

Benjamin Laughlin

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Academic Positions

Predocctoral Fellow, Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania, August 2017–present

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Rochester, expected October 2018

Dissertation: “Three Essays on the Political Economy of Violence and Forced Migration”

Committee: Hein Geomans (co-chair), Gretchen Helmke (co-chair), Bethany Lacina, and Matthew Blackwell

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

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

Fields of Research Interest

Civil conflict and political violence, Refugees and immigration, Ethnic politics, Causal inference, and Eastern Europe and Latin America

Research

Working Papers

“Border Fences and the Mexican Drug War”—Job Market Paper

“Information Cascades and Refugee Crises” (Under review)

“Cell Phones, Rumors, and Internal Displacement in Civil War” (Under review)

“Technology and the Formation of National Identity: Evidence from Africa” (with Danny Choi and Anna Schultz)

“Exposure to Immigrants and Anti-immigrant Sentiment” (with Barbara Piotrowska)

Work in Progress

“EU Border Security and Nationalism: A Natural Experiment in Ukraine”

“Nationalistic Education and the Malleability of Ethnicity in Moldova”

“Voting for Revenge: The Post-Conflict Effect of Forced Displacement and Civil War Violence”

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 and Research Experience

Teaching

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

Research

Research Assistant for Gretchen Helmke, Summer 2012, 2014-16
Research Assistant for Avidit Acharya, Summer 2012
Research Assistant for Randall Stone, Summer 2011

Professional Activities

Co-organizer of Conference on International Borders in a Globalizing World, 2018
Reviewer, *Political Science Research and Methods*

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), Serbian (elementary)

Software: R, ArcGIS, Python

References

Hein Goemans (dissertation co-chair)
Associate Professor of Political Science
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Gretchen Helmke (dissertation co-chair)
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Bethany Lacina
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Matthew Blackwell
Assistant Professor of Government
Harvard University
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Beth Simmons (predoctoral fellowship advisor)
Andrea Mitchell University Professor of Law,
Political Science and Business Ethics
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