

Austin L. Wright

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Research fields: political economy of conflict and crime; development; corruption.

Regions of research: Afghanistan, Colombia, Indonesia, Iraq, Israel, Pakistan, Syria, Thailand.

Academic Positions

Assistant Professor, *The University of Chicago*, Harris School of Public Policy, July 2016

Most Outstanding Junior Faculty Member Award, 2016-2017

Faculty Affiliate: The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts

Non-resident Fellow: The Lichtenstein Institute for Self Determination, Princeton University

Non-resident Research Associate: Deep South Watch, Prince of Songkla University

Education

Ph.D., Politics, *Princeton University*, 2016

Dissertation: Essays on Insurgent Strategy

Committee: Kristopher W. Ramsay, Jacob N. Shapiro, David B. Carter, and Faisal Z. Ahmed.

M.A., Politics, *Princeton University*, 2013

B.S. with High Honors and Honors Thesis, Comm. Studies, *The University of Texas at Austin*, 2009

B.A. with High Honors and Honors Thesis, Government, *The University of Texas at Austin*, 2009

B.A. with High Honors and Honors Thesis, Sociology, *The University of Texas at Austin*, 2009

Research

Working Papers

- [1] Economic Shocks and Rebel Tactics. (*under review*).
 - Runner-up, **Best Paper Prize**, 2015 UCLA COMPASS Conference on Comparative Politics
 - Households in Conflict Network (HiCN) Working Paper no. 232
- [2] The Logic of Insurgent Electoral Violence. With Luke Condra, James Long, and Andrew Shaver. (Revise and resubmit, *American Economic Review*).
- [3] Places to Hide: Terrain, Ethnicity, and Political Violence. With David B. Carter and Andrew Shaver. (Revise and resubmit, *Journal of Politics*).
- [4] Commodity Price Shocks and Civil War: A New Approach. (Revise and resubmit, *Economics Letters*).
- [5] Are Modern Insurgencies Predictable? New Evidence from the Afghanistan and Iraq Wars. With Andrew Shaver. (Revise and submit, *PLOS One*).
- [6] Rebel Capacity and Randomized Combat. With Konstantin Sonin and Jarnickae Wilson. (*under review*).
- [7] Insurgent Predation and Wartime Informing. With Alexei Zakharov. (*under review*).

- [8] Electoral Institutions and Attacks on Critical Infrastructure. With Rebecca Lordan-Perret, Peter Burgherr, Matteo Spada and Robert Rosner. (*under review*).
- [9] Police Shootings and Citizen Collaboration. With Luke Condra. (*under review*).
- [10] Insurgent Learning. With Francesco Trebbi, Eric Weese, and Andrew Shaver. (*under review*).
—National Bureau for Economic Research (NBER) Working Paper no. 23475
- [11] Border Walls and the Economics of Crime. With Anna Getmansky and Guy Grossman. (*under review*).
—The Pearson Institute (TPI) Discussion Paper no. 41
- [12] Civilian Abuse and Wartime Informing. With Luke Condra, Jacob Shapiro, and Andrew Shaver.
—The Pearson Institute (TPI) Discussion Paper no. 42
- [13] Data on Combatant Activity During Afghanistan War Advance Scientific Investigation of Insurgency. With Andrew Shaver.
- [14] Divergent Effects of Temperature Shocks on Interpersonal and Intergroup Conflict. With Patrick Signoret.

Work-in-Progress

- [1] Security Transitions. With Thiemo Fetzer and Oliver Vanden Eynde.
- [2] Battlefield Losses and Combat Technologies. With Ethan Bueno de Mesquita and Konstantin Sonin.
- [3] Eradicating Rivals. With Konstantin Sonin.
- [4] Temperature Shocks and Use of Force During Counterinsurgency. With Anders Engvall and Srisompob Jitpiromsri.
- [5] Wildfires and Human Conflict.
- [6] Human Capital Accumulation under Threat of Insurgent Violence. With Anjali Adukia, Olga Narmen.
- [7] Income Shocks and Wartime Informing. With Andrew Shaver, Oliver Vanden Eynde.
- [8] Market Distortion and Revolutionary Resolve. With Richard Jordan.
- [9] Corporate Production of State Capacity: Evidence from a Natural Experiment. With Faisal Ahmed.

Fellowships & Awards

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, 2012 - 2015
- University Nomination, ProQuest, Best dissertation in the social sciences in the past two years, 2016
- George Kateb Prize for Best Preceptor in Politics, Princeton University, 2014-2015
- The Americorps Teaching Award, 2012
- Princeton External Fellowship Prize, 2012-2015
- Princeton University President's Fellowship, 2011 - 2016
- Parker D. Handy Prize Fellowship in Public Affairs, 2011 - 2016
- Niehaus Center for Global Governance Research Grant, 2011 - 2012
- Rhodes Scholar Nominee [unanimous selection], 2010
- Dean's Distinguished Graduate [top 12 in College of Liberal Arts], 2009

- Phi Beta Kappa, 2009
- Top Prize, ICPSR Undergraduate Research Paper Competition, 2009
- The William Jennings Bryan Prize in Government for Best Thesis of the Year, 2008
- George H. Mitchell Student Award for Academic Excellence, 2008
- Audre and Bernard Rapoport & Robert D. King Fellowship, 2008
- Presidential Scholar, 2005 - 2009
- Bill and Melinda Gates Millennium Scholar (full ride), 2005 - 2009
- Howard and Nancy Terry Scholar (full ride), 2005 - 2009
- Admiral Bobby R. Inman Scholar, 2007

Other Scholarships: Hispanic Bar Association Pre-Law Scholar; Minnie Stevens Piper Scholar; Emo Jean Cottrell Scholar; Baumberger Endowment Scholar; Jesse H. Jones Centennial Scholar; HACER-McDonald Scholar; Distinguished College Scholar; Marion Burke Smith Travel Grant Recipient; H. Malcolm Macdonald Scholar.

Presentations

- National Bureau for Economic Research, National Security:** 2017
- National Bureau for Economic Research, Summer Institute:** 2017 (x2)
- Economics of Crime Workshop:** 2017
- American Political Science Association:** 2016
- Midwest Political Science Association:** 2014
- International Studies Association:** 2014*
- European Political Science Association:** 2015*
- International Political Economy Society:** 2016*
- Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science:** 2017b (Presenter), 2015b (Presenter), 2015a
- UCLA COMPASS Conference on Comparative Politics:** 2015
- Conference on Voting, Elections, and Electoral Systems:** 2016
- The Asia Foundation Violence Monitoring Workshop:** 2016

Teaching

- Instructor,** *Insurgency in South and Southeast Asia*, Winter 2017 [Harris]
- Instructor,** *Statistics for Public Policy II*, Winter 2017 [Harris]
- High School Instructor,** *Mathematics* (Teach For America), July 2009 - June 2011

Service

- Referee:** *American Economic Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *The Journal of Politics*, *International Security*, *Transactions in GIS*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, MIT Press (Economics)
- Coordinator:** *Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science*, Meeting 4 | Princeton University

Technical Languages

- Data capture:** Python, JavaScript
- Data analysis:** Stata, R, ArcGIS, QGIS
- Typesetting:** L^AT_EX, Microsoft Office Suite [certified]

Last updated: September 30, 2017