ayres Travel Award, \$160</td> <td>2017</td> </tr> </table>	Thomas M. Uhlman Summer Research Fellowship, \$6,000	2019, 2018, 2016	Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching, \$2,500	2019	Dean’s Graduate Fellowship, \$5,000	2018-2019	Graduate Student Transportation Grant, \$1,000	2019	Graduate and Professional Student Federation Travel Award, \$400	2018	ISA Annual Conference Travel Grant, \$180	2017	Whit Ayres Travel Award, \$160	2017
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TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p>Washington University in St. Louis</p> <p>Instructor</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> PS 3090: The Scientific Study of Civil War 2020 PS 3171: International Conflict Management & Resolution 2019 														

*Equal authorship

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Instructor

- Poli 281: Quantitative Research in Political Science 2019
- Poli 891: Advanced Topics in Political Data Science Lab 2018, 2017

Teaching Assistant

- Poli 150: International Relations and World Politics 2018, 2017, 2016, 2015
- Poli 203: Race, Innocence, and the Decline of the Death Penalty 2016

ICPSR Summer Program

Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to Applied Bayesian Modeling 2017

TEACHING INTERESTS

Conflict processes, terrorism and political violence, conflict management and resolution, quantitative methodology, spatial modeling

SOFTWARE

RWmisc: Miscellaneous Spatial Functions. Williams, Rob.

BayesPostEst: Generate Postestimation Quantities for Bayesian MCMC Estimation. Karreth, Johannes, Shana Scogin, Rob Williams, and Andreas Beger.

TECHNICAL SKILLS

Statistical computing in R and Python; Bayesian inference with Stan and JAGS; reproducible research with R Markdown; GIS in R; Shiny; webscraping; high performance computing; containerization with Singularity and Docker; git; 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

Discussant

- “Rebel Group Organization and Formation,” 2020 APSA Annual Conference

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 Peace Research, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Comparative Political Studies, World Politics, Civil Wars, Oxford University Press, Princeton University Press, Journal of Open Source Software

AFFILIATIONS

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

REFERENCES

Mark J.C. Crescenzi
Nancy Hanes White Distinguished
Professor and Chair
The University of North Carolina
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David B. Carter
Associate Professor
Washington University in St. Louis
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Santiago Olivella
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Stephen E. Gent
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