

Nora Webb Williams
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Political Science
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2020- Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (UIUC)
- 2019-2020 Assistant Professor, Department of International Affairs, School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia (UGA)
- Affiliate Faculty:* Russian Flagship Program; Center for International Trade and Security (CITS); Owens Institute for Behavioral Research

EDUCATION

- 2019 PhD, Political Science. University of Washington, Seattle
- Exams (with distinction):* Comparative Politics, Methods, and Political Economy
Political Methodology Certificate (2016): Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences
Other training: Project Lead, 2018 eScience Institute Data Science Incubator, UW.
“An Infrastructure for Analyzing Political Images Gathered on Twitter”
- 2015 MA, Political Science. University of Washington, Seattle.
2012 MPA/MA, Policy Analysis/Central Eurasian Studies. Indiana University, Bloomington
2006 BA, Russian, *summa cum laude*. Middlebury College, Vermont

PUBLICATIONS

Books/monographs:

- 2020 Webb Williams, Nora, Andreu Casas and John Wilkerson. *Images as Data for Social Science Research: An Introduction to Convolutional Neural Nets for Image Classification*. Cambridge Elements: Quantitative and Computational Methods for Social Science.

Refereed journal articles:

- Forthcoming Aslett, Kevin, Nora Webb Williams, Andreu Casas, Wesley Zuidema, and John Wilkerson. "A Social Media Approach to Measuring Frame Impacts: What Was the Problem in Parkland?" *Policy Studies Journal*
- Forthcoming Rees, Kristoffer, Nora Webb Williams, and Alexander Diener. "Territorial Belonging and Homeland Disjuncture: Uneven Territorializations in Kazakhstan" *Europe-Asia Studies*
- 2019 Casas, Andreu and Nora Webb Williams. "Images that Matter: Online Protests and the Mobilizing Role of Pictures." *Political Research Quarterly* 72(2): 360-375. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1065912918786805>
- 2017 Rees, Kristoffer and Nora Webb Williams. "Explaining Kazakhstani Identity: Supraethnic Identity, Ethnicity, Language and Citizenship." *Nationalities Papers* 45(5): 815-839. <https://doi.org/10.1080%2F00905992.2017.1288204>
- 2015 Webb Williams, Nora. "Observing Protest: Media Use and Student Involvement on 7 April 2010 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan." *Central Asian Survey* 34(3): 373-389. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2015.1007663>

Refereed book chapters:

- 2015 Menaldo, Victor and Nora Webb Williams. "Judicial Supremacy: Explaining False Starts and Surprising Successes" in *Magna Carta and its Modern Legacy*. James Melton and Robert Hazell, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press

Book reviews:

- 2015 Webb Williams, Nora. "Oil Sparks in the Amazon: Local Conflicts, Indigenous Populations, and Natural Resources by Patricia I. Vásquez." *Political Science Quarterly*, 130(1): 176-177

Data:

- 2016 Webb Williams, Nora. 2016. Kazakhstan Constitutional Council Database. [Available here.](#)

IN PREPARATION

Webb Williams, Nora, Calvin Garner, and Michael Gabbay. "Cooperation, Conflict, and Ideology within Militant Networks in Eastern Ukraine" [*Under Review*]

WORKING PAPERS IN PROGRESS

“Colonial Policy, Social Trust, and Economic Resilience: Evidence from Kazakhstan” (book project)

“The Long-term Impact of Russian Colonial Policy on Social Trust”

“Is the Picture in Focus? Images in Social Movement Mobilization” (with Andreu Casas, Kevin Aslett, and John Wilkerson)

“Automated Visual Clustering: A Technique for Image Corpus Exploration and Annotation Cost Reduction” (with Andreu Casas, Kevin Aslett, and John Wilkerson)

“Captured Courts and Legitimized Autocrats: Kazakhstan’s Constitutional Council” (with Margaret Hanson)

“Transcending Training from Scratch: The Possibilities of Transfer Learning” (with Emma Rodman)

“Automated Image Taggers from Amazon, Google, and Microsoft: Are They Useful for Social Science Research?”

GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS

- 2019-2021 Academic Data Science Alliance Seed Grant (\$49,929.25). (Co-PI with PI Emily Gade and co-PI Diyi Yang)
- 2019-20 SPIA Seed Funding for External Grant-writing, University of Georgia (\$4,000) (with Justin Conrad)
- 2018-19 Presidential Dissertation Fellowship, University of Washington (UW). (approx. \$13,000)
- 2018 Summer Research Funding via PI-NET: Poli-Informatics Research Coordination Network, NSF Award Number 1243917
- 2017-18 Richard B. Wesley Endowed Fellowship in Political Economy. Department of Political Science, UW (\$2,000)
- 2017 “The Power of Images: A Computational Investigation of Political Mobilization via Social Media.” Key Personnel with PI John Wilkerson. NSF Award Number 1727459 (\$302,516)
- 2017 Dissertation Research Grant. Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (\$5,000)
- 2016 Camden Hall Graduate Research Grant, “Images that Matter.” Department of Political Science, UW (\$3,000)
- 2014-15 Graduate Fellow, States, Markets & Societies Mellon Sub-Grant on Inequality, Taxation, and Redistribution in the Developing World, UW (\$1,000)

