

Rob Williams

CONTACT INFORMATION

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APPOINTMENTS Washington University in St. Louis

Postdoctoral Research Associate 2019-2020

EDUCATION The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Ph.D., Political Science 2019

- Dissertation: "The Geography of Secession"
- Committee: Mark Crescenzi (chair), Navin Bapat, Stephen Gent, Patricia Sullivan, and Santiago Olivella
- Concentrations: *International Relations* and *Political Methodology*

M.A., Political Science 2016

Haverford College

B.A., Political Science, Departmental Honors 2012

PUBLICATIONS Williams, Rob, Daniel J. Gustafson, Stephen E. Gent, and Mark J.C. Crescenzi. "A Latent Variable Approach to Measuring and Explaining Peace Agreement Strength." Forthcoming, *Political Science Research and Methods*.

UNDER REVIEW "Under the Roof of Rebels: Civilian Targeting After Territorial Takeover in Sierra Leone." with Christian Oswald, Melanie Sauter, and Sigrid Weber. Revised and Resubmitted to *International Studies Quarterly*.

PAPERS IN PREPARATION "The Curse of Geography: How Governments Preempt Secession Attempts"
"Terrorism, Repression, and Stealth Aggression" with Navin Bapat and Daniel Gustafson

"Mapping Extremist Networks with Visual Imagery"

"Keeping a Lid on it: How Government efforts to Prevent Secession Attempts can Fail"

"Unsettled Borders in a Market Context" with Bailee Donahue and Mark Crescenzi

"Extracting Road Networks from Spatial Data" with Ryan Denniston, Juan Tellez, and Howard Liu

"Gaussian Process Models for Spatial Data"

"Addressing Uncertainty in Correlation Structure for Spatial Models with Bayesian Model Averaging"

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS	International Studies Association Midwest	2019
	Peace Science Society (International)	2016, 2018, 2019
	American Political Science Association	2019
	Politics and Computational Social Science	2019
	Society for Political Methodology	2018, 2019
	International Studies Association	2017, 2019
	Midwest Political Science Association	2018
	Boston International Security Graduate Conference	2018

AWARDS AND HONORS	Thomas M. Uhlman Summer Research Fellowship (2016, 2018, 2019), \$6,000
	Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching (2019), \$2,500
	Dean's Graduate Fellowship (2018-2019), \$5,000
	Graduate Student Transportation Grant (2019), \$1,000
	Graduate and Professional Student Federation Travel Award (2018), \$400
	ISA Annual Conference Travel Grant (2017), \$180
	Whit Ayres Travel Award (2017), \$160
	Departmental Honors in Political Science (2012)

RESEARCH INTERESTS Rebel goals and aims, conflict preemption, low level political violence, conflict resolution, Bayesian inference, measurement models, spatial statistics

TEACHING INTERESTS Conflict processes, terrorism and political violence, conflict management and resolution, quantitative methodology, spatial modeling

TECHNICAL SKILLS Statistical computing in R, Python, and Stata, Bayesian inference with Stan and JAGS, reproducible research with R Markdown, GIS in R, version control with git, high performance computing, containerization with Singularity, Bash

TEACHING EXPERIENCE **Washington University in St. Louis** **Instructor**

- PS 3171: International Conflict Management & Resolution (Fall 2019)

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

Instructor

- Poli 281 Quantitative Research in Political Science (Spring 2019)
- Poli 891 Lab for Advanced Topics in Political Data Science (Fall 2017, Fall 2018)
 - Received Earle Wallace Award for Graduate Student Teaching

Teaching Assistant

- Poli 787 Advanced Topics in Political Data Science (Fall 2017, Fall 2018)
- Poli 150 Introduction to International Relations and World Politics (Fall 2015, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018)
- Poli 203 Race, Innocence, and the Decline of the Death Penalty (Spring 2016)

ICPSR Summer Program

Teaching Assistant

- Introduction to Applied Bayesian Modeling (Summer 2017)

METHODS TRAINING

The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill

- Introductory Probability and Statistics
- Ordinary Least Squares Regression
- Generalized Linear Models
- Machine Learning
- Game Theory I & II
- Formal Models of International Relations

North Carolina State University

- Applied Spatial Statistics

ICPSR Summer Program

- Advanced Bayesian Modeling
- Empirical Modeling of Social Science Theory

BIGSSS Computational Social Science Summer School

- Spatial Event Data Analysis
- Agent Based Modeling

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

The Odum Institute for Research in Social Science

- **Data Verification:** Performed replication and verification of author-submitted R, Python, and Stata code for manuscripts accepted for publication in *The American Journal of Political Science* and *State Politics and Policy Quarterly*, contributed to the development of best practices for authors (2016-2019)
- **Teaching Assistant** Assisted faculty instructors in a weeklong course targeted towards working data science professionals (2015)

ITS Research Computing

- **Support Specialist:** Assisted users of high performance clusters and virtual computing resources on campus, taught introductory R course to research community at UNC (2019)

SERVICE

Workshop Organization

- “Measuring and Conceptualizing Rebel Governance,” 2019 PSS(I) Annual Meeting, with Amelia Hoover Green
- “Advancing Measurement in the Study of Conflict and Political Violence,” 2018 PSS(I) Annual Meeting, with Johannes Karreth & Elizabeth Menninga

Panel Organization

- “Measuring Strategic Interaction in Conflict with Event Data,” 2019 APSA Annual Conference, with Johannes Karreth
- “Measuring the Less Violent Tools of Statecraft,” 2019 ISA Midwest Annual Conference

Departmental Service

- Graduate student peer mentor (2019)
- Coordinator, Methods and Design Workshop (2018-2019)
- Coordinator, Spatial Methods Working Group (2016-2018)

AFFILIATIONS

Peace Science Society (International), International Studies Association, Society for Political Methodology, American Political Science Association

REFERENCES

Mark Crescenzi
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Santiago Olivella

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