

# Jeremy Springman

PDRI-DevLab

University of Pennsylvania

Updated March 2025

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📄: [jrspringman.github.io](https://github.com/jrspringman)

🌐: <https://github.com/jrspringman>

🌐: <https://shorturl.at/ixTW8>

I am a Research Professor eager to apply my research expertise to advance New\_Public's mission to the build healthier online spaces necessary for democracy. I have six years of experience managing a team of data scientists and engineers building digital tools and custom research products to inform programming decisions by policymakers at the U.S. Agency for International Development and Department of State. I believe that my long record of deep collaboration and co-design with local civil society and independent media partners and substantive knowledge of youth civic engagement and social cohesion make me highly qualified for the Staff Researcher role. I also have 10 years of experience with survey research and statistical computing and strong knowledge of research design, causal inference, forecasting, network analysis, and machine learning.

## Experience

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### University of Pennsylvania, PDRI-DevLab

Research Assistant Professor

July 2024 – Present

Senior Research Associate & Director of Research

July 2022 – June 2024

- Collaborated with policy, civil society, and media partners to develop solutions to complex social problems
- Designed and analyzed commissioned RCTs and survey experiments
- Managed data science and engineer team to develop digital tools for policymakers, civil society, and journalists
- Provided public-facing data dashboards generating 150 hours of monthly usage
- Attracted 1,200 unique users across 73 countries over 10 months

### Duke University, DevLab@Duke

Senior Research Associate

July 2021 – June 2022

Post-Doctoral Research Associate

July 2019 – June 2021

Pre-Doctoral Research Associate

January 2019 – July 2019

- Led construction of a large, highly multilingual media corpus
- Fine-tuned transformer models for multilingual text classification
- Designed and analyzed commissioned RCTs and survey experiments

## Education

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### University of Pennsylvania

Ph.D. in Comparative Politics & International Relations

2019

M.A. in Political Science

2015

### University of Pittsburgh

B.A. in Politics & Philosophy (Honors College)

2012

## Refereed Academic Publications

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*The Political Economy of NGO Service Provision: Evidence from an Ancillary Field Experiment*  
World Politics, 2022 (DOI: S0043887122000107)

*The Effect of Government Repression on Civil Society: Evidence from Cambodia*  
International Studies Quarterly, 2022 (DOI: sqac028)

First author (with Edmund Malesky, Lucy Right, and Erik Wibbels)

*Oil Discoveries and Political Windfalls: Evidence on Presidential Support in Uganda*  
Political Science Research & Methods, 2023 (DOI: psrm.2023.14)

Second author (with Laura Paler, Guy Grossman, and Jan Pierskalla)

## **Under Review**

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*Pushing Back or Backing Down? Examining Donor Response to Restrictive NGO Legislation*  
with Lucille Right and Erik Wibbels

Revise & Resubmit, *International Organization*

*Aid Flows and Incumbency Advantage: Evidence from NGO Projects in Uganda*

*Fostering Civic Engagement in Polarized, Autocratic Regimes: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Ethiopia*

with Sewareg Adamu, David Dow, Fitsum Hailu, Mesele Mengsteab, and Juan Tellez

*The Effect of Government Intervention on the Operational Decisions of NGOs: Evidence from a Survey Experiment in Three Electoral Autocracies*

with Erik Wibbels, Maria Nagawa, Graeme Robertson, and Simon Hollerbauer

*Foreign Influence by Authoritarian Governments: Introducing New Data and Evidence*

with Fatih Serkant Adiguzel, Mateo Villamizar Chaparro, Zung-Ru Lin, Donald Moratz, Diego Romero, and Erik Wibbels

## **Selected Policy Reports**

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*High Frequency Tracking of Civic Space Utilizing Domestic News Scraping and Large Language Model Classification*

Prepared for Swift Expertise and Grounded Analytics Task Order by USAID DRG Bureau  
November 2024

*Forecasting High-Level Travel Advisories with Machine Learning for Peace Data*

Prepared for Swift Expertise and Grounded Analytics Task Order by USAID DRG Bureau  
November 2024

*Zimbabwe Governance Indicators Analysis*

Prepared for USAID Zimbabwe  
March 2024

*Resurgent Authoritarian Influence: Evidence from Machine-Generated, Cross-National Data*

Prepared for USAID Analytic Task on Authoritarian Resurgence and Influence  
August 2023

*Radio and Social Media in Ghana Assessment Report*

Prepared for USAID Ghana  
July 2023 (DEC ID: coming soon)

*The Effect of Social Ties on Engagement & Cohesion: Evidence from Ethiopian University Students*  
Prepared for USAID Innovation, Technology, & Research Hub  
April 2023 (DEC ID: PA-021155)

*Resiliency Cambodia Impact Evaluation Findings Report*  
Prepared for USAID Cambodia  
August 2022 (DEC ID: PA-00Z-KBD)

