

Robert A. Blair

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Academic appointments

2015- **Brown University**
Joukowsky Family Assistant Professor of Political Science and International and Public Affairs

Academic affiliations

2017- Special Invitee, J-PAL Crime and Violence Initiative
2016- Member, Evidence in Governance & Politics (EGAP)
2016- Faculty Affiliate, Brown University Humanitarian Innovation Initiative (HI²)
2014- Research Fellow, AidData
2011- Member, Folke Bernadotte Academy Working Group on Security Sector Reform
2011- Member, Folke Bernadotte Academy Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations

Education

2015 **Yale University**
PhD in Political Science (with Distinction)

2007 **Universidad de los Andes** (Bogotá, Colombia)
MSc in Resolution of Armed Conflicts

2006 **Brown University**
BA in Education Studies, Comparative Literature and Creative Writing

Publications & working papers

BOOK MANUSCRIPT

Unmasking Anarchy: Peacekeeping, Policing and the Rule of Law in Sub-Saharan Africa

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

2017 “Predicting Local Violence: Evidence from a Panel Survey in Liberia” (with Christopher Blattman and Alexandra Hartman). *Journal of Peace Research* 54(2): 298-312. [PDF](#)

“Public Health and Public Trust: Survey Evidence from the Ebola Virus Disease Epidemic in Liberia” (with Benjamin Morse and Lily Tsai). *Social Science & Medicine* 172: 89-97. [PDF](#)

2016 “On the Rights of Warlords: Legitimate Authority and Basic Protection in War-Torn Societies” (with Pablo Kalmanovitz). *American Political Science Review* 110(3): 428-440. [PDF](#)

“Patterns of Demand for Non-Ebola Health Services During and After the Ebola Outbreak: Panel Survey Evidence from Monrovia, Liberia” (with Karen Grepin, Benjamin Morse and Lily Tsai). *BMJ Global Health* 1: e000007. [PDF](#)

2014 “How to Promote Order and Property Rights under Weak Rule of Law? An Experiment in Changing Dispute Resolution Behavior through Community Education” (with Christopher Blattman and Alexandra Hartman). *American Political Science Review* 108(1): 100-120. [PDF](#)

UNDER REVIEW

“The Impact of International Interventions to Empower Women in Post-Conflict Countries: Lab-in-the-Field Evidence from the Liberian National Police” (with Kyle Beardsley, Michael Gilligan and Sabrina Karim). Revise and resubmit, *International Studies Quarterly*

“Legitimacy After Violence: Evidence from Two Lab-in-the-Field Experiments in Liberia.” [PDF](#)

“Policing Ethnicity: Lab-in-the-Field Evidence on Cooperation, Discrimination and Ethnic Balancing in the Liberian National Police” (with Kyle Beardsley, Michael Gilligan and Sabrina Karim). [PDF](#)

WORKING PAPERS

“Laws, Lynchings and the United Nations Mission in Liberia”

“China and the African State: Sub-National and Cross-National Evidence from Surveys, Survey Experiments and Behavioral Games” (with Philip Roessler)

“Forecasting Civil Wars: Theory and Structure in an Age of ‘Big Data’ and Machine Learning” (with Nicholas Sambanis)

“Building Trust in a Reformed Security Sector: Evidence from a Field Experiment with the Liberian National Police” (with Sabrina Karim and Benjamin Morse)

“Forecasting Local Violence: A Machine Learning Approach in Post-Authoritarian Indonesia” (with Samuel Bazzi, Christopher Blattman, Matthew Gudgeon and Richard Peck)

“Building Trust and Compliance in Weak States: Coproduction during the 2014-2015 Ebola Crisis in Liberia” (with Benjamin Morse and Lily Tsai)

BOOK CHAPTERS

2017 “On the Ground: Local Legacies of Gender Reforms in the UN Mission in Liberia” (with Kyle Beardsley, Michael Gilligan and Sabrina Karim). In Sabrina Karim and Kyle Beardsley,

