

Robert A. Blair

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Academic appointments

- 2015- **Brown University**
Assistant Professor of Political Science and International and Public Affairs
- 2014-15 **AidData**
Research Fellow

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

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Blair, Robert, and Pablo Kalmanovitz. Forthcoming. "On the Rights of Warlords: Legitimate Authority and Basic Protection in War-Torn Societies." *American Political Science Review*

Morse, Benjamin, Karen Grepin, Robert Blair and Lily Tsai. Forthcoming. "Patterns of Demand for Non-Ebola Health Services During and After the Ebola Outbreak: Panel Survey Evidence from Monrovia, Liberia." *BMJ Global Health*

Blattman, Christopher, Alexandra Hartman and Robert Blair. 2014. "How to Promote Order and Property Rights under Weak Rule of Law? An Experiment in Changing Dispute Resolution Behavior through Community Education." *American Political Science Review* 108, no. 01: 100-120. [PDF](#)

UNDER REVIEW

Blair, Robert and Nicholas Sambanis. "Forecasting Civil Wars." Revise and resubmit at *International Organization*

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

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

Blair, Robert, Christopher Blattman and Alexandra Hartman. “Predicting Local Violence.” [PDF](#)

WORKING PAPERS

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

Karim, Sabrina, Michael Gilligan, Robert Blair and Kyle Beardsley. “Gender Balancing and Its Critics: Lab-in-the-Field Evidence from the Liberian National Police”

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

POLICY REPORTS

Tsai, Lily, Robert Blair and Benjamin Morse. 2015. *Patterns of Trust and Compliance in the Fight Against Ebola: Results from a Population-Based Survey of Monrovia, Liberia*. International Growth Centre. [PDF](#)

Blair, Robert. 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

Blair, Robert. 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)

Blair, Robert, Christopher Blattman and Alexandra Hartman. 2012. *Patterns of Conflict and Cooperation in Rural Liberia (Part 2): Prospects for Conflict Forecasting and Early Warning*. Innovations for Poverty Action. [PDF](#)

Blair, Robert, Christopher Blattman and Alexandra Hartman. 2011. *Patterns of Conflict and Cooperation in Rural Liberia (Part 1): Results from a Longitudinal Study*. Innovations for Poverty Action. [PDF](#)

Blair, Robert. 2011. *Quantifying the Incidence and Prevalence of Violence in Post-War Liberia*. Small Arms Survey

Blattman, Christopher, Alexandra Hartman and Robert Blair. 2011. *Can We Teach Peace and Conflict Resolution? Results from an Evaluation of the Community Empowerment Program in Liberia*. Innovations for Poverty Action. [PDF](#)

Ongoing field research

Randomized controlled trial on the effects of increased police presence on rule of law in rural Liberia (with Sabrina Karim and Benjamin Morse)

Surveys and lab-in-the-field experiments on the impact of foreign aid and investment on tax compliance in rural Liberia (with Philip Roessler)

Related employment experience

- 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

- 2015 *Comparative Politics Colloquium*, University of California at Berkeley
School of Public Health Brown Bag Lunch Seminar, Harvard University
African Economic Development, Harvard University
- 2014 *Faculty Colloquium*, Naval War College
- 2013 *Hacia la Reconstrucción del País*, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá, Colombia)
- 2012 *Department of Machine Learning Colloquium*, Carnegie Mellon University

CONFERENCES

- 2016 International Studies Association National Conference (ISA)
Political Instability Task Force Semi-Annual Conference
- 2015 *Economics of Ebola*, International Growth Centre
Working Group in African Political Economy (WGAPE), Brown University
Microfoundations of Conflict and Violence, Households in Conflict Network and World Bank
Political Instability Task Force Semi-Annual Conference
- 2014 *Contemporary African Political Economy Research Seminar (CAPERS)*, New York University
Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations, Folke Bernadotte Academy
Political Instability Task Force Semi-Annual Conference

Global Justice After Colonialism, McGill University
Field Experiments in International Relations, Princeton University
International Studies Association National Conference (ISA)

2013 *Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations*, Folke Bernadotte Academy
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (APSA)
International Studies Association National Conference (ISA)
Midwest Political Science Association National Conference (MPSA)

2012 *American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (APSA)*
Midwest Political Science Association National Conference (MPSA)

2011 *Working Group on Peacekeeping Operations*, Folke Bernadotte Academy
Working Group on Security Sector Reform, Folke Bernadotte Academy

POLICY PRESENTATIONS

2016 “Electoral Violence” (with Eric Kramon). *Evidence-Based Approaches to Conflict Prevention and Mitigation*, US Department of State and 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 public lecture (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 (PBSO)

Grants

2016 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 Sab-

rina 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

2016 *Experiments in the Social Sciences* (summer, graduate seminar)

Quantitative Research Methods (spring, graduate seminar)

2015 *Post-Conflict Politics* (fall, undergraduate seminar)

Yale University

2015 *Post-Conflict Politics* (spring, undergraduate seminar)

Professional service

REFEREE

American Journal of Political Science, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *World Bank Economic Review*, International Initiative for Impact Evaluation (3ie), Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA) Research Review Committee

ORGANIZER

2014- Co-convener, *Brown International Advanced Research Institute (BIARI)* on Humanitarian Response and Post-Conflict Reconstruction, Brown University