

MAYA MIKELSON

512·423·4989 ♦ mikelson@umich.edu ♦ [LinkedIn](#)

Education

University of Michigan – Ann Arbor

2021 – 2025

B.S. with Honors in Political Science, minor in Data Science

GPA: 3.61 (3.97 in Political Science)

GRE Scores

Quantitative: 166 (74th Percentile), **Verbal:** 161 (86th Percentile), **Writing:** 5.0 (92nd Percentile)

Research Interests

Field One: International Relations

Field Two: Methodology

Specific Areas of Interest: Conflict and cooperation, security studies, human rights

Research Experience

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research

May 2022 – Present

↪ Professor Christopher J. Fariss

University of Michigan

- Developed latent variable models in R with the Stan library to calculate the likelihood of signing treaties in every year between 1966 and 2022.
- Coded a web scraper to analyze treaty ratification data from the UN Treaty Body database.

Ralph Bunche Summer Institute (RBSI)

May – June 2024

↪ Professors Paula D. McClain and David A. Siegel

Duke University

- Developed independent research project on the impact of third-party military interventions on human rights and government repression during intrastate conflict using a Heckman Probit Selection Model.
- Completed graduate-level courses in Race and American Politics and Probability and Regression.

NSF REU Accountability, Behavior & Conflict in Democratic Politics

June – July 2023

↪ Professor Emily Hencken Ritter

Vanderbilt University

- Developed an independent empirical project analyzing the relationship between militarization and interstate conflict that was presented in a poster session at APSA 2023, Los Angeles.
- Compiled historical sources into case studies examining race riots and police violence in the United States.

Conference Presentations and Working Papers

The Link Between Interstate Armed Conflict and Military Expenditure, Personnel, and Heavy Weaponry

Senior Honors Thesis, University of Michigan, Fall 2024

Third-Party Military Interventions, Government Repression, and Human Rights

Ralph Bunche Summer Institute Paper, June 2024

Militarization and Interstate Armed Conflict

Poster presentation at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, September 2023

Other Employment and Extracurricular Activities

The Michigan Daily *Data Editor and Data Journalist*

January 2022 – Present

- Researched, wrote, and edited data journalism stories and visuals.
- Led collaboration with other sections of the Daily to produce articles.
- Conducted data analyses and created graphics for publication.

Decision Desk HQ *Data Editor and Election Night Reporter*

November 2018 – Present

- Decision Desk HQ reports election results from county election officials. Responsible for a team of editors checking election data results for errors, communicating, and resolving data errors.
- Promoted from Election Night Reporter to Data Editor after four years.

Michigan Policy Debate Team *Member*

August 2021 – May 2024

- Represented Michigan at competitions around the United States.
- Researched antitrust, legal personhood, and nuclear weapons policy.

Michigan Foreign Policy Council *Member*

September 2021 – December 2021

- Researched energy policy in Afghanistan after the Taliban took control.

Skills

Programming: R, Stata, Python, C++, QGIS 3
Quantitative Methods: OLS/Multivariate/Logit/Probit Regression Modeling; Latent variable modeling; Heckman Selection Modeling; Content analysis; Data cleaning
Languages: Limited Arabic and Mandarin speaking/reading/writing

Awards

Nominated for Sweetland Prize for Excellence in Upper-Level Writing January 2024
Militarization and Interstate Conflict
3rd Place, Best Interactive Infographic by Pinnacle College Media Awards November 2023
How Walkable Is Your Block? *The Michigan Daily*

References

<p>Professor Christopher J. Fariss Professor of Political Science University of Michigan – Ann Arbor Email: cjfariss@umich.edu Phone: 734-763-2716 Relationship: Senior Thesis Advisor and Research Mentor for three years</p>	<p>Professor Emily Hencken Ritter Associate Professor of Political Science Vanderbilt University Email: emily.h.ritter@vanderbilt.edu Phone: 615-936-9795 Relationship: Research Mentor and Advisor on independent research at Vanderbilt REU</p>
<p>Professor David A. Siegel Professor of Political Science and Public Policy Duke University Email: david.siegel@duke.edu Phone: 919-660-4300 Relationship: Research Mentor and Professor for Probability and Regression at RBSI</p>	<p>Professor Nancy Burns Warren E. Miller Collegiate Professor of Political Science University of Michigan – Ann Arbor Email: nburns@umich.edu Phone: 734-763-3080 Relationship: Professor for Political Science Research Design</p>

Relevant Course Work

Political Science	Term Completed
Political Science Honors Seminar (Senior Honors Thesis)	Fall 2024/Winter 2025
Measuring Democratic Backsliding: A Comparative Empirical Assessment of Democratic Decline in Israel	Winter 2024
International Security Affairs	Winter 2024
Latin American Politics and Society	Winter 2024
Political Science Research Design	Fall 2023
Persuasive Politics	Fall 2023
Game Theory and Models	Winter 2023
Survey Design and Analysis	Winter 2023
Human Rights	Winter 2023
Political Science Research Opportunity	Fall 2022, Winter 2023
International Law and Human Rights	Fall 2022
Data Science for International Studies	Winter 2022

Mathematics & Statistics	Term Completed
Applied Statistical Methods II	Fall 2024
Social Science and Big Data	Winter 2024
Critical Data Visualization	Fall 2023
Probability and Statistics using Multivariable Calculus	Winter 2023
Applied Linear Algebra	Fall 2022
Multivariable and Vector Calculus	Fall 2021

Computer Science	Term Completed
Statistical Computing	Fall 2023
Discrete Math	Winter 2022
Programming and Data Structures	Winter 2022
Programming Concepts	Fall 2021