

# Gabriel Magnus Nahmias

☎ (+1) 404 488 3520  
✉ [gnahmias@mit.edu](mailto:gnahmias@mit.edu)  
🌐 [gabrielnahmias.com](http://gabrielnahmias.com)

## Education

- Ongoing **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**, *Cambridge, MA.*  
**PhD Candidate** Political Science  
**Fields:** Comparative Politics and Political Methodology
- June 2013 **Emory University**, *Atlanta, GA.*  
**MA** Political Science  
**BA** Political Science  
**BA** African Studies

## Fellowships and Awards

- 2017 **National Science Foundation (NSF) Graduate Research Fellowship**, *NSF.*  
Awarded to graduate students who have demonstrated outstanding intellectual merit and the potential to contribute meaningfully to the sciences; provides three years of full financial support.
- 2017 **Ithiel de Sola Pool Fellow**, *MIT, Political Science.*  
Awarded to an outstanding first year student in MIT Political Science.
- 2016 **Sahin Presidential Fellowship**, *MIT, Office of the President.*  
Awarded to outstanding students in graduate programs at MIT; provides 9 months of full financial support.
- 2014 **Princeton in Africa Fellow**, *Princeton in Africa.*  
Funds young leaders committed to Africa's advancement to work with organizations in Africa for one year.
- 2013 **Summa Cum Lauda**, *Emory University.*
- 2013 **Levitas Award**, *Emory University, Political Science.*  
Awarded to the most outstanding graduate in Political Science.
- 2012 **Phi Beta Kappa**, *Emory University.*
- 2011 **Pi Sigma Alpha, Political Science Honor Society**, *Emory University, Political Science.*
- 2011 **Institute for Developing Nations Scholarship**, *The Carter Center & Emory University.*  
Funds undergraduate field research in developing contexts (\$2,500).
- 2009 **Goodrich C. White Dean's Achievement Scholar**, *Emory University.*  
Awarded to rising sophomores and juniors demonstrating intellectual curiosity, creative thinking, servant leadership, communication skills, and commitment to community (\$10,000 annually for 3 years).
- 2008 **Liberal Arts Scholar**, *Emory University.*  
Awarded to admitted students in recognition of academic excellence (\$10,000 annually for 4 years).

## Working Papers

- In Progress **Awakened: The Potential for Mobilization to Reshape Interest in Politics.**
- In Progress **Who are "We"? Ethnicity, Nationalism, and the Welfare State.**
- In Progress **The Mobilization Toolbox: The Mechanisms of Extra-Rational Motivation for Political Participation.**
- In Progress **Organized Labor in a Globalized World: The Impact of Increased International Economic Integration on the Strategies of Trade Unions.**

---

## Field Work

- June – July 2017 **South African Councillor Panel Study**, *South Africa*.  
Conducted semi-structured interviews with representatives from 41 non-governmental organizations across South Africa regarding their interactions with local councillors. This project was part of an ongoing effort to provide insights into the role of democratically-elected leaders in local government.
- Jan. – Feb. 2017 **Mystery Shopper: Testing Access to Information in Kenya**, *Kenya*.  
Managed the logistics of a field experiment evaluating the efficacy of information requests made at county-level government offices throughout the country. This project was part of an ongoing collaboration between the MIT GOV/LAB and Twaweza (an NGO) to understand government accountability in east Africa.
- Jan. – June 2016 **Of "Loose Papers and Vague Allegations": A Social Audit Report on the Safety and Sanitation Crisis in Western Cape Schools**, *Western Cape, South Africa*.  
Project managed, provided analysis for, and compiled a social audit of safety and sanitation conditions throughout the Western Cape. This process included interviews with 220 administrators, 912 learner questionnaires, 229 physical inspections of schools, 14 freedom of information requests and budget analyses, as well as synthesization of existing knowledge. This project was conducted during two years spent living in South Africa, working for Equal Education (Aug. 2014 – June 2016).
- March 2012 **Relative Democracy: Rwandan Perceptions of What Constitutes Representative Government**, *Rwanda & Uganda*.  
Included interviews with Rwandan nationals, both in Rwanda and in refugee camps in neighboring Uganda, regarding their views on democracy. This project was part of four months living in Rwanda, studying Post-Genocide Reconstruction with the School for International Training (Jan. – April 2013).

---

## Methodological Training

- 2018 **Advanced Topics in Quantitative Methods (Graduate)**, *MIT, Political Science*.  
Supervised learning, dimension reduction, mixture models, text analysis, network models, and causal inference with panel data.
- 2017 **Generalized Linear Models and Extensions (Graduate)**, *MIT, Political Science*.  
Maximum likelihood estimation, generalized linear models, multilevel models, and Bayesian statistics.
- 2017 **Causal Inference (Graduate)**, *MIT, Political Science*.  
Neyman-Rubin causal model, randomized experiments, quasi-experimental designs, causal inference with observational data, synthetic control, and mediation analysis.
- 2016 **Statistical Inference (Graduate)**, *MIT, Political Science*.  
Probability theory, statistical inference with linear regression, and statistical analysis with R.
- 2016 **Political Science Scope and Methods (Graduate)**, *MIT, Political Science*.  
Introduction to methods for research using experimental data, observational data, case studies, and ethnography, as well as mixing methods.
- 2012 **Qualitative Methods (Graduate)**, *Emory, Political Science*.  
Inference using single and multi-case analysis; data gathering through interviews, participant observation, and archival research; QCA analysis; conceptualization; and the effective use of typologies.
- 2012 **Research Design (Graduate)**, *Emory, Political Science*.  
Philosophy of science as applied to social phenomena; the process of theorizing, conceptualizing, and operationalizing; and the structures of inference used in the study of politics.
- 2011 **Field Research (Undergraduate)**, *School for International Training, Kigali, Rwanda*.  
Conducting structured and unstructured interviews in the field, identifying informants, analysis of interviews, sensitive data security, and field work ethics.
- 2011 **Do No Harm (Certificate)**, *CDA Collaborative, Kigali, Rwanda*.  
Mitigating negative impacts and supporting local capacities for peace when working in conflict and post-conflict environments.

---

## Technical Skills

Collection	SurveyCTO, Qualtrics
Analysis	R, STAN, Rcpp / C++, STATA, GIS, Python
Presentation	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, RMardown, RShiny, Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Creative Suite
Communication	French (Intermediate), Kinyarwanda (Beginner)

---

## Professional Experience

- Aug. 2014 – **Equal Education**, *Research and Training Officer*, Cape Town, South Africa.
- June 2016 Provided research, training, and logistical support to Equal Education – a grassroots democratic advocacy organization focused primarily on basic education in South Africa. This included overseeing a report on safety and sanitation, leading a team to develop a database of training materials, and spearheading two committees responsible for EE's 2015 Congress.
- June 2012 – **Southeastern Council of Foundations**, *Sr. Research, Data, & Content Associate*, Atlanta, GA.
- July 2014 Prepared research deliverables for SECF, an association of grantmaking organizations, including: a Gates Foundation funded report on education, board materials, surveys of the membership, assessments of marketing, and program evaluations. Built novel data-sets from archival organizational records to evaluate the effectiveness of activities. Oversaw the merger of four data management systems into a new platform.

---

## University Service

- 2018–Present **Corporation Joint Advisory Committee on Institute-Wide Affairs**, MIT, Member.
- 2016–Present **Graduate Student Council**, MIT, *Political Science*, Ex-Officio Member.
- 2018–Present **Graduate Student Work-In-Progress**, MIT, *Political Science*, Coordinator.
- 2016–2018 **Social Committee**, MIT, *Political Science*, Chair.