

MATTHEW K. RIBAR

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Washington University in St. Louis

July 2023 - 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

1. 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) [[link to paper](#)] [[link to replication files](#)].
2. 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 [[link to paper](#)] [[link to SAGE Research Methods Case Study](#)].

WORKING PAPERS

3. Land, Power, and Property Rights: The Political Economy of Land Titling in West Africa [[link to working paper](#)] **Job market paper**.
 - Conditionally accepted at the *American Political Science Review*.
4. 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*.
5. Who wants property rights? Conjoint evidence from Senegal [[link to working paper](#)].
6. Intra-respondent reliability and enumerator quality in field conjoint experiments [[link to working paper](#)] **Under review**.
7. 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](#)].
8. In Vi(vi)no Veritas? Expertise, review accuracy and reputation inflation (with Rebecca Janssen) [[link to working paper](#)].

- Covered in [Suddendeutsh Zeitung](#).

9. 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

10. Who formalizes land in Côte d'Ivoire? (with Catherine Boone).
11. Preferences for natural resource governance: experimental evidence from Mali and Niger (with Alma A. Bezares Calderón and Ifeoluwa M. Olawole).
12. Historical cash crop production and land tenure formalization (with Philip Roessler).
13. Countering radicalization in Mali through PREVENS (with Jamila Alaktif, Mamadou Camara, and David Laitin) [[link to pre-analysis plan](#)].
14. Inventing custom? Evidence from customary court records in colonial Senegal (with Joan Ricart-Huguet and Lindsey Pruett).

POLICY PUBLICATIONS

15. 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](#)].
16. 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](#)].
17. 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](#)].
18. 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](#)].
19. 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

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| 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.
2017 International Studies Association—South.

TEACHING AND RESEARCH ASSISTANCE

Teaching assistanceships:

- 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)

Research assistanceships:

- Jeremy Weinstein (Stanford University)
- Kai Gehring (University of Bern and Stanford University)
- Kristen Harkness (University of St. Andrews)
- Marc DeVore (University of St. Andrews)

OTHER 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, \LaTeX .