

Christopher Grady

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EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL

Ph.D., Political Science, August 2020

Fields: Comparative Politics, Methods

Dissertation: Group Conflict and Intergroup Contact

Committee: James H. Kuklinski (co-chair), Jake Bowers (co-chair), Cara Wong, Justin Rhodes.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI

B.A., Political Science (University Honors), May 2011

Grand Rapids Community College, Grand Rapids, MI

A.A., School of Arts and Sciences (Dean's List), May 2009

RESEARCH POSITIONS

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

March 2025 - Present

Research Affiliate, MIT Governance Lab (GOV/LAB)

American University

March 2025 - Present

Research Fellow, Research on International Policy Implementation Lab (RIPIL)

EI Research Partners

March 2025 - Present

Founding Partner

United States Agency for International Development

October 2020 - March 2025

Senior Metrics Advisor

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substantive: Political psychology, behavioral science, international development, conflict, taxation, commitment problems.

Methodological: Experimental design and analysis, survey design and survey experiments, causal inference and quasi-experimental methods, machine learning.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- **Christopher Grady**, Rebecca Wolfe, Danjuma Dawop, and Lisa Inks. "How contact can promote societal change amid conflict: An intergroup contact field experiment in Nigeria" *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*, 2023.
- **Christopher Grady**, Alice Iannantuoni, and Matthew Winters. "Influencing the means but not the ends: The role of entertainment-education interventions in development." *World Development*, 2021.
- Gustavo Diaz, **Christopher Grady**, and James Kuklinski. "Survey Experiments and the Quest for Valid Interpretation." *Sage Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science and International Relations*. London: Sage, 2020.
- **Christopher Grady**. "NSF Grants in Legislative Politics: An Interview with Brian Humes." *Legislative Scholar*, Spring 2017.

METHODOLOGY GUIDES

- Jake Bowers, **Christopher Grady**, and Gustavo Diaz. "Estimating Average Treatment Effects in Block Randomized Experiments." *EGAP Standards Discussion*, 2021.
- **Christopher Grady**. "10 Things to Know about Survey Experiments." *EGAP Methods Guides*, 2020.
- **Christopher Grady** and Nuole Chen. "10 Things to Know about Pre-Analysis Plans." *EGAP Methods Guides*, 2019.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- Nuole Chen, **Christopher Grady**, Boniface Dulani, Mwayi Masumbu, Busta Munthali Chiona, Jake Bowers, and Matthew Winters. “Public Service Delivery and the Virtuous Circle: Evidence from Malawi.” *Under review*.
- **Christopher Grady**, Nuole Chen, Boniface Dulani, Mwayi Masumbu, Jake Bowers, and Matthew S. Winters. “The Limits of Information as a Tool to Increase Tax Compliance: Results from an Information Campaign in the Context of a Service Delivery Shock in Malawi.”
- Ana De La O, Donald Green, ..., **Christopher Grady**, Nuole Chen, and Susan Hyde. “Barriers to Formalization: Evidence from Six Randomized Experiments on Transaction Costs, Public Services, and Taxation in the Global South.”
- **Christopher Grady**, Jake Bowers, and Annette Brown. “Teaching Nonviolence and Tolerance in Northern Nigeria Through Television Programs.”
- **Christopher Grady**. “Aid for Peace: The Effect of Foreign Aid on Violent Conflict.”
- **Christopher Grady**. “Contact itself or contact’s success? How intergroup contact improves attitudes.”

