

Chris Grady

208 W. Columbia St Apt #3, Champaign, IL, 61820
Phone: (616) 308-3772. Email: cdgrady2@illinois.edu

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Topics: Political psychology, behavioral incentives, outgroup attitudes, vicarious learning, information processing, media effects, conflict prevention, international development.

Methods: Experimental methodology, survey methodology, causal inference.

Areas: West Africa, United States.

EDUCATION

Ph.D Candidate, Department of Political Science, University of Illinois, Champaign, IL, 2012-present

Bachelor of Arts, Political Science (University Honors), University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, 2009-2011

Associate of Liberal Arts, Grand Rapids Community College (Dean's List), Grand Rapids, MI, 2007-2009

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

MercyCorps, Abuja, Nigeria (2015-present)

Lead Researcher – Engaging Communities for Peace in Nigeria (ECPN)

- ECPN, funded by USAID, is a peacebuilding program that engages conflicting farmer and pastoralist groups in joint-economic projects and peace-building conferences.
- Designed RCT to test effectiveness of ECPN programs on individual's attitudes and behaviors towards conflicting groups.
- Designed mass survey and programmed into surveying application *CommCare*. The survey measured attitudes towards outgroups, attitudes towards violence, social cohesion, economic benefit of cooperation, social contact, shared resources, clash history, and perceptions of conflict resolution success.
- Trained and monitored 20 Nigerian survey enumerators & 5 Monitoring and Evaluation specialists to conduct surveys in rural Nigerian villages. Oversaw survey in 10 survey sites.

Equal Access International, San Francisco, based in Kano, Nigeria and Champaign, IL (2014-present)

Research Consultant

- AREWA24
 - o Designed quantitative mass survey and programmed into surveying application CommCare for AREWA24 baseline and endline surveys. The survey measured media consumption and attitudes toward violence, outgroups, women in society, and youth in society. The AREWA24 project is a satellite television channel funded by the U.S. Department of State and implemented by Equal Access. It creates original content in the Hausa language designed to counter violent extremism in northern Nigeria.
 - o Designed and implemented randomized experiment utilizing mobile surveys to test the effects of viewing Arewa24 programming on attitudes towards violence, outgroups, women in society, and youth in society.
 - o Trained and monitored 20 Nigerian survey enumerators to conduct surveys, interviews, and focus groups for baseline survey.
 - o Recruited, trained, and monitored 18 Nigerian survey enumerators & 4 Nigerian team leads to conduct endline survey.
 - o Adapted survey questions to focus groups and community leader interviews and analyzed focus group discussions, community leader interviews, and survey data for AREWA24 project using programs R and Excel to include in future evaluation report.
- Peace Through Development II
 - o Developed and implemented survey plan and conducted survey analysis for USAID program *Peace Through Development II* in Niger, Chad, and Burkina Faso. Peace Through Development II is an aid program utilizing radio broadcasts, youth leadership programs, mobile cinema, and participatory theater to counter violent extremism in the Sahel.
- Cameroon Peace Promotion Project
 - o Developed and implemented survey plan and conducted survey analysis for USAID program *Cameroon Peace Promotion Project*. Cameroon Peace Promotion Project is a media and outreach project focused on

promoting peace and tolerance concepts and empowering youth, women, and rural populations in the North and Far North regions.

- Voices for Peace
 - o Currently designing survey and experimental intervention to test the effect of listening to USAID funded *Voices for Peace* radio programs in Burkina Faso, Chad, Cameroon, and Niger. Voices for Peace is an aid program utilizing radio broadcasts, mobile cinema, youth leadership programs, and other methods to counter violent extremism in the Sahel.

University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2012-present)

Graduate Methods Assistant: PS 522, PS 531, PS 532, Undergraduate Honors Thesis Students (Spring 2017)

- Teaching assistant for instructors teaching the graduate methods sequence.
- Assist fellow graduate students with their research designs, statistics, and programming with R statistical analysis software.
- Teach undergraduate Political Science Honors Students to clean and analyze their data in R.

Course Instructor, PS 230 – Research Methods (Fall 2016)

- Class covers statistical analysis techniques in the R programming language, including: linear regression, hypothesis testing/randomization inference, and bootstrapping for standard errors/confidence intervals.
- Each student conducts a research project using the methods from the class, supervised by the course instructor.

Course Instructor, PS 199 – Survey Methodology (Spring 2016)

- Class covers (1) survey and question design, (2) survey sampling methods, and (3) survey analysis, focusing on difficulties of cross-cultural surveys and question design and proper sampling in rural areas of developing countries.
- The class develops and analyze a survey instrument to be administered in the political science subject pool.

Research Assistant for Professor Aleksander Jan Ksiazkiewicz and Brian Gaines (Fall 2015)

- In charge of running and maintaining lab sessions for Professor Ksiazkiewicz; collaborating with Professor Ksiazkiewicz on papers about the psychology of liberal-conservative ideological differences.
- For Professor Brian Gaines, analyzed intra-party ideological differences of U.S. State Senates and Legislative Assemblies.

Research Assistant for Professor Jake Bowers (2014-present)

- Developed theory of attitude change, RCT experimental design, and survey design to evaluate the Arewa24 project.
- Performed field work in Ghana for 3 months to interview political party workers. Conducted 26 interviews in Greater Accra, Ashanti, Brong-Ahafo, and Northern regions of Ghana.

