

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

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. Forthcoming: *Journal of Wine Economics* [[link to working paper](#)].
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

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 Bezares Calderón, Simon Mercer, and Ifeoluwa M. Olawole) [[link to working paper](#)].

8. Land, power, and property rights: Conjoint evidence from Sénégal 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. Land, Power, and Property Rights: The Political Economy of Land Titling in sub-Saharan 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.