Rob Williams

CONTACT INFORMATION
Department of Political Science
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APPOINTMENTS   Washington University in St. Louis

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Political Science   2020-

Postdoctoral Research Associate, Department of Political Science   2019-'20

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.

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.

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.

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

"PASS: Peace Agreement Strength Scores"

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

[*]Equal authorship statement

PAPERS IN PREPARATION

"Non-Combatants or Counter-Insurgents? The Strategic Logic of Violence against UN Peacekeeping" *with Patrick Hunnicutt and William G. Nomikos*

"Terrorism, Repression, and Stealth Aggression" *with Navin Bapat and Daniel Gustafson*

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

"Border Walls, Cooperation, Illicit Trade" *with David Carter and Bailee Donahue*

"Mapping Extremist Networks with Visual Imagery"

"Extracting Road Networks from Spatial Data" *with Ryan Denniston, Juan Tellez, and Howard Liu*

"Gaussian Process Models for Spatial Data"

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." *Washington Post*.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

International Borders in a Globalizing World	2021
American Political Science Association	2020, '19
International Studies Association Midwest	2019
Peace Science Society (International)	2019, '18, '16
Politics and Computational Social Science	2019
Society for Political Methodology	2019, '18
International Studies Association	2019, '17
Midwest Political Science Association	2018

INVITED TALKS

2020
University of Missouri–Kansas City

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Rebel goals and aims, conflict preemption, low level political violence, conflict resolution, Bayesian inference, measurement models, spatial statistics

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Thomas M. Uhlman Summer Research Fellowship, $6,000	2019, '18, '16
Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching, $2,500	2019
Dean's Graduate Fellowship, $5,000	2018-'19
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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE	**Washington University in St. Louis**

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Instructor

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- The Scientific Study of Civil War — 2020
- International Conflict Management & Resolution — 2019

The University *of* North Carolina *at* Chapel Hill

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Instructor

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- Quantitative Research in Political Science — 2019
- Advanced Topics in Political Data Science Lab — 2018, '17

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Teaching Assistant

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- Introduction to International Relations and World Politics — 2018, '17, '16, '15
- Race, Innocence, and the Decline of the Death Penalty — 2016

ICPSR Summer Program

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Teaching Assistant

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- Introduction to Applied Bayesian Modeling — 2017

TEACHING INTERESTS

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

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*, *Journal of Open Source Software*

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

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