

Clayton Thomas Besaw

CONTACT INFORMATION

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political Violence, Political Psychology, and Computational Methods: Insurgency, Terrorism, Conflict Ecology, Organizational Behavior, Learning, Emotion, Beliefs, Experimental Design, Quasi-Experimental Design, Data Mining, Content Analysis.

EDUCATION

University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

Ph.D., Security Studies, 2017 (Expected)

Graduate Certificate, Data Mining, May 2016 (Expected)

B.A, Political Science, May 2011

2015 ICPSR Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, Ann Arbor, Michigan (University of Michigan).

Causal Inference Workshop

Advanced Maximum Likelihood Workshop

Text Analysis with Statistical Learning Workshop

Universität Wien, Vienna, Austria.

Certificate., German as a Foreign Language, July 2010

- B1.2 EU Language Certification

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

ICCAE Program Assistant

December 2014 to Present

UCF Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence

- Description: Assisting with programming and workshop creation for the newly established UCF Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (ICAAEE).

Graduate Research Assistant

November 2012 to Present

Department of Political Science, University of Central Florida

- Professor Mark Schafer, December 2014 to Present.
- Description: Assisting with creation of the first large scale quantitative data set of political leader psychology.
- Associate Professor Peter Jacques, November 2012 to April 2013
- Description: Assisted in a grant funded research project, which used twitter data to visualize climate change beliefs before and after Hurricane Sandy.

Graduate Student Mentor

May 2015 to August 2015

UCF Preparing Future Researchers Program

- Description: Serving as a graduate mentor for a UCF summer research program that seeks to introduce undergraduate students to topics of academic research and graduate school life.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

August 2014 to December 2014

Department of Political Science (University of Central Florida)

- INR2002 (International Relations-Theory and Practice)
- POS3703 (Scope and Methods of Political Science)
- POS6736 (Conduct of Political Inquiry)

START 2014 Summer Fellow on Illicit Networks

May 2014 to August 2014

National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, University of Maryland

- Supervisors: [Brandon Behlendorf](#) and [Michelle Jacome](#)
- Description: Conducted qualitative and quantitative network research on illicit trafficking networks in support of a multi-year research project funded by the Department of Homeland Security. Developed case studies concerning the mechanisms by which smuggling/trafficking networks operate and are interdicted.

Terrorism Studies Research Fellow

August 2013 to January 2014

Office of Global Perspectives, University of Central Florida

- Description: Researcher (Global Terrorism) and Event Assistance. Developed weekly briefings on global terrorism events.

NON-PEER
REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS

Besaw, C., Greene, K., Jacome, M. "Failure Points in Smuggling Networks: A Case Study of the Soto-Huarta Network." College Park, MD: START, 2014.

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS

Schafer, M., Walker, S., **Besaw, C.,** Gill, P., Smith, G. "Psychological Correlates and U.S. Conflict Behavior: Introducing a New Data Set." *Prepared for the International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting.* Warsaw, Poland. July, 2016 (Submitted)

Schafer, M., Walker, S., **Besaw, C.,** Gill, P., Smith, G. "Psychological Correlates and U.S. Conflict Behavior: Introducing a New Data Set." *Prepared for the British International Studies Association Annual Meeting.* Edinburgh, Scotland. June, 2016 (Submitted)

Besaw, C. "The Politics of Outbidding: Revisiting the Israel-Palestine Conflict Through Time-Series Analysis." *Prepared for the University of Central Florida 2016 Graduate Research Forum.* Orlando, Florida. April, 2016 (Submitted)

Semmelbeck, J., **Besaw, C.** "The Influence of Organizational Structure on Crime-Terror Cooperation." *Prepared for the International Centre for Comparative Criminology's Annual Illicit Networks Workshop.* Montreal, QC. November, 2015

Besaw, C., Payne, J., Williams, J. "Personality, Beliefs, and the Use of Violence in Ethno-Political Organizations." *Prepared for the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.* San Francisco, CA. September, 2015

Besaw, C. "Personality of War: Social Dominance Orientation, Right Wing Authoritarian Personality, and War Behavior." *Prepared for the International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting.* San Diego, CA. July, 2015

Besaw, C., Schafer, M. "Profiler Plus, RWA Personality, and U.S. Conflict Behavior." *Presented at the International Studies Association Annual Meeting.* New Orleans, LA. February, 2015

Besaw, C. "Deadly Premonition: Can Terrorist-Leader Psychology Predict Terrorist-Group Lethality?." *Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting.* New Orleans, LA. January, 2014.

Williams, J., **Besaw, C.,** Payne, J. "The Terrorism Psychology Project: Leadership Psychology as a Potential Salient Variable in Quantitative Terrorism Studies." *Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting.* New Orleans, LA. January, 2014.

Payne, J., and **Besaw, C.** "Extremist Leaders: A Case Analysis of Velupillai Prabhakaran and Sri Lankan Violent Extremism." *Presented at the Southern Criminal Justice Association Annual Meeting.* Virginia Beach, VA. September, 2013.

