

# Jeremy Springman

PDRI-DevLab

University of Pennsylvania

Updated July 2024

✉: [jspr@sas.upenn.edu](mailto:jspr@sas.upenn.edu)

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

🌐: <https://github.com/jrspringman>

🌐: <https://shorturl.at/ixTW8>

I am an applied researcher helping donors and civil society strengthen democratic institutions and practices in aid-receiving countries. Currently, I serve as co-PI on the Machine Learning for Peace (ML4P) project, teach a course on data science for global development, and lead several other USAID-funded research projects. To investigate these topics, my research uses machine learning techniques including natural language processing and forecasting and causal inference tools including field and survey experiments. I am particularly interested in developing novel design and measurement strategies to generate rigorous evidence from projects with limited budgets and challenging implementation environments.

## Academic Appointments

---

### University of Pennsylvania, PDRI-DevLab

Senior Research Associate & Director of Civic Research

July 2022 – Present

### 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

## Education

---

### 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

---

*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

---

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

Revise & Resubmit at World Politics

*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

*The Effect of Closing Civic Space on Aid: Evidence from 2.3 Million Donor Projects*

with Lucille Right and Erik Wibbels

## Selected Policy Reports

---

*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

---

*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)

## External Awards & Grants

---

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) Bureau for Policy,

## **Planning, and Learning**

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

## **Open Society Foundations**

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

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

- 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\*

## **University of Antwerp**

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

## **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

## **American Political Science Association Centennial Grant**

2017 - 2018 Grant Recipient: \$1,100

## **Ongoing Funded Research Projects**

---

### **Machine Learning for Peace:** Co-PI and Director of Civic Research

The Machine Learning for Peace (MLP) produces digital tools that equip donors, policymakers, and civil society with actionable data to track major political events and forecasts about when major crises are likely to inform strategic planning.

### **Central American Regional Media Project (ReMedios):** Principal Investigator

Drawing on the MLP infrastructure, this project uses webscraping and large language models to evaluate a USAID intervention to build the capacity of independent media reporting on corruption across five countries in Central America.

### **Distinguishing Legitimate and Fabricated Anti-corruption Campaigns:** Principal Investigator

Drawing on the MLP infrastructure, this project uses large language models to detect reporting on

corruption-related legal measures, identify anti-corruption campaigns, and measure the extent to which legal measures indicate genuine or politically-motivated campaigns.

**Uganda Strategic Communication Utilization and Learning Activity:** Principal Investigator

Using survey and lab-in-the field experiments, we test the efficacy of different messages in increasing support for democratic institutions and increasing civic participation.

## Teaching & Advising

---

### University of Pennsylvania

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

The LEES activity supports efforts by the Bureau for Policy, Planning, and Learning (PPL) to promote localization of USAID activities by increasing the capacity of local partners and strengthening networks that connect these organizations.

## Recent Invited Talks & Events

---

University of Innsbruck (Innsbruck, Austria)	Planned Sept, 2024
University of Vienna (Vienna, Austria)	Planned Sept, 2024
International Civil Society Centre (Remote)	June, 2024
Schloss Dagstuhl 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

## Invited Service & Public Engagement

---

Amnesty International Non-Profit Governance Advisory Panel Member	2024
Foris International Ethical AI Manifesto Contributor	2024
3ie Civil Society Evidence Gap Maps Advisory Group Member	2023