

Nora Webb Williams
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Political Science
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2020- Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (UIUC). *Faculty Affiliate*: Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center
- 2019-2020 Assistant Professor, Department of International Affairs, School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia (UGA). *Faculty Affiliate*: Center for International Trade and Security (CITS) [ongoing affiliation as Nonresident Fellow]; Russian Flagship Program; Owens Institute for Behavioral Research

EDUCATION

- 2019 PhD, Political Science. University of Washington, Seattle
Fields: Comparative Politics, Methods, and Political Economy
Political Methodology Certificate (2016): Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences
Other training: Project Lead, 2018 eScience Institute Data Science Incubator, UW.
“An Infrastructure for Analyzing Political Images Gathered on Twitter”
- 2015 MA, Political Science. University of Washington, Seattle.
- 2012 MPA/MA, Policy Analysis/Central Eurasian Studies. Indiana University, Bloomington
- 2006 BA, Russian, *summa cum laude*. Middlebury College, Vermont

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed books/monographs:

- 2020 Webb Williams, Nora, Andreu Casas and John Wilkerson. *Images as Data for Social Science Research: An Introduction to Convolutional Neural Nets for Image Classification*. Cambridge Elements: Quantitative and Computational Methods for Social Science.

Refereed journal articles:

- 2022
(online) Webb Williams, Nora and Margaret Hanson. "Captured Courts and Legitimized Autocrats: Kazakhstan's Constitutional Council" *Law and Social Inquiry*. First View, 1-33. <https://doi.org/10.1017/lsi.2021.85>
- 2022 Aslett, Kevin, Nora Webb Williams, Andreu Casas, Wesley Zuidema, and John Wilkerson. "A Social Media Approach to Measuring Frame Impacts: What Was the Problem in Parkland?" *Policy Studies Journal* 50(1), 266-289. <https://doi.org/10.1111/psj.12410>
- 2021 Rees, Kristoffer, Nora Webb Williams, and Alexander Diener. "Territorial Belonging and Homeland Disjuncture: Uneven Territorialisations in Kazakhstan" *Europe-Asia Studies* 73(4), 713-739. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2021.1891206>
- 2019 Casas, Andreu and Nora Webb Williams. "Images that Matter: Online Protests and the Mobilizing Role of Pictures." *Political Research Quarterly* 72(2): 360-375. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1065912918786805>
- 2017 Rees, Kristoffer and Nora Webb Williams. "Explaining Kazakhstani Identity: Supraethnic Identity, Ethnicity, Language and Citizenship." *Nationalities Papers* 45(5): 815-839. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09668136.2017.1288204>
- 2015 Webb Williams, Nora. "Observing Protest: Media Use and Student Involvement on 7 April 2010 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan." *Central Asian Survey* 34(3): 373-389. <https://doi.org/10.1080/02634937.2015.1007663>

Special issue editor:

- 2022 "Images as Data" for *Computational Communication Research*. All papers submissions individually peer reviewed. Includes non-peer reviewed introductory article.

Refereed book chapters:

- 2015 Menaldo, Victor and Nora Webb Williams. "Judicial Supremacy: Explaining False Starts and Surprising Successes" in *Magna Carta and its Modern Legacy*. James Melton and Robert Hazell, eds. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. pp 169-193 <https://doi.org/10.1017/CBO9781316285718.010>

Textbooks:

- 2022 (expected) Imai, Kosuke and Nora Webb Williams. *Quantitative Social Science: An Introduction in tidyverse*. Princeton University Press [*In production*]

IN PREPARATION

Webb Williams, Nora, Andreu Casas, Kevin Aslett, and John Wilkerson. "When Republicans See Red but Democrats Feel Blue: Why Labeler-Characteristic Bias Matters for Image Analysis" [*Under Review*]

Webb Williams, Nora. “Automated Image Taggers from Amazon, Google, and Microsoft: Their Uses and Abuses in Social Science Research” [*Under Review*]

Rodman, Emma and Nora Webb Williams. “Transfer Learning: A New Paradigm for Big Data Research” [*Under Review*]

Webb Williams, Nora. “What Type of Data Are Images?” Invited submission for *Oxford Handbook of Methodological Pluralism*. Janet Box-Steffensmeier, Dino P. Christenson and Valeria Sinclair-Chapman, eds.

Webb Williams, Nora, Calvin Garner, and Michael Gabbay. “Militants and Mixed Messages: The Effect of Sponsor Ambiguity on Insurgent Ideology and Networks” [*Working Paper Available on SSRN*]

PAPERS/BOOKS IN PROGRESS

Book project: “Colonial Policy, Social Trust, and Economic Resilience: The Long-term Impacts of Imperial Russian Settlement in Southern Kazakhstan”

“The Long-term Impact of Russian Colonial Policy on Social Trust”

“Rural Resilience after the Soviet Collapse: Evidence from Southern Kazakhstan”

“Automated Visual Clustering for Image Corpus Exploration, Stratified Random Sampling, and Annotation Cost Reduction” (with Andreu Casas, Kevin Aslett, and John Wilkerson.

