

# Curriculum Vita

## Laron K. Williams

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### Current Position

Associate Professor (September 2015-present), Department of Political Science, University of Missouri.

### Previous Position

Assistant Professor (2011-2015), Department of Political Science, University of Missouri.

Assistant Professor (August 2009-July 2011), Department of Political Science, Texas Tech University.

### Education

Ph.D., Political Science, Texas A&M University. December 2008. Concentrations: Comparative Politics (Nations of Concentration: Advanced Industrial Democracies), International Relations (Conflict Studies), and Quantitative Methods. Dissertation: *Challenging Government: Institutional Arrangements, Policy Shocks and No-Confidence Motions*, advisors Guy D. Whitten (chair), Alex Pacek, Michael Koch, Robert Walker, Hank Jenkins-Smith and Jeffrey Engel.

B.S., *summa cum laude*, Political Science, University of Nebraska at Kearney, May 2003.

Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models Summer Institute, University of Michigan. June-July 2009.

### Research

#### Publications

30. Inaki Sagarzazu and Laron K. Williams, "Making and Breaking Party Leaders: An Informational Theory of Temporary and Lasting Impacts of Prime Minister Debates in Spain", *Social Science Quarterly* forthcoming
29. Raymond M. Duch, Kent L. Tedin and Laron K. Williams, "North American Public Opinion on Health and Smoking", *Public Opinion Quarterly* forthcoming
28. Colton Heffington, Brandon Beomseob Park and Laron K. Williams, "The 'Most Important Problem' Dataset (MIPD): A New Dataset on American Issue Importance", *Conflict Management and Peace Science* forthcoming

27. David Fortunato, Clint S. Swift and Laron K. Williams, "All Economics Is Local: Spatial Aggregations of Economic Information", *Political Science Research & Methods* forthcoming
26. Laron K. Williams, Mary Stegmaier, and Marc Debus, "Relaxing the Constant Economic Vote Restriction: Economic Evaluations and Party Support in Germany", *Party Politics* forthcoming
25. Laron K. Williams, "Opposition Parties and the Timing of Successful No-Confidence Motions", *Political Science Research & Methods* September 2016: 533-553
24. Christopher Gandrud, Laron K. Williams and Guy D. Whitten, "Visualize Dynamic Simulations of Autoregressive Relationships in R", *The Political Methodologist* Spring 2016: 6-10
23. Laron K. Williams, "Long-Term Effects for Models with Temporal Dependence", *Political Analysis* Spring 2016
22. Mary Stegmaier and Laron K. Williams, "Forecasting the 2015 British Election through Party Popularity Functions", *Electoral Studies* 2016: 260-263
21. Laron K. Williams, Katsunori Seki and Guy D. Whitten, "You've Got Some Explaining To Do: The Influence of Economic Conditions and Spatial Competition on Party Strategy", *Political Science Research & Methods* 2016: 47-63
20. Laron K. Williams, "Estimating the Defense Spending Vote", *Electoral Studies* 2015: 243-255
19. Laron K. Williams, "It's All Relative: Spatial Positioning of Parties and Ideological Shifts", *European Journal of Political Research* 2015: 141-159
18. Laron K. Williams and Guy D. Whitten, "Don't Stand So Close to Me: Spatial Contagion Effects and Party Competition", *American Journal of Political Science* April 2015: 309-325
17. Zeynep Somer-Topcu and Laron K. Williams, "Opposition Party Policy Shifts in Response to No-Confidence Motions," *European Journal of Political Research* August 2014: 600-616
16. Katsunori Seki and Laron K. Williams, "Updating the Party Government Dataset," *Electoral Studies* June 2014: 270-279
15. Laron K. Williams, "Hawks, Doves and Opportunistic Opposition Parties," *Journal of Peace Research* 2014: 111-125
14. Laron K. Williams and David J. Brule, "Predictably Unpredictable: The Effects of Conflict Involvement on the Error Variance of Vote Models," *British Journal of Political Science* April 2014: 777-798
13. Laron K. Williams, Michael T. Koch and Jason M. Smith, "The Political Consequences of Terrorism: Terror Events, Casualties, and Government Duration," *International Studies Perspectives* 2013: 343-361
12. Harvey D. Palmer, Guy D. Whitten and Laron K. Williams, "Who Should Be the Chef? The Dynamics of Valence Evaluations across Income Groups During Economic Crises," *Electoral Studies* 2013: 425-431
11. Laron K. Williams, "Flexible Election Timing and International Conflict," *International Studies Quarterly* 2013: 449-461
10. John D. Gerlach, Laron K. Williams and Colleen E. Forcina, "The Science-Natural Resource Policy Relationship: How Aspects of Diffusion Theory Explain Data Selection for Making Biodiversity Management Decisions," *Politics & Policy* 2013: 326-354
9. John D. Gerlach, Laron K. Williams and Colleen E. Forcina, "Data Selection for Making Biodiversity Management Decisions: Best Available Science and Institutionalized Agency Norms," *Administration & Society* 2012: 213-241

