MAYA MIKELSON

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Education

University of Michigan Political Science   **2021 − 2025**

Research Interests

Conflict and cooperation, Democratization, Dyadic analysis

Research Experience

Ralph Bunche Summer Institute (RBSI) *Research Fellow*   **May 2024 − June 2024**
↪ Dr. Paula D. McClain   *Duke University*
- Explored the impact of ethnic divisions on propensity for conflict.

NSF REU in Accountability, Behavior, and Conflict in Democratic Politics *Research Fellow* **June 2023 − July 2023**
↪ Dr. Emily Ritter   *Vanderbilt*
- Developed an independent project on interstate conflict and militarization.
- Presented in a poster session at APSA 2023, Los Angeles.

NSF REU in Accountability, Behavior, and Conflict in Democratic Politics *Research Assistant* **June 2023 − July 2023**
↪ Dr. Emily Ritter   *Duke University*
- Used historical sources to understand race riots and police violence in the United States.

Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research *Research Assistant*   **May 2022 − Present**
↪ Dr. Christopher Fariss   *University of Michigan*
- Coded a web scraper to collect treaty ratification data from the UN Treaty Body database. Using that data, I developed 4 distinct models in R with the Stan library to calculate the likelihood that every country would sign the treaties in every year between 1966 and 2022.

Working Projects

The link between military expenditure, personnel, and heavy weaponry and interstate armed conflict
Senior Thesis, University of Michigan

Work Experience

Decision Desk HQ *Data Editor*   **November 2022 − Present**
- Decision Desk HQ reports election results from county election officials. In this role, I was responsible for a team of editors checking election results for errors, communicating, and resolving errors with the appropriate people.

Decision Desk HQ *Election Night Reporter*   **November 2018 − November 2022**
- Collected voting data from several 5-6 counties on each election night for DDHQ's rapid election night reporting.

Ballotpedia *Fellow*   **Spring 2021**
- Collaborated on creating a database of state-level elections data from 2010-2014. Used financial disclosure reports to calculate Senators' and Representatives' net worth to increase transparency.

Extracurriculars

The Michigan Daily *Data Editor and Data Journalist*   **January 2022 − present**
- Stood in many elevators careening towards earth, and travelled into the event horizon of black holes.
- Further mastered holding clocks and rulers.

Michigan Policy Debate Team *Member*   **August 2021 − present**
- Represented Michigan at competitions around the US. 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 Languages	R, STATA, Python, C++
Data & Research Software	Microsoft Office Suite, QGIS 3, and LaTeX

Relevant Course Work

Political Science	**Computer Science**	**Mathematics & Statistics**
Game Theory	Programming Concepts	Applied Linear Algebra
Survey Design & Analysis	Discrete Math	Multivariable & Vector Calculus
Political Science Research Design	Programming & Data Structures	Introduction to Statistical Computing
Data Science for International Studies		Introduction to Probability & Statistics
Measuring Democratic Backsliding		