“Is the Picture in Focus? Images in Social Movement Mobilization” (with Andreu Casas, Kevin Aslett, and John Wilkerson)

“Protest Observation and Mass Self-Communication: Meditations on the Arab Spring”

GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS

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| 2022- | Minerva Research Initiative Grant (total \$1.5 million for three years/\$706,427 UIUC subaward), co-PI with PI Michael Gabbay, University of Washington Applied Physics Lab. “Computational Kremlinology: Analyzing the Dynamics of Authoritarian Regime Elites Using Networks Constructed from Images and Texts” |
| 2021 | Provost’s Faculty Retreat Grant (\$4,000) via Center for Innovation in Teaching and Learning for online PS240 improvements |
| 2019-2021 | Academic Data Science Alliance Seed Grant (\$49,929.25). Co-PI with PI Emily Gade and co-PI Diyi Yang |
| 2019-20 | SPIA Seed Funding for External Grant-writing, University of Georgia (\$4,000) (with Justin Conrad) |
| 2018-19 | Presidential Dissertation Fellowship, University of Washington (UW). (approx. |

- \$13,000)
- 2017-18 Richard B. Wesley Endowed Fellowship in Political Economy. Department of Political Science, UW (\$2,000)
- 2017 National Science Foundation (NSF) Award, “The Power of Images: A Computational Investigation of Political Mobilization via Social Media.” Key Personnel with PI John Wilkerson. Award Number 1727459 (\$302,516)
- 2017 Dissertation Research Grant. Association for Slavic, East European, & Eurasian Studies (\$5,000)
- 2016 Camden Hall Graduate Research Grant, “Images that Matter.” Department of Political Science, UW (\$3,000)
- 2014-15 Graduate Fellow, States, Markets & Societies Mellon Sub-Grant on Inequality, Taxation, and Redistribution in the Developing World, UW (\$1,000)
- 2014-15 Academic Year Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship. U.S. Department of Education via Ellison Center (Russian, UW) (approx. \$33,000)
- 2011-12 Fulbright U.S. Student Study/Research Grant to Kyrgyz Republic. U.S. State Department (\$25,422)
- 2011 Robert H. Frowick Memorial Graduate Scholarship. Indiana University School of Public and Environmental Affairs (\$1,000)
- 2011 Title VIII Grant. U.S. Department of Education via IAUNRC (Uzbek, SWSEEL, Indiana University) (\$4,729)
- 2010-11 Academic Year FLAS Fellowship. U.S. Department of Education via IAUNRC (Uzbek, Indiana University) (approx. \$25,000)
- 2010 Title VIII Grant for Eurasian Regional Language Program. U.S. Department of Education via American Councils (Kazakh at KIMEP in Almaty, Kazakhstan) (\$3,700)
- 2010 Portable Title VIII Grant for Eurasian Regional Language Program. U.S. Department of Education via IAUNRC (Kazakh at KIMEP in Almaty, Kazakhstan) (\$1,500)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2020 List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent, UIUC (Fall 2020)
- 2017 Best TA Award, Department of Political Science, University of Washington (UW)
- 2016 Philo S. Bennett Prize for Best Graduate Paper in Democratic Politics, “Images that Matter” (with Andreu Casas). Department of Political Science, UW
- 2006 Phi Beta Kappa. Middlebury College, Vermont

EXTERNAL INVITED TALKS

- 2022 McGill University Montréal Methods Series (virtual). A (Brief) Introduction to Images as Data and Convolutional Neural Nets. Jan. 27. Available at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0r3i3hfGhSM>
- 2022 NYU's Center for Data Science Weekly Seminar Series (virtual). “Images as data in social science research: Where we are and where we’re headed.” Jan. 26
- 2022 Global Peoria Series (Peoria Area World Affairs Council) (public outreach, virtual). “The Latest on Kazakhstan.” Jan. 20. Available at:

- https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zt1w_05p2qs
- 2021 Connected_Politics Lab Autumn Seminar Series (virtual). “When Republicans see Red but Democrats Feel Blue: Why Labeler-Characteristic Bias Matter for Image Analysis,” Sept. 22
- 2021 Center for Social Media and Politics (CSMaP) Annual Conference, NYU (virtual). “When Republicans see Red but Democrats Feel Blue: Why Labeler-Characteristic Bias Matter for Image Analysis,” April 22-23
- 2021 International Methods Colloquium (virtual). “When Republicans see Red but Democrats Feel Blue: Why Labeler Characteristics Matter for Image Analysis,” Feb. 21. Available at: <https://www.methods-colloquium.com/single-post/nora-webb-williams-why-labeler-characteristics-matter-for-image-analysis>
- 2019 Georgetown University, McCourt School of Public Policy. “Data Science in Practice” speaker series. “Images as data”, Oct. 11
- 2017 Central Asian Studies Center Public Lecture, Sept. 29. KIMEP University, Almaty, Kazakhstan. “Using Remote Sensing Luminosity Data to Track Rural Development in Kazakhstan”
- 2015 International Studies Association: Annual Convention Research Grant Workshop, Feb 17. New Orleans. “Protest Observation and Mass Self-Communication: Meditations from the Arab Spring”
- 2012 USAID Assistance Working Group, Sept. 5. US Embassy, Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan. “Participants, Observers, and Nonparticipants: How Media Use Impacted Student Involvement on April 7, 2010 in Bishkek”
- 2012 Central Asian Studies Institute Public Seminar, Oct. 3. American University of Central Asia, Bishkek. “Media Use and Student Involvement on April 7, 2010 in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan”