SELECTED POLICY PUBLICATIONS

- **Christopher Grady**. “Reducing the influence of false information.” [EIRP Insights](#), 2025.
- **Christopher Grady**. “The effects of repression on nonprofit organizations.” [EIRP Insights](#), 2025.
- **Christopher Grady**. “Democracy in 2024: Soul Searching Amidst Decline.” [USAID Learning Digest](#), 2024.
- **Christopher Grady**. “The AI Takeover: Is AI Scary? And How Can Development Harness the Power of Large Language Models?” [USAID Learning Digest](#), 2023.
- **Christopher Grady**. “Democracy in 2023: Stagnation, Resilience, and Controversy.” [USAID Learning Digest](#), 2023.
- **Christopher Grady** and Levi Adelman. “A Case for Democracy I: Public Goods Provision, Social Protections, Education, and Health.” [USAID Learning Digest](#), 2022.
- **Christopher Grady** and Levi Adelman. “A Case for Democracy II: Economic Growth, Global Peace, Climate Change, and Transparency.” [USAID Learning Digest](#), 2022.
- **Christopher Grady**. “Democratization and Backsliding: Theories and Evidence.” [USAID Learning Digest](#), 2021.
- Danjuma Dawop, **Christopher Grady**, Lisa Inks, and Rebecca Wolfe. “Engaging Communities for Peace in Nigeria: Impact Evaluation.” [Mercy Corps Report](#), 2019.
- **Christopher Grady**. “Aid For Peace: Does Foreign Aid Deter Violence?” [International Foundation for Electoral Systems Fellowship Report](#), 2017.
- **Christopher Grady** and Rebecca Chapman. “New Media in Burkina Faso, Chad, and Niger: Survey Results and Analysis.” [USAID Report](#), 2015.

PROFESSIONAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Senior Metrics Advisor

October 2020 - March 2025

United States Agency for International Development, Washington, DC

- Serve as a top-level research and methodology expert for USAID globally. Received three Meritorious Honor Awards in recognition of exceptional performance.
- Managed a multi-million dollar portfolio of over 30 research projects from design to dissemination.
- Develop Bureau’s research agenda, identifying priority research questions for effective development programs.
- Lead and conduct statistical analyses to determine effect of USAID programs on key outcomes.
- Lead efforts to translate research into recommendations and integrate recommendations into development programs.
- Hire and supervise research staff, including a Knowledge Management Specialist, AAAS Behavioral Science Fellow, and Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities (HACU) Intern.

Co-Principal Investigator

April 2017 - October 2020

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL and Zomba, Malawi

- Designed, managed, and implemented \$210,000+ grant for Metaketa II project in Malawi. Metaketa II is an EGAP/DFID funded project to evaluate interventions that increase citizens’ formalization with the state.
- Wrote grant proposal. Developed research question, experimental design, data collection tools, and analysis plan.
- Led field research. Managed 20+ person research team conducting surveys and implementing intervention.
- Organized and presented at dissemination events in Zomba, in Malawi’s capital of Lilongwe, and in Urbana-Champaign.

Lead Researcher

June 2015 – May 2019

Mercy Corps, USA and Nigeria

- Designed and implemented RCT to determine effect of *Engaging Communities for Peace in Nigeria* (ECPN), a USAID funded peacebuilding program to reduce farmer-pastoralist conflict through cooperative intergroup contact.
- Wrote and received NSF grant. Developed experimental design, data collection instruments, and analysis code. Led data collection and data analysis.
- Led field research. Managed two 10+ person survey teams conducting baseline and endline surveys in rural Nigeria.

Researcher

February 2014 – May 2018

Equal Access International, USA and Nigeria

- Designed and implemented research to evaluate the effect of *Arewa24*, a U.S. Department of State funded peacebuilding program that broadcasts Hausa-language programming to counter violent extremism in northern Nigeria.
- Designed twenty-four focus groups, in-person surveys of 1500 respondents in six Nigerian states, a field experiment using mobile phone surveys, and a quasi-experimental study of *Arewa24* programs.
- Presented results of analysis to U.S. Department of State and at academic conferences.

Research Fellow

May 2016 – August 2016

International Foundation for Electoral Systems (IFES), Washington, D.C.

- Researched the effects of foreign aid on violent conflict using mixed methods & a quasi-experimental design.
- Conducted semi-structured interviews about aid programs with 21 workers at six aid-implementing organizations.
- Presented findings to IFES staff and management and at academic conferences.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Guest Lecturer

2021-2025

- Syracuse University: Human Rights and National Security, Andrew Friedman J.D.
- Yale University: Reversing Democracy's Global Decline, Scott Worden J.D.
- Bocconi University: Field Experiments and Field Work, Dr. Matteo C. M. Casiraghi