8. Laron K. Williams and Guy D. Whitten, "But Wait There's More! Maximizing Substantive Inferences in TSCS Models," *Journal of Politics* July 2012: 685-693
7. Laron K. Williams, "Pick Your Poison: Economic Crises, International Monetary Fund Structural Adjustment and Leader Survival," *International Political Science Review* March 2012: 131-149
6. Laron K. Williams, "Unsuccessful Success? Failed No-Confidence Motions, Competence Signals, and Electoral Support," *Comparative Political Studies* November 2011: 1474-1499
5. Laron K. Williams and Guy D. Whitten, "Dynamic Simulations of Autoregressive Relationships," *the Stata Journal* 2011: 1-12
4. Guy D. Whitten and Laron K. Williams, "Buttery Guns and Welfare Hawks: the Politics of Defense Spending in Advanced Democracies," *the American Journal of Political Science* January 2011: 117-134
3. Laron K. Williams, David J. Brule and Michael T. Koch, "War Voting: Interstate Disputes, the Economy, and Electoral Outcomes," *Conflict Management and Peace Science* November 2010: 442-460
2. David J. Brule and Laron K. Williams, "Democracy and Diversion: Aggressive Foreign Responses to Domestic Economic Problems," *Journal of Peace Research* November 2009: 777-798
1. Zeynep Somer-Topcu and Laron K. Williams, "Survival of the Fittest? Cabinet Duration in Post-Communist Europe," *Comparative Politics* April 2008: 313- 329

## Software

- `dynsim`: Dynamic Simulations of Autoregressive Relationships. Available in Stata (with Guy D. Whitten) and R (with Christopher Gandrud and Guy D. Whitten).
  - Nominated for the Society for Political Methodology Statistical Software Award (2016).
- `pltesim`: An R Package for Simulating Probabilistic Long-Term Effects in Models with Temporal Dependence (with Christopher Gandrud).

## Datasets

- Update to the *Party Government* Data Set, 1945-2014 (with Katsunori Seki).
- The 'Most Important Problem' Dataset (MIPD) (with Colton Heffington and Brandon Beomseob Park).

## Works in Progress

- Colton Heffington and Laron K. Williams, "The Saliency of Security: An Analysis of Issue Importance in the US, 1939-2012"
- Laron K. Williams, "Compression and the Variability of Substantive Effects"
- Laron K. Williams, "Guns Yield Butter? Exploring the Individual-Level Variation in Defense Spending Attitudes"
- Laron K. Williams, "Elite Messages, Economic Conditions and Retrospective Evaluations"
- David Fortunato, Clinton S. Swift and Laron K. Williams, "A Hybrid Model of Spatial Evaluations"
- Guy D. Whitten, Laron K. Williams and Cameron Wimpy, "X Marks the Spot: Exploring Spatial Robustness"

## Selected Conference Presentations

- “Who Cares about Foreign Policy? An Analysis of Issue Importance in the US, 1939-2012”, (with Colton Heffington), Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.
- “A Hybrid Model of Spatial Evaluations”, (with Clinton Swift and David Fortunato), Methodological Innovations in Comparative Politics, Texas A&M University, 2015.
- “Elite Messages, Economic Conditions and Retrospective Evaluations”, University of Sao Paulo, 2015.
- “Compression and the Variability of Substantive Effects”, paper presented at the Robustness Testing and the Empirical Analysis of Observational Data, Cologne Center for Comparative Politics, Germany, 2014.
- “Guns Yield Butter? Exploring the Individual-Level Variation in Defense Spending Attitudes,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the European Political Science Association, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2014.
- “The Dynamics of German Party Support,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the European Political Science Association, Edinburgh, Scotland, 2014.
- “Estimating the Conditional War Vote,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the European Political Science Association, Barcelona, Spain, 2013.
- “It’s All Relative: Spatial Positioning of Parties and Ideological Shifts,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2012.
- “Hawks, Doves, and Opportunistic Opposition Parties,” paper presented at the European Union Center at Texas A&M University, College Station, TX, 2010.
- “Flexible Election Timing and International Conflict,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, 2010.
- “But Wait There’s More! Maximizing Substantive Inferences in TSCS Models,” paper presented at the St. Louis Area Methods Meeting, St. Louis, MO, 2010 (with Guy D. Whitten).
- “The (Domestic) Political Consequences of Interstate Disputes among Advanced Democracies,” paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, 2008 (with David J. Brule)

