

[Jeremy Springman, PhD](#)

Director of Research, PDRI-DevLab

Research Assistant Professor, University of Pennsylvania

As an applied researcher leading large-scale, federally funded projects, I have spent the last decade embedding with policymakers and stakeholders to identify challenges, design solutions, and understand their impact. Among my government clients, I cultivated a reputation for quickly grasping the most critical problems in diverse policy domains and proposing creative solutions. In the 5 years after finishing my PhD, I was commissioned by USAID to lead 12 projects on a wide range of topics in foreign aid and national security, securing repeated engagements by multiple teams. I have 12 years of experience managing data science teams, designing, implementing, and analyzing randomized experiments (including large-scale RCTs and survey experiments), and developing and analyzing surveys. I am also an active member of my local Democratic Committee.

Since 2022, I have been awarded \$3.5 million as a principal investigator on both federal and private research grants, carrying projects from conceptualization and proposal through design, implementation, and the dissemination of results. My work has used cutting-edge methods to shape decision making, from pioneering the use of AI to build data pipelines forecasting geopolitical risk to using randomized control trials to evaluate major policy interventions. I am passionate about translating technical research into action, and have given invited talks to hundreds of policymakers across more than a dozen agencies in five countries. From policy officials at the U.S. Department of State to civil society stakeholders across emerging markets, I have built a track record of translating complex analyses into actionable strategic recommendations.

As a post-doctoral researcher at Duke in 2019, I co-founded a high-profile project building a public-facing early warning system forecasting political instability in emerging markets. Managing a team of data scientists and PhD students, I led the construction of a research infrastructure to continually update a large, highly multilingual corpus of high-quality media and use deep learning translation models and fine-tuned transformers to extract information from text. This project's funding was renewed over seven years and attracted more than \$6 million in support from the U.S. Department of Defense (including a Minerva Grant awarded to fewer than 10 teams per year), Agency for International Development, and private donors.

My lab used data from this project to publish more than a dozen commissioned policy reports, develop public-facing data dashboards averaging 150 hours of monthly active usage time by decision-makers, and attracted 1,200 unique users from 70 countries over a 10 month period, with more than 800 policymakers signing up to receive our monthly reports. The success of this project led to my promotion to Research Assistant Professor at UPenn, where I manage three full-time data scientists, five pre-doctoral fellows, multiple affiliated faculty and PhD students, and a large pool of undergraduates.

I also have deep experience leading randomized experiments commissioned by stakeholders. As a Senior Research Associate, I led an evaluation that provided rigorous evidence that a U.S. government foreign aid program was failing to accomplish its goals, resulting in the program's cancellation and a more effective use of government resources. In another project, I worked with policymakers at USAID to design survey experiments to understand the strategic behavior of non-profits receiving U.S. support in highly repressive countries. Based on the findings, I produced a policy brief recommending changes to how the agency supports local partners in repressive countries and presented the recommendations to high-level officials. A third project used insights from behavioral psychology and economics to design and evaluate an intervention to increase civic engagement among youth in highly polarized countries by more than 40%. This resulted in a highly effective intervention that my partners are seeking to scale across developing countries.

I have been extremely successful at winning competitive research grants. However, recent terminations of major federal research initiatives have cut-off opportunities for high-impact collaboration with U.S. government agencies. I am now looking to transfer my skills to the private sector. I excel at immersing myself in new environments and identifying creative solutions to persistent problems. At BlueLabs, I would be thrilled to lead innovative research to drive data-driven decisions by clients across a wide range of sectors.