Research Assistant for Professors José Cheibub and Gisela Sin (2013-2014)

- Coded world constitutions for Professor Cheibub for the Evolution of Parliamentarism Project. The Evolution of Parliamentarism Project is funded through the Norwegian Research Council and examines how parliamentary democracy has evolved over time and the consequences of those changes for governance.
- Conducted research with Professor Sin on three academic projects: Presidential Cabinets project, Tea Party project, and Legislative Organization project. The Legislative Organization project assesses the determinants of rules changed in the U.S. House of Representatives and produced the book *Separation of Powers and Legislative Organization* in 2014.

Political Science Department Subject Pool Coordinator (2013-2014)

- Recruited students from political science classes to participate in the subject pool. Political science faculty, graduate students, and Honors undergraduate students submit surveys and experiments to the subject pool.
- Created and administered surveys and experiments about political preferences, political knowledge, information processing, international relations, and other political science research topics through programs *MediaLab* and *SurveyMonkey*.
- Analyzed data from surveys and experiments in Microsoft Excel and R.

Graduate Teaching Assistant (2012-2013)

- Taught two weekly discussion sections of 30 students each.

- Graded assignments, led exam review sessions, and created test questions for classes PS 201 Racial and Ethnic Politics (Fall 2012) and PS 101 Introduction to American Government (Spring 2013).
- Received above-average teaching evaluations from students (4.4 out of 5.0).
- Delivered lecture on *Theories of Racial Attitudes* for PS 201 in the Fall 2013.

USS Logistics, Ann Arbor, MI (2012)

Account Executive

- Secured domestic and international commercial shipping contracts through personal stops and phone calls to local businesses throughout southeast Michigan.
- Assessed customer shipping requests and determined shipping requirements, shipping times, and price quotes.

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI (2011)

Research Assistant

- Performed content analysis of healthcare media coverage in print media outlets for political science research for Professors Nicholas Valentino & Ted Brader.
- Research focused on racialization of healthcare policy by media during Clinton and Obama healthcare reform policy.

Fund for the Public Interest, Ann Arbor, MI (2010-2012)

Field Manager

- Personally raised approximately \$50,000 for nonprofit groups. Exceeded quota of \$120/day with an average of \$175/day in 2010 and \$215/day in 2011.
- Designed and implemented canvassing plan for 15 towns and 50 canvassers. Set challenging yet realistic individual and team-wide goals for fundraising, issue awareness, member outreach, and member mobilization.
- Trained over 30 new canvassers.
- Managed an underperforming area and significantly improved performance by over 20%.
- Selected to discuss environmental issues with legislators as top 10% highest performing field managers in 2012.

ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

Fellowships and Grants

- EGAP Metaketa: Taxation (\$179,502)
 - o With Jake Bowers, Matthew Winters, and Nuole (Lula) Chen
- NSF Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (\$23,790)
- 2016 Charles Manatt Fellow with the International Foundation for Electoral Systems (\$5,000)
- 2016 Schroeder Fellowship with the Cline Center for Democracy (declined)

Academic Awards

- George T. Yu travel award to Present Academic Research (Fall 2016)
- George T. Yu travel award to Present Academic Research (Spring 2016)
- Constantine Curris Award to Present Academic Research (2014)
- Rita and Leonard Ogren Award for Academic Excellence (2013)

Journal Reviewer

- Political Behavior

Academic Presentations

- University of Illinois Student-Faculty Series 2017 – “Aid for Peace: The Effect of Foreign Aid on Violent Conflict in Africa”
- MERLTech 2016 – “Power and Pitfalls of IVR and SMS for Monitoring and Evaluation of Development Projects” with *Equal Access International*
- IFES 2016 – “Aid for Peace: The Effect of Foreign Aid on Local Violence in Africa”
- ACDIS 2016 – “Peace-Building in Nigeria”
- MPSA 2016 – “Person-first Political Language and Affective Polarization”
- University of Illinois Faculty-Student Series 2016 – “Engaging Communities for Peace in Nigeria”
- EGAP Houston 2015 (invited) – “Engaging Communities for Peace in Nigeria” presented by MercyCorps
- MPSA 2014 – “Playing to Your Audience: The Medium of Information and Information’s Effectiveness”

Academic Projects and Working Papers

- Intergroup Contact to Improve Intergroup Relations in a Conflict Environment
- Teaching Nonviolence and Tolerance in Northern Nigeria Through Television Programs (with Jake Bowers)
- Aid for Peace: The Effect of Foreign Aid on Violent Conflict
- Ethnicity and Electoral Fraud in New Democracies: Modeling Political Party Agents in Ghana (with Jake Bowers, Nahomi Ichino, and Mark Frederickson)
- Outcome or Process: Democracy as a Political Process or as Prosperity?
- Institutionalized Behavior: Political Institutions and Citizen Behavior
- Playing to Your Audience: The Medium of Information and Information's Effectiveness
- Intraparty Factions and Presidential Cabinets (with Gisela Sin)
- I've Seen a Face: Messenger-Receiver Similarity and Message Efficacy (with Collin Paschall)
- Person-First Political Language and Affective Polarization (with Aleksander Ksiazkiewicz)

EXTRACURRICULAR EXPERIENCE

Political Science Graduate Student Association – Sports Chair (2013-present)

- Organize sporting activities for the department.

Champaign-Urbana One-to-One Mentoring (2012-present)

- Volunteer mentor for a local middle-school/high-school student.

SPECIALIZED SKILLS

- Statistical analysis program R (multivariate regression, survey analysis, hierarchical linear modeling, spatial regression, panel and longitudinal data, and matching analysis).
- Survey programs: MediaLab, SurveyMonkey, CommCare, ODK, Qualtrics, VotoMobile, SoukTel.
- MS Office: Word, Excel, PowerPoint, OneNote, Publisher
- Research design experience: surveys instruments, correlational studies, lab experiments, and field experiments.