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION (SINCE 2019)

- 2021 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting. “When Republicans See Red but Democrats Feel Blue: Why Labeler-Characteristic Bias Matters for Image Analysis” and “What Type of Data Are Images?”
- 2020 IMG-DUB: Images-as-data Workshop. Dec. 10-11 “Automated Visual Clustering: A Technique for Image Corpus Exploration and Annotation Cost Reduction” (presented by Kevin Aslett)
- 2020 APSA Annual Meeting. “Is the Picture in Focus? Images in Social Movement Mobilization” and “Fighting on Social Media: Militant Discourse, Networks, and Ideology” (presented by Calvin Garner)
- 2020 Southern Political Science Association (SPSA) Annual Meeting. “Rural Resilience after the Soviet Collapse: Evidence from Kazakhstan”
- 2019 Central Eurasian Studies Society (CESS) Annual Conference. Panel chair/discussant. Presenter: “The Long-term Impact of Russian Colonial Policy on Social Trust”
- 2019 Text as Data (TADA) Annual Conference. Poster (with Emma Rodman): “Transcending Training from Scratch”
- 2019 APSA Annual Meeting and PaCCS Pre-Conference. “Automated Visual Clustering: A Technique for Image Corpus Exploration and Annotation Cost Reduction”

- 2019 International Communications Association (ICA) Annual Conference. *Non-presenting co-author*: “Is the Picture in Focus? Images in Social Movement Mobilization”
- 2019 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA). “Is the Picture in Focus? Images in Social Movement Mobilization” (presented by Andreu Casas)
- 2019 International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention. “Cooperation, Conflict, and Ideology within Militant Networks in Eastern Ukraine”

INTERNAL INVITED TALKS (UIUC)

- 2021 REEEC Noontime Scholars Lecture. “Colonial Policy, Social Trust, and Economic Resilience: The Long-Term Impacts of Imperial Russian Settlement in Southern Kazakhstan,” Nov. 30.
- 2021 Geography and GIS Department Colloquium. “Colonial Policy, Social Trust, and Economic Resilience: The Long-Term Impacts of Imperial Russian Settlement in Southern Kazakhstan,” Sept. 10.
- 2020 Student-Faculty Seminar, UIUC. “Is the Picture in Focus? Images in Social Movement Mobilization,” Sept. 13.

TEACHING

Workshops

- 2021 Atlanta Area Computational Social Science Workshop and Datathon, Aug. 9-13
- 2019 Pew Center/PaCCS Pre-Conference Workshop on Image Analysis, Aug. 27
- 2019 International Communications Association (ICA) Annual Conference
Pre-conference full day short course: “Automated Image Content Analysis: An Introduction and Hands on Tutorial” (with Andreu Casas)
- 2018 APSA Annual Meeting. Pre-conference full day short course: “Automated Image Content Analysis: An Introduction and Hands on Tutorial” (with Andreu Casas and John Wilkerson)

Graduate courses

- 2022 Introduction to Text and Images as Data (ITV PoliSciU consortium course with students from UIUC, University of Wisconsin, University of Minnesota, Indiana University and Ohio State University)
- 2020 Nationalism and Ethnic Conflict, UGA

Undergraduate courses

* Indicates course was on “List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent by Their Students” at UIUC

- 2020*, 2021 Comparative Political Economy, UIUC (PS 356)
- 2020*, 2021 Introduction to Comparative Politics, UIUC (PS 240)
- 2019 (x2) Introduction to Comparative Politics, UGA
- 2018 Introduction to Political Economy, UW

SERVICE

2021-2022 Departmental Advisory Committee (elected by faculty)
2021-2022 Departmental Graduate Student Ombudsperson (elected by graduate students)
2021-2022 Departmental Climate Committee Co-Chair
2020- Politics and Computational Social Science (PaCSS) Advisory Committee

Reviewer for: *American Political Science Review; American Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics; Political Analysis; Comparative Politics; Political Communication; Perspectives on Politics; International Journal of Press/Politics; International Studies Review; Central Asian Survey; Central Asian Affairs; Sociological Methodology; Caucasus Survey; Big Data and Society; Journalism & Mass Communication Quarterly; Human IT; Media Asia*

Invited guest editor for: *Proceedings of the National Academy of Science* (2020)

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

R, SAS, STATA, Python, ArcGIS, git, MySQL/sqlite, LaTeX and AWS Cloud Computing

English, native; Russian, advanced; Kazakh, intermediate; Uzbek, intermediate; Spanish, beginning

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

American Political Science Association; Midwest Political Science Association; Visions in Methodology; International Communications Association; Association for Slavic, East European & Eurasian Studies; Central Eurasian Studies Society; Association for Women in Slavic Studies