

# Melissa Pavlik

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## EDUCATION

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Exp. 2026 **Ph.D. in Political Science, Yale University**

*Dissertation:* Producing Precarity: The Coercive Logic of Selective Enforcement

*Committee:* Kate Baldwin, Elisabeth Wood, Gerard Padró i Miquel, Sarah Bush

*Fields:* Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methodology, International Relations

2018 **M.A. in War Studies, King's College London (UK)**

*with distinction*

2016 **B.A. in Political Science (Minor in Statistics), University of Chicago**

*with honors*

## ACADEMIC POSTS

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Exp. 2026 **Wesleyan College**

*Visiting instructor in Political Science*

2023–2024 **University of Lagos (Nigeria)**

*Visiting researcher at Center for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development*

## RESEARCH

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### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Grasse, Don, **Melissa Pavlik**, Hilary Matfess and Travis B. Curtice 2021. “Opportunistic Repression: Patterns of civilian targeting by the state in response to COVID-19.” *International Security* 46 (2): 130–165.

↳ Presented at Yale Political Violence and its Legacies Workshop (2020).

### UNDER REVIEW

Grasse, Don and **Melissa Pavlik**. 2025. “Climate change, conflict, and property rights: Evidence from Nigeria.” *Submitted*.

↳ Presented at MPSA (2023), BGWAPE (2023), ESOC (2024).

Bush, Sarah Sunn, Jennifer Hadden and **Melissa Pavlik**. 2024. “Mind the Gaps: Assessing Missingness and Its Implications in INGO Datasets.” Under review at *International Organization*

↳ Presented at PEIO Stockholm (2024), APSA (2024), VIPES (2024)

Starc Card, Katja, Blaise Muhire, Joseph Wilson, Cecilia B. Akawu, Babakura Bukar, Sandra Rincon, Andrew Meaux, Zara Ahmadu, **Melissa Pavlik**, Belen Fodde, Haruna Ayuba, and Connor Smith. 2024. “‘Persistent Precarity’ in Fragile Urban Areas: Migration, Urban Conflict, and Water Access in Sub-Saharan Africa.” Under review at *Environment and Security*.

## WORKING PAPERS

**Pavlik, Melissa.** “Connivance and coercion” 2024. *Job market paper.*

↳ Presented at APSA (2024); NEWEPS (2025); BWGAPE (2025); EPSA (2025)

**Pavlik, Melissa.** “Mapping the Margins: Geospatial methods for measuring informal economies.” 2025. *Working paper.*

↳ Presented at EPSA (2025); APSA (2025)

**Pavlik, Melissa and Ryan Pike.** 2025. “Words of Warcraft: Experimental Evidence of States’ Social Media Frames during the Russia-Ukraine Invasion.” *In the field.*

↳ Presented at MPSA (2023); EPSA (2024); APSA (2024); EPSA (2025)

**Pavlik, Melissa.** 2023. “Assistance, resistance, and the ‘informalization incentive’: Rethinking the aid-conflict nexus in sub-Saharan Africa.” *Working paper.*

↳ Presented at APSA (2021), MPSA (2022).

**Pavlik, Melissa and Wiedemann, Johannes.** 2022. “The Cost of Doing Business: Sender-state firms and supply-side sanctions politics.” *Working paper.*

## BOOK PROJECT

**Pavlik, Melissa.** *Producing Precarity: The coercive logic of selective state enforcement.*

## SELECTED ANALYSIS & GENERAL AUDIENCE

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**Pavlik, Melissa.** 2022. “To Understand Global Conflict, Start With a Map.” *World Politics Review (WPR)*

**Pavlik, Melissa.** 2022. “The West’s Border Closure Reflex Comes With a Cost.” *World Politics Review (WPR).*

**Pavlik, Melissa.** 2021. “The Horror and the Humanity: Review of Samuel Moyn’s *Humane*.” Roundtable on Samuel Moyn’s *Humane*. *Tocqueville 21*

**Pavlik, Melissa.** 2021. “Democracies Bear Some Blame for Democracy’s Global Erosion.” *World Politics Review (WPR)*

**Pavlik, Melissa.** 2021. “Anti-Interventionism Isn’t Enough For Left Foreign Policy.” *Foreign Policy* (online + print edition)

