

Miles D. Williams

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EMPLOYMENT

Denison University, Visiting Assistant Professor 2022-present

EDUCATION

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Ph.D. Political Science 2022

Dissertation: “International Aid and Strategic Interdependence: How Common and Conflicting Foreign Policy Goals Shape the Supply of Foreign Aid”

Committee: Matthew S. Winters (chair), Xinyuan Dai, Robert Pahre, Robert Carroll

Eastern Illinois University, M.A. Political Science 2016

Greenville University, B.A. History & Political Science, Philosophy (*Summa Cum Laude*, with honors) 2015

RESEARCH

Peer Reviewed Publications (Ordered by Publication Date)

- [6] “[Connect First, then Suppress: Chinese vs. Western Communication Development Projects and Internet Freedom](#)” (2025) With Yujeong Yang, Lucie Lu, and Xinle Jia in *Studies in Comparative International Development*.
- [5] “[Attention Versus Handshakes: Pathways of Influence in China’s Foreign Aid and Loans](#)” (2024) in *Journal of International Development*.
- [4] “[Elusive Collaboration? The Determinants of Lead Donorship in International Development](#).” (2024) in *The Review of International Organizations*.
- [3] “[How Reducing Documentation Burdens Impacts Equity in Program Access: The Case of Small Business Covid-19 Relief Funding](#).” (2023) With Elizabeth Bell and Heather Kappes in *Public Administration Review*.
- [2] “[Gender in the Pulpit: The Differences in Speaking Style for Men and Women](#).” (2019) With Ryan Burge in *The Journal of Communication and Religion*.
- [1] “[Is Social Media a Digital Pulpit? How Evangelical Leaders Use Twitter to Encourage the Faithful and Publicize Their Work](#).” (2019) With Ryan Burge in the *Journal of Religion, Media, and Digital Culture*.

Book Chapters (Ordered by Publication Date)

- [2] “[World Bank](#).” (2023) With Matthew Winters in *Handbook of International Organizations: Theories, Concepts, and Empirical Insights*. Eds. Katja Freistein, Julia Leininger, and Silke Weinlich. De Gruyter Oldenbourg.
- [1] “[Illinois 10th Congressional District: Re-match in Chicago Suburbs](#).” (2018) With Jeffrey Ashley in *The Roads to Congress 2016*. Eds. Sean D. Foreman and Marcia L. Godwin. Palgrave Macmillan]

Selected Works in Progress (Alphabetical Order)

“Aid, Aggression, and Alignment: A Test of the Two-Good Theory in Equilibrium” [Working Paper]

“Aid for Nonaggression: Donor Security Strategy after the Cold War” [Working Paper]

“An Actuary Walks into the War Room: How a Model from Actuarial Science Can Help Forecast the Deadliness of War” [Working Paper]

“Foreign Aid and Investment Protection.” With Seung-Uk Huh. [Working Paper]

Conferences (Ordered by Attendance Date)

“Aid, Aggression, and Alignment: A Test of the Two-Good Theory in Equilibrium” MPSA April 2025

“An Actuary Walks into the War Room: How a Model from Actuarial Science Can Help Forecast the Deadliness of War” MPSA April 2025

“Aid for Nonaggression: Donor Security Strategy After the Cold War” MPSA April 2025

“Aid for Nonaggression: Donor Security Strategy After the Cold War” APSA September 2024

“Connect First, then Suppress: Do Communication Aid Projects Erode Internet Freedom?” MPSA April 2024

“Foreign Aid and Investment Protection,” ISAM Nov. 2023

“Foreign Aid and Investment Protection,” APSA Aug. 2023

“Foreign Aid and Investment Protection,” MPSA April 2023

“A Strategic Political Economy of Aid,” PEIO July 2022

“Friends Get more Money, Attention, and Handshakes: Xinhua, Diplomacy, and Chinese Foreign Aid,” AidData Roundtable June 2022

“Competition and Buck-passing in the Political Economy of Aid,” MPSA April 2022

Public Scholarship

I am the author of [Foreign Figures](#), a weekly newsletter offering data-driven takes on foreign affairs.

I have contributed to [Democracy Paradox](#).

I also have contributed to [Religion in Public](#).

I also write about various statistical and R-related things on [my personal blog](#) hosted on my professional website.

SOFTWARE

Tools

Expert: R & RStudio

Proficient: GitHub & Latex

Basic: Stata & Python

R Packages Developed

[coolor](#) - Tools to make setting and applying custom color palettes with `ggplot` more streamlined.

[oesr](#) (with Ryan T. Moore) - For visualizing the results from randomized controlled trials using the Office of Evaluation Sciences' [recommended style guide](#).

[seerrr](#) - Tools that simplify the process of doing Monte Carlo and computational power analyses.

[ggregtab](#) - Uses `ggplot()` under the hood to generate regression tables.

TEACHING

Denison University

DA 101: Introduction to Data Analytics

DPR 101: Data Visualization for Political Research

DPR 190: War, Wealth, and World Politics

DPR 201: Data and Research Design for Social Impact

DPR 390: Death, Destruction, and Data

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Intro to International Relations (Independent Instructor)

Intro to Political Science (Teaching Assistant)

UIUC Math Camp

[Probability in R](#)

[Integrals](#)

[Linear Regression](#)

[Loops](#)

[Version Control](#)

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

US OFFICE OF EVALUATION SCIENCES

Associate Fellow (methods specialist)

2020-2023

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

Research Assistant

Cara Wong

2020-present

Matthew S. Winters

2018-2020

EASTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Research Assistant for Jeffrey Ashley

2016

Presidential Graduate Assistant

2015-2016

AWARDS AND GRANTS

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign

Kathleen L. Burkholder Prize for Best Dissertation	2023
William Bernhard Award for Best Dissertation Prospectus	2021
Rita and Leonard Ogren Award for Academic Excellence	2018

Eastern Illinois University

Robert and Kathryn Augustine Distinguished Master's Thesis Award	2018
Williams Travel Grant	2016

SERVICE

Reviewer

American Political Science Review
British Journal of Politics and International Relations
Journal of Politics
Review of International Organizations
International Interactions
Political Studies Review
Development Studies Research
Frontiers

International Relations Graduate Workshop, Coordinator 2020-2021

Graduate Methods Committee

Member	2019-2021
Chair	2020

UIUC Political Science Graduate Student Association, Board Member 2019-2020