	<p>Besaw, C., Payne, J., Williams, J. "What Drives Extremist Leaders? A Psychological Comparison of Terrorist-Leaders and State-Leaders." <i>Presented at the Southern Criminal Justice Association Annual Meeting</i>. Virginia Beach, VA. September 2013.</p> <p>Besaw, C. "An Organizational model of Crime-Terror Cooperation." <i>Presented at the Florida Political Science Association Annual Conference</i>. Florida International University. Miami, FL. March, 2013.</p> <p>Besaw, C. "An Empirical Analysis of the Criminal-Based Strategies of Terrorist and Insurgent Organizations." <i>Presented at the Globalization, Information, Policy & Knowledge Production (GIP & KP) Conference</i>. University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL. February, 2013.</p>
GRANTS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS	<p>2015 ICPSR Travel Grant, Political Science Department, University of Central Florida (Tuition, Travel, and Housing funded).</p> <p>Best MA Thesis (Departmental, 2013-2014), Besaw, C., "Deadly Premonition: Does Terrorist-Leader Psychology Influence Violence Lethality?" (Committee members Drs. Mark Schafer (Chair), Peter Jacques, and Michael Mousseau).</p> <p>Besaw, C. ISA New Orleans Travel Grant Award, "Profiler Plus, RWA Personality, and U.S. Conflict Behavior.", International Studies Association, 2015 (\$300 Funded).</p> <p>Besaw, C. Graduate Research Fellowship Award, "Profiler Plus, RWA Personality, and U.S. Conflict Behavior.", UCF College of Graduate Studies, 2014-2015 (\$500 Funded).</p> <p>Besaw, C. START Summer Fellowship on Illicit Networks, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, 2014. (\$4,000 Funded).</p> <p>Botts, G., Priest, D., Cintron, R., Cox, T., Owens, T., Besaw, C., Theiss, E. Title: <i>Increasing Research Fluency for SLS Faculty</i>. Grant project that seeks to increase SLS1501 faculty knowledge about teaching academic level research skills. Worked on development of methodology for the assessment of SLS faculty during the project. Information Fluency Grant, 2013-2014. (\$3,000 Funded).</p> <p>Priest, D., Stinard, C., Besaw, C. NASPA Excellence Award (Category Silver), "Transferring to Success: The Role of Transfer Orientation on Transfer Student Success." Award to honor outstanding work in Enrollment Management, Financial Aid, Orientation, Parents, Persistence, First-Year, Other-year, and related. January 2014.</p> <p>Besaw, C. Terrorism Studies Research Fellowship, Global Perspectives, 2013. (\$500 Funded).</p> <p>Besaw, C. Graduate Research Fellowship Award, "Terrorist-leader psychology project. These funds helped in the creation of a unique dataset for the study of terrorist-leader psychology on terrorist-group behavior.", UCF College of Graduate Studies, 2013-2014. (\$300 Funded).</p> <p>Besaw, C. Graduate Research Fellowship Award, "Crime-terror cooperation. These funds aided in a creation of an empirical project on the topic of terrorist cooperation with criminal organizations.", UCF College of Graduate Studies, 2012-2013. (\$250 Funded).</p>
INVITED TALKS	<p>Dolan, T., Besaw, C. (February, 2015). "The Determinants of Insurgency: A Study of Occupied France." Brown Bag Research Seminar, University of Central Florida, Orlando, Florida.</p> <p>Besaw, C., Hofmann, D. (July, 2014). "The Role of Leadership in Terrorist-Organizations." National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.</p>
PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP	<p>American Political Science Association, Member, 2013–present</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Experimental Research Section, 2013 to Present

International Studies Association, Member, 2011–present

International Society of Political Psychology, Member, 2013–present

PROFESSIONAL
SKILLS

Programming:

- R, Stata, WinRATS, Python, Jekyll, BUGS(open/win), JAGS, \LaTeX (\LTeX , \BibTeX)

Quantitative Methods

- Liner and Generalized Linear Regression modeling
- Time Series Analysis: Vector Autoregression, Box-Jenkins, ARCH/GARCH, Dynamic Conditional Correlation, Panel/Time Series-Cross Sectional, Event History/Survival Analysis, Fractional Integration (Δ_f).
- Data Mining: Lasso, Trees, Naive Bayes, Latent Factors, Clustering, Logistic Regression.
- Text Analysis: Content Analysis Design, Sentiment Analysis and Library Creation, Latent Dirichlet Allocation, Neural Network/Deep Learning, Deductive at-a-distance psychological analysis (Operational Code, Leadership Trait Analysis, Big-five Traits).
- Matching: Propensity, CEM, Mahalanobis.

Language

- English (Native), German (Working), Dutch (Conversational), Spanish (Conversational)

OTHER
EMPLOYMENT

Data Analysis Consultant and Project Manager

May 2014 to August 2014

Student Development and Enrollment Services, University of Central Florida

- Supervisor: DeLaine Priest (Associate Vice President)
- Description: Management of the data driven "Summer Retention Forecasting Project". Grant, Article, and Conference Paper production. Training of incoming graduate assistants.

Graduate Assistant

May 2013 to May 2014

Student Development and Enrollment Services, University of Central Florida

- Position: Data Analysis and Academic Research
- Description: Assistance with grant writing, data collection, survey creation. Help inform academic policy with empirical reports regarding student retention and academic success.

Researcher & Assistant

November 2012 to April 2013

Political Ecology Lab (UCF), University of Central Florida

- Description: Assisted in lab research projects and supervised undergraduate researchers. Helped create the organization website for the Political Ecology Lab.

VOLUNTEER

Science Fair Judge (December, 2014)

- Leaders Preparatory School - Orlando, Florida
- Physics, Engineering, Mathematics, Computer Science

STEM Day UCF (January, 2015)

- Assisted with programming and activities.
- Helped to promote STEM and social science careers to K - 12 students from the Orlando public school system.

REFERENCES

Available on request.