## Teaching Experience

### Course Instructor

- *Introduction to Political Analysis*: Fall 2007, Spring 2008, Fall 2008 and Spring 2009 (Texas A&M University), Fall 2010 (Texas Tech University), Spring 2014 and Fall 2014 (University of Missouri)
- *Introduction to American Government*: Spring 2009 (Texas A&M University), Fall 2009, Summer 2010 and Fall 2010 (Texas Tech University), Summer 2013 (University of Missouri)
- *Introduction to International Relations*: Spring 2009, Spring 2010, Spring 2011 and Summer 2011 (Texas Tech University)
- *Introduction to Comparative Politics*: Summer 2008 (Texas A&M University), Fall 2011, Summer 2012 and Fall 2013 (University of Missouri)
- *Introduction to Formal Models*: Spring 2012 (University of Missouri)

- *Comparative Political Behavior*: Spring 2012 and Spring 2013 (University of Missouri)
- *Introductory Statistics for Political Scientists*: Fall 2015 (University of Missouri)
- *Introduction to Comparative Politics (Graduate)*: Fall 2011 and Fall 2013 (University of Missouri)
- *Comparative Political Behavior (Graduate)*: Spring 2013 (University of Missouri)
- *Comparative Political Institutions (Graduate)*: Spring 2014 (University of Missouri)
- *Maximum Likelihood Estimation (Graduate)*: Fall 2014 (University of Missouri)
- *International Conflict (Graduate)*: Fall 2009 (Texas Tech University)
- *Domestic Politics & International Conflict (Graduate)*: Spring 2011 (Texas Tech University)

#### **Additional Graduate Instruction in Methodology**

- *Workshop for New Graduate Students in Quantitative Methods*: Summer 2006, Summer 2007 and Summer 2008 (Texas A&M University), Summer 2014 and Spring 2015, Fall 2015 (University of Missouri)
- *Short Course on Maximum Likelihood Estimation*: February 2013 (University of Texas at Dallas)
- *Workshops in Methodology*: University of Missouri
  - “Introduction to Programming in Stata”
  - “Introduction to Simulation Methods”
  - “Guidelines for Interactions”
  - “Dealing with Dynamics”
  - “Introduction to L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X”
  - “Writing for Political Science”
  - “Mathematics for Political Science”
  - “Effective Presentation of Quantitative Information”
- Co-Instructor, *Modern Regression Analysis*: June 2016 (FLACSO, Mexico City)
- Instructor, *Basics of Spatial Interdependence in Theory and Practice*: January-February 2017 (University of Sao Paulo)

## **Research and Teaching Interests**

### **Comparative Politics**

Comparative political institutions; comparative political behavior.

### **International Relations**

Domestic causes and consequences of foreign policy.

### **Political Methodology**

Empirical implications of theoretical models; techniques to improve interpretation of substantive effects; time series; spatial econometrics.

## **Awards and Support**

Co-Principal Investigator, St. Louis Area Methods Meeting (\$16,000), University of Missouri, 2017

Major Garrett Fellowship (\$5000), University of Missouri, 2015

Summer Research Fellowship (\$7000), University of Missouri, 2014

Research Council Grant (\$6720), University of Missouri, 2014

Southeastern Conference Visiting Faculty Travel Grant (\$2500), 2014

University of Missouri Faculty International Travel Grant (\$1500), 2013

European Union Center for Excellence Grant, 2007-2008

College of Liberal Arts Dissertation Research Award, Texas A&M University 2007-2008

Bryan D. Jones Outstanding Political Science Graduate Student, Texas A&M University, 2006-2007

Political Science/ICPSR Clifford C. Clogg Scholarship, 2007

Graduate Merit Fellowship, Office of Graduate Studies, Texas A&M University, 2003-2004

## **Service**

Editorial Board, *Political Research Quarterly*, starting July 1, 2016

Co-Media Editor, *Political Science Research and Methods*, 2015-present

Member, University of Missouri, Missouri Unions Committee, 2015-2016

Member, University of Missouri, College of Arts and Sciences, Faculty Responsibility Committee, 2015-2016

Member, University of Missouri, Department of Political Science, Executive Committee, 2014-2016

Chair, University of Missouri, Department of Political Science, Lectures Committee, 2014-2015

Chair, University of Missouri, Department of Political Science, Awards Committee, 2013-2014

Organizer, University of Missouri, Workshops in Methodology, 2013-present

Co-Chair, University of Missouri, Department of Political Science, Brownbag Series, 2013-2015

Member, University of Missouri, Department of Political Science, Comparative Politics Search Committee, 2013

Member, University of Missouri, Department of Political Science, Graduate Studies Committee, 2013-present

Referee, *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *International Studies Quarterly*,

*Comparative Politics, Journal of Theoretical Politics, Electoral Studies*

Faculty Advisor, University of Missouri, Graduate Association in Political Science (GAPS), 2013-present

Faculty Advisor, University of Missouri, Sigma Tau Gamma fraternity, 2011-present

## **References**

References available upon request