Benjamin Laughlin

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Academic Positions

Assistant Professor of Political Science, New York University Abu Dhabi, 2020-present

Affiliated Faculty, Wilf Family Department of Politics, New York University, 2020-present

Post-Doctoral Associate, New York University Abu Dhabi, 2019-2020

Visiting Fellow, Wilf Family Department of Politics, New York University, 2019-2020

Pre-Doctoral Fellow, Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania, 2017-2019

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Rochester, 2019

Dissertation: ``Three Essays on the Political Economy of Violence and Forced Migration''

M.A. in Political Science, University of Rochester, 2014

B.A. in Political Science and Economics, University of Washington, 2007

Fields of Research Interest

Technology and politics, Civil conflict and political violence, Polarization, National identity

Research

Working Papers

``Border Fences and the Mexican Drug War'' (Under review)

``The Electoral Consequences of Cellphone Coverage Expansion'' (with Shuning Ge, Guy Grossman, Katrina Kosec, and Apoorva Lal--Under review)

``Information Cascades and Refugee Crises'' (Under review)

``Cell Phones, Rumors, and Internal Displacement in Civil War'' (Under review)

``Mobile Communication Technology and National Identity in Sub-Saharan Africa'' (with Danny Choi and Anna Schultz)

``Does School Debating Reduce Discrimination? Evidence from a Randomized Control Trial in Poland'' (with Krysztof Krakowski)

Work in Progress

``The Colonial Origins of National Identity: Evidence from Railroad Infrastructure in Africa'' (with Danny Choi)

``Make a Desert to Force the Peace: Targeting capital in Indonesia'' (with Thomas O'Mealia and Jessica Sun)

``Bias in Newspaper-Sourced Conflict Data'' (with Thomas O'Mealia and Jessica Sun)

``Bridging the Digital Divide: The Effects of Internet Access on Political Opinions and Behavior'' (with Kholekile Malindi, Georgiy Syunyaev and Anna Wilke)

``Can Virtual Reality Promote Peace?'' (with Aaron Kaufman)

``The Effects of Violence Across Generations'' (with Joan Barcello)

Advising

Undergraduate Students: Yudai Furukawa (2021), Sekou Jabateh (2022), Sameera Singh (2022), Lara Alisawi (2023), Adi Baurzhanuly (2023), Syed Ibrahim Mustafa Gillani (2023).

Honors, Awards, & Fellowships

Grant from the Peter D. Watson Center for Conflict and Cooperation to purchase data, University of Rochester, 2017

Dean's Post-Field Research Dissertation Completion Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2016-2017

Travel Grant from the Comparative Politics Section of APSA, 2016.

Grant from the Goergen Fund to hire an Undergraduate Research Assistant, University of Rochester, 2016

University Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2011-2016

University of Rochester Summer Seed Grant for International Field Research, 2014, 2015, 2016

Conference Travel Grant, University of Rochester Graduate Organizing Committee, 2014, 2016

Charles E. Lanni Summer Research Fellowship, University of Rochester, Summer 2012, 2013, 2014

Department of Political Science Second-Year Paper Fellowship, University of Rochester, 2013

Program in Empirical Policy Research (PEPR) Grant, W. Allen Wallis Institute of Political Economy, University of Rochester, 2012

Teaching

New York University -- Abu Dhabi

Statistics for the Social and Behavioral Sciences, Fall 2020, Summer 2021, Spring 2023

Capstone Seminar, Spring 2021, Spring 2022

Capstone Project, Fall 2021, Fall 2022

University of Rochester

The Politics of Terrorism, University of Rochester, Fall 2014. Teaching Assistant for Alex Lee

Introduction to International Relations, University of Rochester, Spring 2014. Teaching Assistant for Hein Geomans

Ethnic Politics, University of Rochester, Fall 2013. Teaching Assistant for Bethany Lacina

Identity, Ethnicity and Nationalism, University of Rochester, Spring 2013. Teaching Assistant for Bonnie Meguid

Field Experience, Languages, and Software

Field Experience:

Kosovo/Serbia, February-March 2015, June 2016

Moldova, June-August 2014, January-February, March-April 2015

Ukraine, August 2014, May, August, 2015

Kyrgyzstan, June-July 2015

Romania, May-June, August 2015

Languages: English (native), Romanian (advanced), Russian (intermediate)

Software: R, ArcGIS, Python

Last updated: February 28, 2023