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

2012-2020

- Course instructor, "Survey Methodology" (PS 199)
- Course Instructor, "Introduction to Political Research" (PS 230)
- Graduate Methods Assistant, "Research Design and Techniques" (PS 522)
- Graduate Methods Assistant, "Quantitative Political Analysis II" (PS 531)
- Graduate Methods Assistant, "Quantitative Political Analysis III" (PS 532)
- Teaching assistant, "Introduction to American Government" (PS 101)
- Teaching assistant, "Racial and Ethnic Politics" (PS 201)
- Teaching Assistant, "Undergraduate Honors Thesis" (PS 496)

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- "Synthetic Control Analysis of the Presidential Initiative for Democratic Renewal." Bureau for Democracy, Rights, and Governance, 2024, Washington, D.C.
- "How will we know if it worked? Randomized Controlled Trials and Quasi-Experiments." USAID DRG Global Gathering, 2024, Washington, D.C.
- "Research in the Bureau for Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance." Evidence in Governance and Politics Convening, 2023, Mexico City, Mexico.
- "Recent Advances in Quasi-Experimental Research Methods." Bureau for Democracy, Rights, and Governance Annual Learning Forum, 2023, Washington, D.C.
- "Findings from the 2021 Zambia Electoral Assessment." USAID/Zambia and US Embassy of Zambia, 2022, Lusaka, Zambia.
- "Mixed-Methods Evaluations of Development Programs." Peace and Security Summit, 2022, Washington, D.C.
- "Can an Information Campaign about Taxation and Improved Service Delivery Increase Tax Compliance?" United States Agency for International Development, 2021, Washington, D.C.
- "The Downstream Effects of Television Programs on Social Norms." Midwest Political Science Association Conference, 2018, Chicago, IL.

- “The Effect of a Hausa Language Television Program on Attitudes about Almajiri Schools in Northern Nigeria.” Notre Dame University, 2017, South Bend, IN.
- “Aid for Peace: The Effect of Foreign Aid on Violent Conflict in Africa.” Development in the Face of Global Inequalities, 2017, Barcelona, Spain.
- “The Effects of Arewa24 on Attitude about Tolerance, Violence, and Women’s Empowerment in Northern Nigeria.” U.S. Department of State, 2017, Washington, D.C.
- “Power and Pitfalls of IVR and SMS for Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Projects.” Monitoring, Evaluation, Research and Learning (MERL) Technology Conference, 2016, Washington, D.C.
- “Conflict and Peacebuilding in Nigeria.” The Program in Arms Control and Domestic and International Security (ACDIS), 2016, Urbana, IL.

SELECTED GRANTS AND AWARDS

- USAID Meritorious Honor Award (2022, 2023, 2024)
- Malawi Project, [Metaketa II Taxation](#), Evidence in Governance and Politics/UK DFID, 2017-2020, \$210,000
- [NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant](#), 2017, \$23,790
- William Bernhard Award for Best Prospectus, 2017
- World Society Foundation Grant for Development in the Face of Global Inequalities Conference, 2017, \$800
- Charles Manatt Fellow, International Foundation for Electoral Systems, 2016, \$5,000
- Rita and Leonard Ogren Award for Academic Excellence, 2013

SKILLS AND EXPERTISE

- **Software:** R, L^AT_EX, Markdown, GitHub, Python, SurveyCTO, CommCare, ODK, Qualtrics, Viamo
- **Research Tools:** Regression, Survey Design and Analysis, Causal Inference (matching, difference-in-differences, synthetic control, regression discontinuity), Spatial Econometrics, Machine Learning, Text Analysis, Lab Experiments, Field Experiments, Behavioral Games, Naturalistic Observation, Interviews, Focus Groups, Web Scraping
- **Fieldwork:** Ghana (6 mths, 2014-2024). Nigeria (9 mths, 2014-2018). Malawi (8 mths, 2018-2020). Zambia (1 mth, 2022)

EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

This Week in Social Science

- Weekly newsletter summarizing two social science articles each week for public consumption.

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- **Board of Directors**, Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP)
- **Board of Directors**, EI Research Partners
- **Member**, Midwest Political Science Association
- **Journal Reviewer:** American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Political Behavior, Journal of Development Effectiveness, International Social Science Journal (Best Reviewer Award 2024)