

# Ryan C. Briggs

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## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Affiliated Faculty, Guelph Institute of Development Studies. University of Guelph. 2018–  
Associate Professor, Political Science. University of Guelph. 2021–  
Assistant Professor, Political Science. University of Guelph. 2018–2021.  
Assistant Professor, Political Science. Virginia Tech. 2014–2018.  
Professorial Lecturer, School of International Service. American University. 2013–2014.

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D. International Relations; School of International Service. American University. 2008–2013.  
B.Soc.Sci. International Development and Globalization. University of Ottawa. 2004–2008.

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## OTHER ROLES

Global Health and Development editor. *the Unjournal*. 2023–.  
Editorial Board member. Institute for Replication. 2023–.

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## RESEARCH

### Peer Reviewed Articles

- Brodeur, Abel (and >300 co-authors including Ryan C. Briggs). (accepted). Reproducibility and Robustness of Economics and Political Science Research. *Nature*.
- Aczel, Balazs (and >400 co-authors including Ryan C. Briggs). (accepted). Investigating the Analytical Robustness of the Social and Behavioural Sciences. *Nature*.
- Arel-Bundock, Vincent, Briggs, Ryan C., Doucouliagos, Hristos, Mendoza Aviña, Marco, and Stanley, T.D. (2026). Quantitative Political Science Research is Greatly Underpowered. *Journal of Politics*, 88(1), 36–46.
- Heinzel, Mirko, Weaver, Cate, and Briggs, Ryan C. (2025). Incentivizing Responses in International Organization Elite Surveys: Evidence from the World Bank. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, 12(1), 17–26.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2024). Beliefs, Values, and Practices in Development Studies. *Journal of Development Studies*, 60(10), 1493–1510.
- Briggs, Ryan C. and Solodoch, Omer. (2024). Changes in perceptions of border security influence desired levels of immigration. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 68(6), 1252–1275.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2021). Why does aid not target the poorest? *International Studies Quarterly*, 65(3), 739–752.

- Briggs, Ryan C. (2021). Power to Which People? Explaining how electrification targets voters across party rotations in Ghana. *World Development*, 141, 105391.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2020). Results from single-donor analyses of project aid success seem to generalize pretty well across donors. *Review of International Organizations*, 15(4), 947–963.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2020). Canadians think that nearly all of us will be allowed back to work around August. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 53(2), 245–251.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2019). Receiving foreign aid can reduce support for incumbent presidents. *Political Research Quarterly*, 72(3), 610–622.
- Aidoo, Kobina and Briggs, Ryan C. (2019). Underpowered: Rolling blackouts in Africa disproportionately hurt the poor. *African Studies Review*, 62(3), 112–131.
- Berinzon, Maya and Briggs, Ryan C. (2019). Measuring and explaining formal institutional persistence in French West Africa. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 57(2), 183–202.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2018). Leaving no one behind? A new test of subnational aid targeting. *Journal of International Development*, 30(5), 904–910.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2018). Poor targeting: A gridded spatial analysis of the degree to which aid reaches the poor in Africa. *World Development*, 103, 133–148.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2017). Does foreign aid target the poorest? *International Organization*, 71(1), 187–206.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2017). Explaining case selection in African politics research. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 35(4), 565–572.
- Berinzon, Maya and Briggs, Ryan C. (2016). Legal families without the laws: The fading of colonial law in French West Africa. *American Journal of Comparative Law*, 64(2), 329–370.  
*Winner of the Hessel Yntema Prize for best article published in AJCL in 2016 by authors under 40.*
- Briggs, Ryan C. and Weathers, Scott. (2016). The other white man's burden? Gender & location in African politics scholarship. *African Affairs*, 115(460), 466–489.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2015). The influence of aid changes on African election outcomes. *International Interactions*, 41(2), 201–225.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2014). Aiding and Abetting: Project Aid and Ethnic Politics in Kenya. *World Development*, 64, 194–205.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2012). Electrifying the base? Aid and incumbent advantage in Ghana. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 50(4), 603–624.

## Book Chapters

- Briggs, Ryan C. (2024). Aid Targeting, in *The Handbook of Aid and Development*, edited by Desai, Raj and Devarajan, Shanta and Tobin, Jennifer.

## Work in Progress

- Briggs, Ryan C. and Vivaldi, Eva. Are Impact Evaluations in Development Economics Underpowered?  
Briggs, Ryan C., Mellon, Jonathan, and Arel-Bundock, Vincent. It must be very hard to publish null results.

## Other Writing

- Briggs, Ryan C. (2025). Can We Trust Social Science Yet? *Asterisk*.  
Briggs, Ryan C. and Rutty, Chris. (2023). Why we should declare a formal 'Smallpox Eradication Day'. *Ottawa Citizen*.