- 2014-15 Academic Year Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship. U.S. Department of Education via Ellison Center (Russian, UW) (approx. \$33,000)
- 2011-12 Fulbright U.S. Student Study/Research Grant to Kyrgyz Republic. U.S. State Department (\$25,422)
- 2011 Robert H. Frowick Memorial Graduate Scholarship. Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs (\$1,000)
- 2011 Title VIII Grant. U.S. Department of Education via IAUNRC (Uzbek, SWSEEL, Indiana University) (\$4,729)
- 2010-11 Academic Year FLAS Fellowship. U.S. Department of Education via IAUNRC (Uzbek, Indiana University) (approx. \$25,000)
- 2010 Title VIII Grant for Eurasian Regional Language Program. U.S. Department of Education via American Councils (Kazakh at KIMEP in Almaty, Kazakhstan) (\$3,700)
- 2010 Portable Title VIII Grant for Eurasian Regional Language Program. U.S. Department of Education via IAUNRC (Kazakh at KIMEP in Almaty, Kazakhstan) (\$1,500)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2017 Best TA Award, Department of Political Science, University of Washington (UW)
- 2016 Philo S. Bennett Prize for Best Graduate Paper in Democratic Politics, “Images that Matter” (with Andreu Casas). Department of Political Science, UW
- 2006 Phi Beta Kappa. Middlebury College, Vermont

TRAVEL GRANTS

- 2018 APSA Comparative Politics Section Travel Grant
- 2017, 2018 Society for Political Methodology, NSF Funding for Annual Meeting
- 2015, 2017 Graduate Student Conference Travel Award. Graduate Student Fund for Excellence and Innovation, UW
- 2017 Graduate Student Travel Grant (for MPSA). Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences, UW
- 2016 ASEEES Convention Travel Grant. Association for Diversity in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
- 2015 APSA Conference Travel Grant. American Political Science Association

INVITED TALKS

- 2019 Georgetown University, McCourt School of Public Policy. Speaker series: “Data Science in Practice.” Presentation: “Images as data”, Oct. 11
- 2019 Pew Center/PaCCS Pre-Conference Workshop on Image Analysis, Aug. 27.
- 2017 Central Asian Studies Center Public Lecture, Sept. 29. KIMEP University, Almaty, Kazakhstan. “Using Remote Sensing Luminosity Data to Track Rural Development in Kazakhstan”

- 2015 International Studies Association: Annual Convention Research Grant Workshop, Feb 17. New Orleans. “Protest Observation and Mass Self-Communication: Meditations from the Arab Spring”
- 2012 USAID Assistance Working Group, Sept. 5. US Embassy, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. “Participants, Observers, and Nonparticipants: How Media Use Impacted Student Involvement on April 7, 2010 in Bishkek”
- 2012 Central Asian Studies Institute Public Seminar, Oct. 3. American University of Central Asia, Bishkek. “Media Use and Student Involvement on April 7, 2010 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan”

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION

- 2020 Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Meeting. “Rural Resilience after the Soviet Collapse: Evidence from Kazakhstan”
- 2019 Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) Annual Conference. Panel chair/discussant. Presenter: “The Long-term Impact of Russian Colonial Policy on Social Trust”
- 2019 Text as Data (TADA) Annual Conference. Poster (with Emma Rodman): “Transcending Training from Scratch”
- 2019 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting and PaCCS Pre-Conference. “Automated Visual Clustering: A Technique for Image Corpus Exploration and Annotation Cost Reduction”
- 2019 International Communications Association (ICA) Annual Conference
Pre-conference full day short course instructor: “Automated Image Content Analysis: An Introduction and Hands on Tutorial” (with Andreu Casas)
Non-presenting co-author: “Is the Picture in Focus? Images in Social Movement Mobilization”
- 2019 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA). “Is the Picture in Focus? Images in Social Movement Mobilization” (presented by Andreu Casas)
- 2019 International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention. “Cooperation, Conflict, and Ideology within Militant Networks in Eastern Ukraine”
- 2018 APSA Annual Meeting
Pre-conference full day short course instructor: “Automated Image Content Analysis: An Introduction and Hands on Tutorial” (with Andreu Casas and John Wilkerson)
Presenter: “Colonial Policy, Social Trust, and Economic Resilience: Evidence from Kazakhstan”
Non-presenting co-author: “As It Happens: Using Twitter to Study the Dynamics and Impact of Issue Framing”
- 2018 PolMeth XXXV. Poster: “Automated Image Taggers from Amazon, Microsoft, and Google: Are They Useful for Social Science Research?”
- 2018 24th Annual Northwest Conference for Russian, East European and Central Asian Studies. “Colonial Policy, Social Trust, and Economic Resilience: Evidence from Kazakhstan”
- 2018 MPSA. “Colonial Policy, Social Trust, and Economic Resilience”

