

MATTHEW K. RIBAR

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Washington University in St. Louis July 2025 - present
Postdoctoral fellow at the Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy

EDUCATION

Stanford University 2025

Ph.D. in Political Science

- Fields: Comparative Politics, Political Methodology, and International Relations.
- Committee: Jeremy Weinstein (co-chair), David Laitin (co-chair), Avidit Acharya, and James Fearon.
- Dissertation project: Land, Power, and Property Rights: The Political Economy of Land Titling in West Africa.

Stanford University 2022
M.A. in Political Science

College of William & Mary | University of St Andrews 2017
B.A. (International Honors) International Relations, minor in Economics

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

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1. Matthew K. Ribar. 2025. **Land, Power, and Property Rights: The Political Economy of Land Titling in sub-Saharan Africa**. *American Political Science Review* (firstview) [replication file].
 - African Politics Conference Group's 2025 'Best Graduate Student Paper' award.
 2. Rebecca Janssen and Matthew K. Ribar. **In Vi(vi)no Veritas? Expertise, review accuracy and reputation inflation**. *Journal of Wine Economics* (firstview).
 3. Matthew K. Ribar. 2025. **Feeding conflict? New data on the impact of humanitarian food aid on civil conflict**. *Journal of Global Security Studies* 10(2) [replication files].
 4. Matthew K. Ribar. 2016. **Keeping Up with the Times: How the Discipline of International Relations Responds to Benchmark Events**. *International Studies Perspectives*, 18(3): 304-322.
 - Published as a SAGE Research Methods Case Study [[link](#)].

WORKING PAPERS

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5. Getting to Youths: Development Programming, Conflict Resolution, and Political Violence in Niger (with Kathryn M. Lance, Ryan Sheely, and Ifeoluwa M. Olawole) [[link to working paper](#)] **Under review**.
 - Invited to revise and resubmit at the *American Political Science Review*.
 6. Intra-respondent reliability and enumerator quality in field conjoint experiments [[link to working paper](#)] **Under review**.
 7. Belonging, violence, and natural resource governance: experimental evidence from Mali and Niger (with Alma Bezires Calderón, Simon Mercer, and Ifeoluwa M. Olawole) [[link to working paper](#)].

8. Land, power, and property rights: Conjoint evidence from Sénegal and Côte d'Ivoire [[link to working paper](#)].
 - Previously published as Structural Transformation and Economic Growth' (STEG) working paper no. 72 [[link to STEG paper](#)].
9. Pitfalls and tradeoffs in measuring support for violent extremism: Evidence from Niger and Burkina Faso (with Ryan Sheely and Adam Lichtenheld) [[link to working paper](#)].
10. Indirect Rule and the Endurance of Traditional Governance in Africa, prepared for *The Oxford Handbook on Traditional Law & Governance in Africa* (with Joan Ricart-Huguet).

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

11. Attention land predators! Power and Politics in Rural West Africa (book manuscript in progress).
12. Who formalizes land in Côte d'Ivoire? (with Catherine Boone).
13. Inventing custom? Evidence from court records in colonial Senegal (with Joan Ricart-Huguet and Lindsey Pruett).
14. A panel survey on food security in the Sahel (with Horace Gninafon, Jordan Kyle, and Philip Roessler) [[link to pre-analysis plan](#)].
15. Historical cash crop production and land tenure formalization (with Philip Roessler).
16. Countering radicalization in Mali through PREVENS (with Jamila Alaktif, Mamadou Camara, and David Laitin) [[link to pre-analysis plan](#)].
17. Social cohesion and exposure to violent conflict: Evidence from a panel survey in Ukraine (with Lindsay Stark, Margit Tavits, and Carly Wayne).

