

# Rob Williams

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Weidenbaum Center  
Washington University in St. Louis  
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St. Louis, Missouri 63130

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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. "Teaching Programming Skills in Methods Courses is an Opportunity, not a Burden" Accepted at *PS: Political Science & Politics*.

Williams, Rob. OnlineFirst. "Turning the Lights on to Keep Them in the Fold: How Governments Preempt Secession Attempts." *Conflict Management and Peace Science*. doi:[10.1177/07388942211015242](https://doi.org/10.1177/07388942211015242)

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).

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\*Equal authorship

<b>UNDER REVIEW</b>	<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>“Border Walls, Cooperation, Illicit Trade” with David Carter B. and Bailee Donahue</i></p>	
<b>WORKING PAPERS</b>	<p><i>“Unsettled Borders in a Market Context” with Bailee Donahue and Mark Crescenzi</i></p> <p><i>“PASS: Peace Agreement Strength Scores”</i></p> <p><i>“Terrorism, Repression, and Stealth Aggression” with Navin Bapat and Daniel Gustafson</i></p>	
<b>PAPERS IN PREPARATION</b>	<p><i>“Mapping Extremist Networks with Visual Imagery”</i></p> <p><i>“Gaussian Process Models for Spatial Data”</i></p>	
<b>OTHER WRITING</b>	<p>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>.</p>	
<b>CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS</b>	American Political Science Association	2019, 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
<b>INVITED TALKS</b>	University of Missouri Kansas City, Spring 2020	
<b>RESEARCH INTERESTS</b>	Conflict preemption, low level political violence, micro-level conflict dynamics, conflict resolution, Bayesian inference, measurement models	
<b>AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS</b>	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
<b>TEACHING EXPERIENCE</b>	<p><b>Washington University in St. Louis</b></p> <p style="text-align: right;"><b>Instructor</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• PS 3090: The Scientific Study of Civil War 2020</li> <li>• PS 3171: International Conflict Management &amp; Resolution 2019</li> </ul>	

## 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 Docker and Singularity; git; Bash

**CERTIFICATIONS** **The Carpentries**  

- **Certified Instructor:** Trained in evidence-based pedagogy for teaching foundational computational and data science skills to diverse groups of researchers

**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, Conflict Management and Peace Science, 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  
[crescenzi@unc.edu](mailto:crescenzi@unc.edu)

### David B. Carter

Associate Professor  
Washington University in St. Louis  
[davidcarter@wustl.edu](mailto:davidcarter@wustl.edu)

### William G. Nomikos

Assistant Professor  
Washington University in St. Louis  
[wnomikos@wustl.edu](mailto:wnomikos@wustl.edu)

### Santiago Olivella

Associate Professor  
The University of North Carolina  
[olivella@email.unc.edu](mailto:olivella@email.unc.edu)

### Stephen E. Gent

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