# Bethany Leap

Ph.D Student, American University School of Public Affairs

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## Research Interests

**Political Violence:**
- Radicalization; Deradicalization; Extremist Behavior; Right-Wing Extremism; Terrorism.

**Methodology:**
- Bayesian Modeling; Markov chain Monte Carlo; Text as Data; Causal Inference; Measurement; Multiple Imputation.

**Data Science:**
- Big Data; High Performance Computing; Social Media Mining; Applied Machine Learning.

## Education

**American University**, Ph.D. Justice, Law, and Criminology                              2024
    **Fields:** Justice; Political Methodology

**Gardner-Webb University**, B.A. Global Studies                              2019

### Additional Training

**ICPSR Summer Program**, University of Michigan
    *Maximum Likelihood Estimation II: Advanced Topics*, Session II (with Dr. David Darmofal)
**SPA Analytics and Management Institute**, American University
    *Text Analysis Using R*, Summer 2020 (with Dr. Andy Ballard)
    *Principles of GIS Mapping*, Fall 2020 (with Dr. Meagan Snow)

## Research Experience

**Polarization and Extremism Research Innovation Lab (PERIL)**
Graduate Research Fellow                              2020 - Present

**American University School of Public Affairs**
Graduate Research Assistant                              2019 - Present

**University of North Carolina at Charlotte**
Project Data Scientist                              2018 - 2019

## Teaching Experience

**Teaching Assistant**

*SPA 614: Conduct of Inquiry III*, American University, Fall 2021 (with Dr. Claudia Persico)

*Data Science and Text Analysis*, ICPSR Summer Program, Institute for Social Research, University of Michigan, Summer 2021 (with Dr. Matthew Denny and Dr. Kelsey Shoub)

*JLC 681: Introduction to Justice Methods II*, American University, Spring 2020/2021 (with Dr. Joe Young)
*SPA 300: Experimenting with Violence (Honors Colloqium)*, American University, Fall 2020 (with Dr. Joe Young)

### Guest Lecturer

"Methods for Researching the Far Right." *GLST 490: The Rise of Authoritarian Populism*, Department of Social Sciences, Gardner-Webb University, Spring 2021.

## Publications

### Book Chapters

**Leap, B.**, & Young, J. Radicalization and deradicalization. (2021). In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies*. Oxford University Press. doi: https://doi.org/10.1093/acrefore/9780190846626.013.601.

### Manuscripts in Progress

"Terrorizing Democracy? A Bayesian Analysis of Terrorism's Effects on Democratic Institutions," with Erica Chenoweth and Joe Young.

"A Machine Learning Approach to Predicting Behavioral Radicalization among the Far Right."

"A Computational Approach to Combatting the Pitfalls of Terrorism Data"

"Using Computational Text Analysis to Analyze Trends in the Radicalization Literature."

"Mapping the Far Right," with Joe Young and Cynthia Miller-Idriss.

## Conferences and Talks

"Death & Math; or Why We Like Terrorism... Research," with Joe Young. Admitted Doctoral Student Day, School of Public Affairs, American University, Washington, DC, March 2021.

"Terrorizing Democracy? A Bayesian Analysis of Terrorism's Effects on Democratic Institutions." *Tri-School Doctoral Research Conference*, Washington, DC, March 2021.

"Ticking Time Bombs: The Effects of Indiscriminate Violence on Civil War Outcomes." *Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting*, Chicago, IL, April 2019.

"Ticking Time Bombs: The Effects of Indiscriminate Violence on Civil War Outcomes." *Life-of-the-Scholar Multidisciplinary Conference*, Boiling Springs, NC, March 2019.

## Selected Awards

**Summer Research Award.** American University ($5,200). 2021.
**Summer Research Award.** American University ($5,200). 2020.
**Graduate Assistantship.** American University. 2019 - 2024.
**Region III Graduate Scholarship.** Alpha Chi National College Honor Society ($1,000). 2019.
**Summer Scholars Undergraduate Research Award.** Gardner-Webb University ($2,000). 2018.

## Skills

**Analysis:** Bayesian inference, regression (parametric/non-parametric), Markov chain Monte Carlo (MCMC), Gibbs Sampling, Metropolis Sampling, multiple imputation, experimental design, probability, prediction, sampling, clustering, matching, panel and longitudinal data, factor analysis, supervised/unsupervised machine learning, content analysis, natural language processing.

**Programming:** R (scripts, projects, package development), Python, JAGS, Stan, Markdown, C/C++

**Other software:** Stata, LaTeX, SPSS, SQL, Git, Hadoop, Qualtrics

**Operative Systems:** MacOS (advanced), Windows

**Languages:** English (native), Russian (intermediate proficiency), German (basic), Spanish (basic)

## Professional Services and Memberships

### Professional Service

**Reviewer** for *Political Analysis*

### Memberships

International Studies Association (ISA), Midwest Political Science Association, Society for Political Methodology, Royal Statistical Society.

## References

Available upon request.