

Nora Webb Williams  
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Political Science  
420 David Kinley Hall  
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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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- 2020-           Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Illinois at  
                  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

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- 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

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### 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 Rees, Kristoffer, Nora Webb Williams, and Alexander Diener. "Territorial Belonging and Homeland Disjuncture: Uneven Territorializations in Kazakhstan" *Europe-Asia Studies*
- 2020 (online) 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*  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/psj.12410>
- 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. pp 169-193  
<https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781316285718.010>

### 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.  
<https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/0B1Ax2OY3dIRjb2V4VzNDel9lWk0?usp=sharing>

## IN PREPARATION

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

Imai, Kosuke and Nora Webb Williams. *Quantitative Social Science: An Introduction in Tidyverse* [*Under Contract at Princeton University Press*]

## WORKING PAPERS IN PROGRESS

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“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)

““Fighting on Social Media: Militant Discourse, Networks, and Ideology” (with Michael Gabbay and Calvin Garner)

“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

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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 National Science Foundation (NSF) Award, “The Power of Images: A Computational Investigation of Political Mobilization via Social Media.” Key Personnel with PI John Wilkerson. 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**

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- 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**

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- 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 ASEES Convention Travel Grant. Association for Diversity in Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies
- 2015 APSA Conference Travel Grant. American Political Science Association

## INVITED TALKS

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- 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

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- 2020 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting. “Is the Picture in Focus? Images in Social Movement Mobilization” and “Fighting on Social Media: Militant Discourse, Networks, and Ideology” (presented by Calvin Garner)
- 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 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**

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

## **TEACHING**

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### **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**

- 2020 Lead Instructor, Comparative Political Economy, UIUC  
2020 Lead Instructor, Introduction to Comparative Politics, UIUC  
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**

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### **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**

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

## **PAST RESEARCH AFFILIATIONS**

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- 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

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- 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:** *American Journal of Political Science; Political Analysis; Political Communication; International Journal of Press/Politics; International Studies Review; Central Asian Survey; Human IT; Media Asia; Caucasus Survey*

**Special issue editor:** *Computational Communication Research* (Images as Data, 2020-2021)

**Invited guest editor for:** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science*

## PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

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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

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American Political Science 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

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- 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