- Briggs, Ryan C. (2022). The abject failure of IRBs: Ethics-review systems have become exercises in absurdity and unpredictability. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.
- Briggs, Ryan C. and Sidhu, Dario. (2021). It's giving season — how do you ensure your charitable donations will be used effectively? *The Toronto Star*.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2021). Why does aid not target the poorest? *VoxDev*.
- Briggs, Ryan C., Falconer, Robert, and Moreno-Cruz, Juan. (2020). Canada should take advantage of the U.S. immigration debacle and capitalize on high-skilled labour fleeing the US. *Calgary Herald*.
- Aidoo, Kobina and Briggs, Ryan C. (2020). Power cuts in Africa disproportionately hurt the poor. *Africa at LSE*.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2019). Review of The Development Dance. *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 57(1), 178–179.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2019). Why acceptance rates are falling and what can we do about it? *Citing Africa Podcast, Episode 1 (Guest interview)*.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2018). Box 10.1. Does aid target the poorest? *OECD DAC Development Co-operation Report 2018*.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2018). Does foreign aid reliably spur sustained economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa? *CQ Researcher: At Issue*.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2018). Millions of Americans as destitute as the world's poorest? Don't believe it. *Vox.com*.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2017). Development aid isn't reaching the poorest. Here's what that means. *The Washington Post (The Monkey Cage)*.
- Berinzon, Maya and Briggs, Ryan C. (2017). 60 years later, are colonial-era laws holding Africa back? *The Washington Post (The Monkey Cage)*.
- Briggs, Ryan C. and Weathers, Scott. (2016). Gender and location in African politics scholarship: Q&A with Ryan C. Briggs and Scott Weathers. *OUPBlog*.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2015). Review of Neopatrimonialism in Africa and Beyond. *Journal of Cold War Studies*, 17(3), 264–266.
- Bräutigam, Deborah and Briggs, Ryan C. (2011). Wikileaks - China, the US and Africa. *African Arguments*.
- Briggs, Ryan C. (2007). The Importance of the Aid-Rentier Model to Development. *Undercurrent*, 4(1), 13–21.

## Invited Presentations

It must be very hard to publish null results.

- Stanford University, 2026
- UC Berkeley, 2026
- Western University, 2026

Quantitative Political Science is Greatly Underpowered.

- University of Zurich, 2023
- University of Toronto, 2022
- American University, 2022

Why does aid not target the poorest?

- University of Fribourg, 2023
- University of Toronto, 2020

Changes in perceptions of border security influence desired levels of immigration.

- Concordia University, 2022

O-Ring Research Production.

- University of Toronto, 2021

Receiving foreign aid can reduce support for incumbent presidents.

- EPRC and PRIO workshop, Kampala, Uganda, 2018

The Geography of Poverty and Development Resources: What do we know? what should we know? and why does it matter?

- Institute for African Development, Cornell University, 2018

Power to Which People? How information externalities explain when parties target core or swing voters.

- Center for Global Development, 2017

Does Foreign Aid Target the Poorest?

- American University, 2017

Does Aid Target the Poorest?

- Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas A.C. (CIDE), 2015

A Primer on Foreign Aid to Africa.

- Foreign Service Institute, US Department of State, 2014

Aiding and Abetting: Development Assistance and Incumbent Advantage in Ghana.

- MIT, 2012
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## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

At the University of Guelph I teach graduate courses on International Development Theory and Research Methods and undergraduate courses on The Economics of Poverty and Project Evaluation.

At Virginia Tech I taught a graduate course on Research Methods and undergraduate courses on African Politics, Economic Development, International Relations and Comparative Politics.

At American University I taught graduate courses on African Political Economy and International Development and undergraduate courses on African Politics and International Development.

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## GRANTS & AWARDS

Insight Development Grant (with Vincent Arrel-Bundock), SSHRC, 2023 \$74,600.

Effective Altruism Funds Grant, Effective Altruism Funds, 2021 \$18,000.

Insight Development Grant, SSHRC, 2020 \$68,000.

Doctoral Fellowship, SSHRC, 2011 \$20,000.

Young Scholar Award, Washington DC Cosmos Club, 2011 \$3,000.

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## SERVICE

### Administrative Positions

Undergraduate Curriculum Coordinator. Guelph Institute of Development Studies. 2024–

Undergraduate Academic Advisor. Guelph Institute of Development Studies. 2024–

### Peer Reviews

Lots

### Other Service

Led a team that got Snoop Dogg to record a video asking students to read the syllabus.

Southern Ontario Development Workshop, Organizer, 2019.

African Studies Association, Program Committee member (Co-Chair for the Economics, Political Economy, and Entrepreneurship subtheme), 2019.

African Politics Conference Group Best Article Award, Committee Chair, 2019.