**Grasse, Don, Melissa Pavlik, Hilary Matfess, and Travis B. Curtice.** 2020. “Autocratic governments are using coronavirus as a pretext to clamp down on opponents.” *Washington Post Monkey Cage*

**Pavlik, Melissa.** 2020. “A great and sudden change: the global political violence landscape before and after COVID-19.” *Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)*

**Kishi, Roudabeh, Melissa Pavlik and Sam Jones.** 2020. “ACLED 2019: The year in review.” *Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)*

**Kishi, Roudabeh, Hilary Matfess, and Melissa Pavlik.** 2020. “‘Terrible and terrifyingly normal’: Political violence targeting women.” *Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)*

## GRANTS

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2024	18,000 USD	<b>International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF)</b> from the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University
	15,000 USD	<b>Interdisciplinary Experimental Research Grant</b> from the Institute for Social and Policy Studies at Yale University
	5,000 USD	<b>Nuclear Security Policy Fellowship</b> from the Nuclear Security Program at Yale University
2023	15,000 USD	<b>Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG)</b> , National Science Foundation via American Political Science Association
	5,000 USD	<b>International Research Grant</b> From International Security Studies (ISS) Center at Yale University
	5,000 USD	<b>Pre-Dissertation Research Grant</b> from the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University

## TEACHING

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<b>FALL 2025</b>	<b>GAME THEORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE</b> Prof. Ian Turner, Department of Political Science Course description <a href="#">here</a> ; course evaluations <a href="#">here</a>
<b>FALL 2024</b>	<b>GAME THEORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE</b> Prof. Ian Turner, Political Science Course description <a href="#">here</a> ; course evaluations <a href="#">here</a>
<b>FALL 2023</b>	<b>CONTESTING INJUSTICE</b> Prof. Elisabeth Wood, Political Science Course description <a href="#">here</a> ; course evaluations <a href="#">here</a>
<b>SPRING 2023</b>	<b>GOVERNANCE &amp; POLITICS IN AFRICA</b> Prof. Kate Baldwin, Political Science Course description <a href="#">here</a> ; course evaluations <a href="#">here</a>
<b>FALL 2022</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION TO PROBABILITY THEORY</b> Prof. Robert Wooster, Statistics & Data Science Course description <a href="#">here</a> ; course evaluations <a href="#">here</a>

## RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT

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<b>2021-2023</b>	<b>(Quantitative) Research Assistant</b> Institute for Social and Policy Studies (ISPS) at Yale University
<b>2017-2021</b>	<b>Research Analyst</b> Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)
<b>2017-2018</b>	<b>Research Analyst</b> Emerging African Paradigms Project, King's College London
<b>2016-2017</b>	<b>Research Fellow; Head of Global Counterterrorism Team</b> Institute for the Study of War (ISW)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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<b>2025</b>	European Political Science Association (EPSA)
<b>2025</b>	Boston Area Working Group on African Political Economy (BWGAPE)
<b>2025</b>	Northeast Workshop on Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS)
<b>2025</b>	Comparative Labor Politics Group at APSA
<b>2024</b>	Virtual International Political Economy Studies (VIPES)
<b>2024</b>	American Political Science Association (APSA)
<b>2024</b>	European Political Science Association (EPSA)
<b>2024</b>	Political Economy of International Organizations (PEIO)
<b>2023</b>	Boston Area Working Group on African Political Economy (BWGAPE)
<b>2023</b>	American Political Science Association (APSA)
<b>2023</b>	Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA)
<b>2022</b>	American Political Science Association (APSA)
<b>2022</b>	Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA)
<b>2021</b>	American Political Science Association (APSA)
<b>2020</b>	Oxford Conflict Dynamics
<b>2019</b>	Households in Conflict Network (HiCN)

## SERVICE

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**Editorial Assistant**, APSR (Elisabeth Wood 2021-2023 / Alexandre Debs 2024, 2025).

**Student Coordinator**, Leitner Political Economy Workshop, Yale University (2022–2024).

**Peer Reviewer**: International Interactions (2021), Journal of Experimental Political Science (2022)

*Last Updated: **July 23, 2025***