

Miles D. Williams

Denison University, Data for Political Research

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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"

Exams: International Relations, International Political Economy

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)

[5] "[Attention Versus Handshakes: Pathways of Influence in China's Foreign Aid and Loans](#)" (2024) in *Journal of International Development*: Online First View.

[4] "[Elusive Collaboration? The Determinants of Lead Donorship in International Development](#)." (2024) in *The Review of International Organizations*: Online First View.

[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*: 1-22.

[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* 42(1): 63-82.

[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* 8(1): 309-339.

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-rematch in Chicago Suburbs](#)." (2018) With Jeffrey Ashley in *The Roads to Congress 2016*. Eds. Sean D. Foreman and Marcia L. Godwin. Palgrave Macmillan]

Works in Progress (Alphabetical Order)

“Aid for Nonaggression.” [Work in Progress]

“Aid, Migration, and Civil War.” [Work in Progress]

“Connect First, then Suppress: Do Communication Aid Projects Erode Internet Freedom?” With Xinle Jia, Lucie Lu, and Yujeong Yang. [Working paper]

“Do We Have to Use the Power-law to Study War Size? And Does it Matter?” [Working Paper]

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

“Leveraging the Black Box: Regression Adjustment with Super Learners.” With Gustavo Diaz. [Work in Progress]

Conferences (Ordered by Attendance Date)

“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

Blogging

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

“Can Washington and China Cooperate in Foreign Aid?”

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

“White, Conservative, Religious...and Aid Skeptical” (January 21, 2021)

“Do Women Preach Differently than Men?” (June 26, 2019)

“Welcome the Stranger? Evangelicals’ Views on Immigration Prior to Donald Trump” (February 20, 2017)

“Evangelical Leaders Are as Negative on Immigration and Islam as Donald Trump” (February 13, 2017)

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

[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.

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
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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

British Journal of Politics and International Relations
Development Studies Research
Journal of Politics
Review of International Organizations

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