

WILLIAM D. TAYLOR

Doctoral Student, Political Science and Public Policy, University of Michigan

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Research interests: repression; human rights; vulnerability; policy evaluation and implementation; policy preference formation; computational methods.

Education

University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

B.S. Computer Science and Political Science

2023

University of Michigan—Ann Arbor

Ph.D. Political Science and Public Policy

Expected 2028

Research Experience

Analyst

Criminal Justice Innovation Lab, UNC School of Government

2023-Feb 2025

- Provide quantitative and computational deliverables for projects on bail reform, court appearance, and reentry and second chance hiring.
 - Lead meetings associated with these projects.
- QC work completed by graduate assistants and other researchers affiliated with the Lab.
- Write substantive prose and methodological appendices for reports delivered to stakeholders.
- Implement software engineering best-practices to enable efficiency and reproducibility in the Lab's core data infrastructure.
- Led development on the [North Carolina Record Clearance Dashboard](#), an interactive dashboard to be used by policymakers and stakeholders in assessing prospects for criminal record clearance in North Carolina.

Ralph Bunche Summer Institute Fellow

2022

American Political Science Association Ralph Bunche Summer Institute, Duke University

- Completed two graduate-level courses—Probability and Basic Regression, and Race and American Politics.
- Wrote a quantitative research paper employing rare event analysis to study radicalization into political extremism in the United Kingdom.
- Invited to present at the 2022 American Political Science Association general conference.

Undergraduate Research Assistant

2021-2023

Dr. Frank Baumgartner, UNC Department of Political Science

- (December 2021—Summer 2022) Assisted with reshaping and feature engineering tasks for a country-wide death penalty dataset.

- (Fall/Winter 2022) Received mentorship while completing an independent research paper on disparate criminal justice contact in NC.
 - Presented on research design and theory for this project at the University of Michigan's Emerging Scholars political science conference.
 - Presented findings at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists Annual Meeting.

NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Fellow 2021

Security and Political Economy Lab/LEWIS Registry, The University of Southern California

- Cleaned, updated, and merged data for several international relations projects, and the Princeton World Economics and Politics Dataverse.
- Analyzed survey data from police chiefs on the Law Enforcement Work Inquiry System ("LEWIS Registry").
- Collaborated with other research assistants (RAs) to generate reports that informed project direction.
- Held weekly office hours to assist other RAs with R and statistical computing concepts.
- Created visualizations and tables for academic papers, and updated prose with these changes.
- Gave presentations to professors and stakeholders outlining new quantitative findings.
- Created R video tutorials on data visualization, currently hosted on the SPEC Lab YouTube channel.

Policy Evaluations

PRETRIAL REFORM IN ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA: FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT, with Jessica Smith, Lab Director; Jamie Vaske, Senior Research Associate; and Hannah Turner, Project Manager, November 2023.

- Responsible for the prose and analyses in the Pretrial Detention section.

PRETRIAL REFORM IN ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA: FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT — TECHNICAL APPENDIX, with Jessica Smith, Lab Director; and Jamie Vaske, Senior Research Associate, November 2023.

- Responsible for the prose and analyses in the Pretrial Detention section.

Conference Presentations

Bossous, Joel and **William Taylor**. 2024. "Anger and the Political Pendulum: Emotions as Call and Response." Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA.

Taylor, William. 2023. "Social Vulnerability and Criminal Justice Contact in North Carolina." National Conference of Black Political Scientists. Atlanta, GA.

Taylor, William. 2023. "Social Vulnerability and Criminal Justice Contact in North Carolina." Eldersveld Emerging Scholars Conference. Ann Arbor, MI.

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association

National Conference of Black Political Scientists
National Society of Black Engineers
Society of Political Methodology
Southern Political Science Association

Technical Skills

Languages

R, Python, Stata, Java, SQL, Bash

Operating Systems

Mac OS, Linux, Windows 10, Windows Server

Applications:

Rstudio/Quarto, Stata BE, Jupyter Notebook, Git/GitHub, IntelliJ, Microsoft Office Suite