- 2018 ISA. “Militant Dynamics Among Eastern Ukrainian Separatists” (presented by Michael Gabbay)
- 2017 Social Science History Association Annual Conference. “Colonial Policy, Social Trust, and Economic Resilience”
- 2017 CESS Annual Conference. “Civic Nationalism in Kazakhstan: Results from 2017 Fieldwork”
- 2017 APSA. “Images as Data: Computer Vision for Social Science Research”
- 2017 Polmeth XXXIV. Poster: “Images as Data.”
- 2017 MPSA. “Captured Courts and Legitimized Autocrats: Kazakhstan’s Constitutional Council” and “Images as Data”
- 2016 Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Convention. “Captured Courts and Legitimized Autocrats”
- 2016 University of South Carolina Rule of Law Collaborative, Emerging Scholars Workshop. “Captured Courts and Legitimized Autocrats”
- 2016 APSA Annual Meeting. “Images that Matter”
- 2016 MPSA. “Images that Matter” (presented by Andreu Casas)
- 2015 CESS Annual Conference. “Explaining Kazakhstani Identity: Supraethnic Identity, Ethnicity, Language and Citizenship” (presented by Kristoffer Rees)
- 2015 Political Economy of Government Revenues, Princeton University. “Of Desperate States and Oil Plays: Azerbaijan’s Endogenous Oil Sector.”
- 2014 European Political Science Association: Influence of the Magna Carta Workshop, University College London. “Judicial Supremacy: Explaining False Starts and Surprising Successes.”
- 2013 CESS Annual Conference. “Protest Observers and Media Use in Kyrgyzstan: Results from a 2012 Bishkek Survey.”

INTERNAL TALKS

- 2017 Severyns Ravenholt Seminar in Comparative Politics, Nov. 30. University of Washington, Seattle. “Colonial Policy, Social Trust, and Economic Resilience: Evidence from Kazakhstan”

TEACHING

Graduate courses

- 2020 Lead Instructor, Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict, UGA
- 2017 TA, Advanced Political Research Design and Analysis, UW
- 2011 TA, Statistical Analysis, Indiana University, Bloomington (IUB)
- 2011 TA, Data Analysis and Modeling, IUB

Undergraduate courses

- 2019 (x2) Lead Instructor, Introduction to Comparative Politics, UGA
- 2018 Lead Instructor, Introduction to Political Economy, UW
- 2016 (x2) Teaching Assistant (TA), Introduction to Political Economy, UW

2013-2016
(x3) TA, Introduction to Comparative Politics, UW

ADVISING

Graduate committee member

2019- Sean Norton, PhD, UNC-Chapel Hill (Political Science)

Undergraduate advising

2020 Lydia McCoy; University of Georgia (Russian 3990 Independent Research)

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

2017 Dissertation fieldwork in Almaty and Jambyl oblasts, Kazakhstan
2011-12 Fulbright Scholar, Kyrgyz Republic

PAST RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS

2015-16 Selected Participant, Forum on Political Economy and Economics, UW
2012 Visiting Research Fellow, Central Asian Studies Institute. American University of Central Asia, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan

SERVICE

2015-16 Graduate Student Chair, Severyns Ravenholt Seminar in Comparative Politics, UW
2015-16 Graduate Student Representative to Junior Faculty Search Committee for Comparative Politics and Political Economy, UW (appointed)
2014-15 Founding Member/Steering Committee, Equality Initiative in Political Science, UW
2014-15 Senator, Graduate and Professional Student Senate, UW
2011-13 Founder and Co-Chair, Women's Central Eurasia Network
2010-11 President, International Public Affairs Association, Indiana University
2009-10 Conference Co-Chair, International Public Affairs Association, Indiana University

Reviewer for: *Political Analysis; Political Communication; International Journal of Press/Politics; Human IT; Media Asia; Caucasus Survey*

Guest editor for: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

R, SAS, STATA, Python, ArcGIS, git, MySQL/sqlite, LaTeX and AWS Cloud Computing

English, native; Russian, advanced; Kazakh, intermediate; Uzbek, intermediate; Spanish, beginning

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association; International Studies Association; Midwest Political Science Association; International Communications Association; Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies; Central Eurasian Studies Society; Association for Women in Slavic Studies

OTHER EMPLOYMENT OF NOTE

2009-10	Newsletter Graduate Assistant, Inner Asian and Uralic National Resource Center, Indiana University, Bloomington
2009	AmeriCorps Volunteer, Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, Barre, VT
2008-09	Peace Corps Response Volunteer (Education program), Zwedru, Liberia
2006-08	Peace Corps Volunteer (Education program), Zhelezinka, Kazakhstan