

# 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:* Katharine Baldwin, Sarah Sunn Bush, Gerard Padró i Miquel, Elisabeth Wood

*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*

## RESEARCH

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### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Grasse, Donald, **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.

### UNDER REVIEW

Grasse, Donald and **Melissa Pavlik**. 2025. "Climate Change, Conflict, and Property Rights: Evidence from Nigeria." *Submitted to The British Journal of Political Science*.

Bush, Sarah Sunn, Jennifer Hadden and **Melissa Pavlik**. 2024. "Mind the Gaps: Assessing Missingness and Its Implications in INGO Datasets." *Submitted to International Organization*

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: Spatial Networks of Enforcement in Lagos, Nigeria." 2025. *Job market paper*.

**Pavlik, Melissa**. "Mapping the Margins: Geospatial Methods for Measuring Informal Economies." 2025. *Working paper*.

**Pavlik, Melissa and Ryan Pike**. 2025. "Words of Warcraft: Experimental Evidence of States' Social Media Frames during the Russia-Ukraine Invasion." *Working paper*.

## BOOK PROJECT

**Pavlik, Melissa.** *Producing Precarity: A 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>SPRING 2026</b> <i>(SCHED.)</i>	<b>AFRICA IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS</b> <i>Instructor of Record</i> Political Science, Wesleyan University
<b>FALL 2025</b>	<b>GAME THEORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE</b> <i>Teaching Fellow</i> Prof. Ian Turner, Political Science, Yale University
<b>FALL 2024</b>	<b>GAME THEORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE</b> <i>Teaching Fellow</i> Prof. Ian Turner, Political Science, Yale University
<b>FALL 2023</b>	<b>CONTESTING INJUSTICE</b> <i>Teaching Fellow</i> Prof. Elisabeth Wood, Political Science, Yale University
<b>SPRING 2023</b>	<b>GOVERNANCE &amp; POLITICS IN AFRICA</b> <i>Teaching Fellow</i> Prof. Kate Baldwin, Political Science, Yale University
<b>FALL 2022</b>	<b>INTRODUCTION TO PROBABILITY THEORY</b> <i>Teaching Fellow</i> Prof. Robert Wooster, Statistics & Data Science, Yale University

## 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)

## SERVICE

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

**Student Coordinator:** Leitner Political Economy Workshop at Yale University, 2022-2024.

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

## 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)

*Last Updated: August 20, 2025*