*Retrospective of USAID's Response to Pandemic-Enabled Democratic Backsliding*  
Prepared for USAID Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Center  
January 2022 (DEC ID: PA-00Z-6HN)

## **Policy Writing**

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*Charting a Course for Applied Research in Peacebuilding*  
First author (with Heather Huntington and Erik Wibbels)  
Forthcoming in "A Positive Peace: Towards an Evidence-Based Peacebuilding" (United States Institute of Peace)  
*Report of the Advisory Panel for the Governance of Human Rights Organizations*  
With Mohamed Arafa and David Siegel (convened by Hazar Yueksel for Amnesty International)  
SocArXiv DOI: 10.31235

## **Selected External Awards & Grants**

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### **United States Department of Defense Minerva Research Initiative**

Modeling Climate-Induced Societal Adaptation and Population Displacement with New Machine-Coded Environmental Event Data: \$1,600,000 *with Erik Wibbels and Iriana Marinov*

### **Open Society Foundations**

Special Projects & Crisis Response: \$250,000\* *with Erik Wibbels*

### **USAID Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Bureau**

- Tracking Authoritarian Resurgence and Democratic Institutions and Spaces: \$890,000\*
- Distinguishing Legitimate, Superficial, and Fabricated Anti-corruption Campaigns: \$46,690
- Central American Regional Media Project Impact Evaluation: \$75,554 (Phase 1-2)
- Zimbabwe Governance Indicators Analysis: \$37,894
- Swift Expertise and Grounded Analytics: \$500,000\*
- Analytic Task on Authoritarian Resurgence and Influence: \$99,737\*
- INSPIRES Flexible Response Funds: \$83,000\*

### **United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning**

Local Evaluation and Evidence Support (LEES): \$98,060

### **University of Antwerp**

Foreign Information Manipulation and Interference: \$12,500\*

### **USAID Ghana Monitoring Evaluation and Learning (MEL) Platform**

Radio Station Managers Survey: \$30,000\*

## **USAID Innovation, Technology, and Research Hub**

LASER PULSE (with Mesele Mengsteab, Juan Tellez, and David Dow): \$250,000

## **USAID Mission to Cambodia**

Local Organizations—Movement Towards Self-Reliance: \$225,000\*

## **National Science Foundation**

2018 - 2019 Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (SES-1747642): \$14,996

## **Anonymous private philanthropic foundation**

2018 Research Grant: \$38,600

## **Invited Public Engagement**

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Amnesty International Advisory Panel for the Governance of Human Rights Organizations	2024
Foris International Ethical AI Manifesto Contributor	2024
3ie Civil Society Evidence Gap Maps Advisory Group Member	2023

## **Recent Invited Talks & Events**

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U.S. Department of State (Washington, D.C.)	Nov, 2024
Perry World House Forum (Washington, D.C.)	Oct, 2024
Vienna University of Economics and Business (Vienna, Austria)	Sept, 2024
International Civil Society Centre (Remote)	June, 2024
Leibniz Center for Informatics AI for Social Good Seminar (Wadern, Germany)	Feb, 2024
Foris International Ethical AI Manifesto Launch Event (Remote)	Nov, 2023
World Bank EngageFest Webinar (Remote)	Nov, 2023
United States Department of State (Remote)	Jul, 2023
Community of Democracies Enabling and Protecting Civil Society (Remote)	Jun, 2023
United Nations Data Strategy Community Series (Remote)	Jun, 2023
US Agency for International Development Tech Tuesdays Series (Remote)	Jun, 2023
United States Army 95th Civil Affairs Brigade (Fort Liberty, NC)	Jun, 2023
Social Impact Evidence for Impact Webinar Series (Remote)	May, 2023
Duke University US Army Governance Training (Durham, NC)	Feb, 2023
US Agency for International Development DRG Center (Washington, D.C.)	Feb, 2023
Vassar College Data Science & Society Colloquium (Poughkeepsie, NY)	Dec, 2022
Paris Peace Forum (Paris, France)	Nov, 2022
International Civic Forum (London, UK)	Nov, 2022
Big Data for Development & Governance Conference (Philadelphia, PA)	Oct, 2022
International Center for Not-for-Profit Law (Remote)	Jun, 2022

## **Teaching & Advising**

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### **University of Pennsylvania:** Instructor

Global Development: Intermediate Topics in Politics, Policy, and Data Spring 2024, 2025

Course website: [jrspringman.github.io/psci3200-globaldev/](https://jrspringman.github.io/psci3200-globaldev/)

Fels Institute of Government Lab Capstone Partner Spring 2024

### **Local Evaluation and Evidence Support (LEES):** Academic Lead

LEES promotes localization of USAID activities by building the capacity of local partners and strengthening networks that connect these organizations.