Equal Opportunity Peacekeeping: Women, Peace, and Security in Post-Conflict States. New York: Oxford University Press, 136-64

POLICY REPORTS

- 2016 *Building Trust in a Reformed Security Sector: A Field Experiment in Liberia* (with Sabrina Karim and Benjamin Morse). International Growth Centre. [PDF](#)
- 2015 *Patterns of Trust and Compliance in the Fight Against Ebola: Results from a Population-Based Survey of Monrovia, Liberia* (with Benjamin Morse and Lily Tsai). International Growth Centre. [PDF](#)
- 2014 *Effects of Rule-of-Law Sector Quick Impact Projects on Crime Rates, Crime Reporting, and Perceptions of Security and Justice in Liberia.* UN Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Joint Mission Analysis Centre
- 2012 *Prospects for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) in Cote d'Ivoire: Results from a Baseline Study.* UN Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI)
- Patterns of Conflict and Cooperation in Rural Liberia (Part 2): Prospects for Conflict Forecasting and Early Warning* (with Christopher Blattman and Alexandra Hartman). Innovations for Poverty Action. [PDF](#)
- 2011 *Patterns of Conflict and Cooperation in Rural Liberia (Part 1): Results from a Longitudinal Study* (with Christopher Blattman and Alexandra Hartman). Innovations for Poverty Action. [PDF](#)
- Quantifying the Incidence and Prevalence of Violence in Post-War Liberia.* Small Arms Survey
- Can We Teach Peace and Conflict Resolution? Results from an Evaluation of the Community Empowerment Program in Liberia* (with Christopher Blattman and Alexandra Hartman). Innovations for Poverty Action. [PDF](#)

Ongoing field research

Randomized controlled trial evaluating community policing strategies and intensive police retraining in Uganda (with Guy Grossman and Benjamin Kachero)

Randomized controlled trial evaluating mechanisms to improve performance of Police Inspectors in Colombia (with Manuel Moscoso, Andrés Vargas and Michael Weintraub)

Related employment experience

- 2015- **Overseas Development Institute**
Consultant on survey data analysis
- 2014- **Political Instability Task Force**

- Consultant on forecasting civil wars
- 2013-14 **Varieties of Democracy**
Country expert on Liberia and Sierra Leone
- 2012-14 **Freedom House**
Country expert on Cote d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone
- 2011-12 **UN Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI)**
Consultant on disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) in Cote d'Ivoire
- 2010 **Small Arms Survey**
Consultant on armed violence in Liberia

Presentations

INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS

- 2017 *International Development Seminar, William & Mary*
Brown Bag Lunch Seminar, AidData
Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP) 19, Sciences Po
- 2016 *New Perspectives on the State, Violence and Social Control, University of Chicago*
Unequal Security in the Americas, Brown University
- 2015 *Comparative Politics Colloquium, University of California at Berkeley*
Democracy in Africa, Brown University
School of Public Health Brown Bag Lunch Seminar, Harvard University
African Economic Development, Harvard University
Economics of Ebola, International Growth Centre
Microfoundations of Conflict and Violence, Households in Conflict Network and World Bank
- 2014 *Faculty Colloquium, Naval War College*
Global Justice After Colonialism, McGill University
Field Experiments in International Relations, Princeton University
- 2013 *Hacia la Reconstrucción del País, Pontifica Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá, Colombia)*
- 2012 *Department of Machine Learning Colloquium, Carnegie Mellon University*

POLICY PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 "Peacekeeping, Policing and the Rule of Law after Civil War: Evidence from Four Studies in Liberia." Folke Bernadotte Academy
- "China and the African State: Cross-National and Sub-National Evidence" (with Philip Roessler). USAID
- "Electoral Violence" (with Eric Kramon). *Evidence-Based Approaches to Conflict Prevention and Mitigation*, US Department of State and Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP)

2013 “Measuring Local Perceptions of Peacekeeping Operations: Mixed Methods, Triangulation and Attribution.” *Understanding and Integrating Local Perceptions in the Work of UN Peacekeeping Operations*, UN Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI) and NUPI (Kampala, Uganda)