POLICY PUBLICATIONS

18. The Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) Project in Cabo Verde: Interim Evaluation Report. 2020. Report submitted to the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Washington, DC: Mathematica Policy Research (with Clair Null, Edith Felix, Audrey Moore, Abbie Turiansky, Jane Fortson, Evan Fantozzi, Dara Bernstein, Emma Pottinger, and Loay Hidmi) [[link to paper](#)].
19. Evaluation Design Report for the Liberia Energy Project: Activities 1 and 2. 2018. Report submitted to the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Washington, DC: Mathematica Policy Research (with Candace Miller, Kristine Bos, Ali Protik, Randall Blair, and Paolo Abarcar) [[link to paper](#)].
20. Evaluation of the Irrigation and Water Resource Management Project in Senegal: Interim Report. 2018. Report submitted to the Millennium Challenge Corporation. Washington, DC: Mathematica Policy Research (with Thomas Coen, Sarah Hughes, William Valetta, and Kristen Velyvis) [[link to paper](#)].
21. Implementing the Arms Trade Treaty and the UNPoA: A Guide to Coordinating an Effective Arms Control System. 2018. Sydney: Centre for Armed Violence Reduction (with Laura Spano, Philip Alpers, and Erly Munoz) [[link to paper](#)].
22. Where the World Comes Up Short: Gaps in Civil Society Efforts to Combat the Proliferation of Small Arms. 2016. Melbourne: Pacific Small Arms Action Group.

GRANTS

- 2025 Weidenbaum Center on the Economy, Government, and Public Policy Small Grant (with Margit Tavits) (\$22,727)
- 2025 Reducing Conflict and Improving Performance in the Economy (UK Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office) Ph.D. Research Grant (£21,959).
- 2023 SurveyCTO Primary Data Collection Research Grant (\$1,000).
- 2023 Stanford King Center for International Development Advanced Grant (\$10,000).
- 2023 Institute for Humane Studies Expense Support (\$ 5,000).
- 2023 Peace Science Society Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$400).
- 2023 Institute for Humane Studies Expense Support (\$ 750).
- 2023 Stanford Institute for Economic Policy Research (SIEPR) Schultz Research Fellowship (\$ 4,000).
- 2022 Structural Transformation and Economic Growth (UK Foreign, Commonwealth, & Development Office) Ph.D. Research Grant (£24,535).
- 2022 Stanford King Center for International Development Advanced Grant (\$ 10,000).
- 2021 Stanford King Center for International Development Exploratory Grant (\$ 5,000).
- 2021 National Science Foundation Graduate Student Research Fellowship.
- 2014 International Studies Association Student Travel Grant.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2023 Junior Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies
- 2023 Junior Scholar, Carnegie International Policy Scholar Consortium and Network
- 2021 Stanford Center for African Studies Graduate Fellow
- 2025
- 2021 Immigration Policy Lab Graduate Fellow
- 2025
- 2021 Stanford Impact Labs / Immigration Policy Lab Summer Fellow
- 2019 - Stanford University Graduate Fellowship
- 2025
- 2013 Phi Beta Kappa

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, World Bank Land and Poverty Conference, Rebecca B. Morton Conference on Experimental Political Science, University College London Conflict & Change Workshop (**declined**).
- 2024 Midwest Political Science Association, Governance and Local Development Institute Annual Conference, World Bank Land and Poverty Conference, American Political Science Association, Society for Political Methodology (**declined**), African Politics Conference Group Online Colloquium.
- 2023 Peace Science Society; American Political Science Association; Midwest Political Science Association.
- 2022 Midwest Political Science Association; Working Group in African Political Economy Annual Conference.

2020 Midwest Political Science Association; Stanford Graduate Student Comparative Workshop.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Introduction to International Relations, with Jim Fearon (2019)
- The Science of Politics, with Jeremy Weinstein and Jonathan Rodden (2021)
- Data Science for Politics, with Alain Schläpfer (2021)

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mathematica Policy Research

Program Associate

Washington, DC

June 2017 - August 2019

Pacific Small Arms Action Group/Center for Armed Violence Reduction

Consultant

Policy and Outreach Associate

Melbourne, Australia

June 2017 - September 2017

May 2016 - September 2016

Teaching, Research, and International Policy Project

Research Assistant

Williamsburg, USA

November 2013 - June 2017

DEPARTMENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Reviewer: American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science
- APSA mentorship program (2022-2025)
- Stanford 'Pathways to Ph.D.' mentor program (2022-2024)
- Departmental cohort representative (2020)

FIELD WORK EXPERIENCE

2024 Côte d'Ivoire

2023 Côte d'Ivoire

2023 Senegal

2022 Côte d'Ivoire

2022 Senegal

2021 Niger

SKILLS

- Proficient in French and English (native).
- Computer skills: R, Stata, Python, ArcGIS, NVivo, L^AT_EX.