

# Robert A. Blair

Brown University  
Department of Political Science  
Box 1970  
Providence, RI 02912

Cell: 202-689-4628  
Office: 401-863-3928  
Email: [robert\\_blair@brown.edu](mailto:robert_blair@brown.edu)  
Web: <http://robblair.net/>

## Academic appointments

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

## Academic affiliations

2017- Coordinator, Democratic Erosion consortium ([website](#))  
2016- Member, Evidence in Governance & Politics (EGAP) network  
2016- Faculty Affiliate, Brown University Humanitarian Innovation Initiative (HI<sup>2</sup>)  
2014- Research Fellow, AidData  
2011- Member, Folke Bernadotte Academy Working Groups

## 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

## Fellowships & awards

2018 Henry Merritt Wriston Fellowship, Brown University  
Junior Faculty Fellowship, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University

2008 Sterling Fellowship, Yale University

2006 Fulbright Fellowship

## Publications & working papers

### BOOK MANUSCRIPT

*Unmasking Anarchy: Peacekeeping, Policing and the Rule of Law in Africa*

### PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

- 2017 “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). *International Studies Quarterly*, forthcoming
- “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

- “Engineering Informal Institutions: Long Run Impacts of Alternative Dispute Resolution on Violence and Property Rights in Liberia” (with Christopher Blattman and Alexandra Hartman) ([PDF](#))
- “Establishing the Rule of Law in Weak and War-torn States: Evidence from a Field Experiment with the Liberian National Police” (with Sabrina Karim and Benjamin Morse) ([PDF](#))
- “Forecasting Civil Wars: Theory and Structure in an Age of ‘Big Data’ and Machine Learning” (with Nicholas Sambanis)
- “International Intervention and the Rule of Law after Civil War: Evidence from Liberia” ([PDF](#))
- “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 Eth-

nic Balancing in the Liberian National Police” (with Kyle Beardsley, Michael Gilligan and Sabrina Karim) ([PDF](#))

“The Promise and Pitfalls of Conflict Prediction: Evidence from Colombia and Indonesia” (with Samuel Bazzi, Christopher Blattman, Oeindrila Dube, Matthew Gudgeon and Richard Peck)

“Teaching Trump: Why Comparative Politics Makes Students More Optimistic About US Democracy” (with Hannah Baron and Shelby Grossman)

#### WORKING PAPERS

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

“The Effects of Chinese Aid on State Legitimacy in Africa: Sub-National and Cross-National Evidence from Surveys, Survey Experiments and Behavioral Games” (with Philip Roessler)

#### 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

- 2014- **Political Instability Task Force**  
Consultant on forecasting civil wars
- 2015-17 **Overseas Development Institute**  
Consultant on survey data analysis
- 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

- 2018 *Comparative Politics Seminar*, Boston University
- 2017 *Joint Degree Program in Social Policy Seminar*, Princeton University  
*International Political Economy Seminar*, Johns Hopkins University (SAIS)  
*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*, Pontificia Universidad Javeriana (Bogotá, Colombia)
- 2012 *Department of Machine Learning Colloquium*, Carnegie Mellon University

#### POLICY PRESENTATIONS

- 2016 “China and the African State” (with Philip Roessler). USAID  
“Peacekeeping, Policing and the Rule of Law after Civil War: Evidence from Four Studies in Liberia.” Folke Bernadotte Academy  
“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  
Center for Experimental Social Science (NYU-CESS) Annual Conference, 2018  
Contemporary African Political Economy Research Seminar (CAPERS), 2014, 2017

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, 2017

## Grants

2018 American Political Science Association, *Centennial Center*, \$5,000  
 Innovations for Poverty Action (IPA), *Peace and Recovery Program*, \$115,000 (with Guy Grossman)

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  
 MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies, *Dissertation Research Grant*, \$15,000  
 National Science Foundation, *Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant*, \$12,300

Humanity United, \$140,000 (with Christopher Blattman and Alexandra Hartman)

## Teaching

### Brown University

*Security, Governance and Development in Africa* (undergraduate, fall 2016, fall 2017)

*Democratic Erosion* (undergraduate, fall 2017)

*Quantitative Research Methods* (graduate, spring 2016, spring 2017, spring 2018)

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

*Post-Conflict Politics* (undergraduate, fall 2015, 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*, *British Journal of Political Science* *Comparative Political Studies*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *World Bank Economic Review*

### COMMITTEES

Member, *Studies in Comparative International Development* Editorial Collective  
 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)