2012 “Measuring the Impact of Peacekeeping Operations: Who, What, Why and How?” *Measuring the Impact of Peacekeeping Missions on Rule of Law and Security Institutions*, UN Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions (OROLSI)

“After UNMIL: Perspectives on the Future of Security in Liberia.” University of Liberia (Monrovia, Liberia)

“Prospects for Conflict Early Warning in Liberia: Results from a Three-Year Study.” Ministry of Internal Affairs (Monrovia, Liberia)

“Peacebuilding Prospects in Liberia: Results from Three Longitudinal Research Studies” (with Christopher Blattman). UN Peacebuilding Support Office

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, 2012, 2013

Contemporary African Political Economy Research Seminar (CAPERS), 2014

Folke Bernadotte Academy Working Group on Security Sector Reform, 2011, 2016

Folke Bernadotte Academy Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, 2011, 2013, 2014

International Studies Association (ISA) National Conference, 2013, 2015, 2016

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) National Conference, 2012, 2013

Political Instability Task Force Semi-Annual Conference, 2014, 2015

Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE), 2015

Extramural grants

2017 Economic Development & Institutions (EDI), \$288,000 (with Guy Grossman)

Evidence in Governance & Politics (EGAP), \$239,000 (with Guy Grossman)

2016 Folke Bernadotte Academy Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, \$17,000 (with Hannah Smidt)

KfW Development Bank, \$40,000 (with Manuel Moscoso, Andrés Vargas and Michael Weintraub)

2015 Folke Bernadotte Academy Working Group on Security Sector Reform, \$28,000 (with Manuel Moscoso, Andrés Vargas and Michael Weintraub)

KfW Development Bank, \$63,000 (with Manuel Moscoso, Andrés Vargas and Michael Weintraub)

2014 Folke Bernadotte Academy Working Group on Security Sector Reform, \$35,000 (with Sabrina Karim and Benjamin Morse)

International Studies Association, *Venture Research Grant*, \$21,000 (with Philip Roessler,

- Simone Dietrich and Matthew Winters)
 International Growth Centre, \$40,000 (with Benjamin Morse and Lily Tsai)
 Omidyar, \$45,000 (with Benjamin Morse and Lily Tsai)
- 2013
 USAID, *Democracy Fellows and Grants Program*, \$85,000 (with Philip Roessler)
 International Growth Centre, \$75,000 (with Sabrina Karim and Benjamin Morse)
 Vanguard Charitable Trust, \$37,000 (with Christopher Blattman and Alexandra Hartman)
- 2012
 Humanity United, \$107,000 (with Christopher Blattman and Alexandra Hartman)
 Folke Bernadotte Academy Working Group on Security Sector Reform, \$30,000 (with Kyle Beardsley, Michael Gilligan and Sabrina Karim)
 Folke Bernadotte Academy Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, \$7,100
 International Studies Association, *Venture Research Grant*, \$9,300
 National Science Foundation, *Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant*, \$12,300
- 2010
 Humanity United, \$140,000 (with Christopher Blattman and Alexandra Hartman)

Teaching

Brown University

Quantitative Research Methods (graduate, spring 2016, spring 2017)

Experiments and the Logistics of Intensive Fieldwork (graduate, summer 2016)

Post-Conflict Politics (undergraduate, fall 2015, fall 2016)

Security, Governance and Development in Africa (undergraduate, fall 2016)

Humanitarian Response and Post-Conflict Reconstruction (Brown International Advanced Research Institute, summer 2015, summer 2016, summer 2017)

Yale University

Post-Conflict Politics (undergraduate, spring 2015)

Professional service

REFEREE

American Journal of Political Science, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *World Bank Economic Review*

EXTRAMURAL COMMITTEES

Chair, Evidence in Governance & Politics (EGAP) Peer Response Committee
 Reviewer, Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) Research Review Committee

Reviewer, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie)