

# Blair Welsh

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## Academic Appointments

Doctoral Fellow, Research Team on the International Politics of Civil Conflict (ÉPICC) at the Centre for International Studies (CÉRIUM), University of Montréal (Spring 2023).

Doctoral Fellow, School of Government & Public Policy, University of Arizona (Fall 2022).

Senior Teaching Fellow, Department of Political Science, University College London (2020 – 2022).

## Education

Ph.D. Government, University of Essex, 2023 (expected).

Fields: International Relations & Quantitative Methods.

Dissertation: “Terrorist Hostage-Taking in Civil War.”

Committee: Kristian S. Gleditsch (co-chair), Brian J. Phillips (co-chair), & Sara M.T. Polo.

M.A. International Relations, *with Distinction*, University of Essex, 2020.

Dissertation: “The Spatial Profile of Militant Violence Against Civilians,” with Distinction.

Recipient of the Eric Tanenbaum Prize for Best Postgraduate Student.

B.A. (Hons) Law and Politics, *First Class Honours*, University of Strathclyde, 2018.

Recipient of the Best Dissertation Prize in the School of Government and Public Policy.

Recipient of the Granger Memorial Prize for Academic Excellence.

## Research Interests

Substantive: Civil war, political violence, terrorism, human rights.

Methodological: “Big data,” text-as-data, survey experiments, statistical analysis, strategies for causal inference, spatial econometrics, process tracing.

## Research Products

### *Peer Reviewed Publications*

Welsh, Blair, “Your Space or Mine? Competition, Control, and the Spatial Profile of Militant Violence Against Civilians,” forthcoming at *Journal of Peace Research*, March 2022.

Faulkner, Christopher M. and Blair Welsh, “Rebel Child Soldiering and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence,” forthcoming at *International Studies Quarterly*, May 2022.

Polo, Sara M. T. and Blair Welsh, “An Overview of Security-Orientated Datasets: Terrorism and Counterterrorism,” forthcoming at *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies*, July 2022.

#### *In Review or Revision*

“Taking Civilians: The Behavioural Dynamic of Terrorist Kidnapping in Civil War,” Invited to Revise and Resubmit to *European Journal of International Relations*.

“Taking to Kill: The Lethality of Terrorist Hostage-Taking in Civil War,” Under Review at *American Journal of Political Science*.

Awarded the Stuart A. Bremer Award for Best Graduate Student Paper at the 21st Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science Conference for the Network of European Peace Scientists.

#### *Works in Progress*

“Talking Bodies: Explaining State-Terrorist Hostage Negotiation in Civil War”.

“Violent Competition and Terrorist Restraint in Civil War,” with Sara M.T. Polo.

“Explaining Support for the Reintegration of Ex-Combatants in Somalia,” with Prabin Khadka.

“The Legitimacy of Terrorist Tactics: Evidence from Somalia,” with Prabin Khadka.

“Border Fortification and Intergroup Conflict,” with Christopher Blair.

“After Rebel Rule: Rebel Governance and Post-Conflict Development,” with Nihad Aboud & Laura Saavedra-Lux.

## Research Funding

#### *Funded External Grants*

Mitacs Globalink Research Award (£6,000): “Terrorist Hostage-Taking in Civil War,” Principal Investigator, 2023.

Centre for International Studies at the University of Montréal (CÉRIUM) Doctoral Writing Fellowship Grant (£5,000): “Terrorist Hostage-Taking in Civil War,” Principal Investigator, 2022-2023.

Connect Education University College London Mentorship Grant (£5,000): “Collecting Data on Hostage Victims in Civil War,” Principal Investigator, 2021-2022.

Economic and Social Research Council (ESRC) 1+3 PhD Grant (£90,000): “The Micro-Dynamics of Militant Violence,” Principal Investigator, 2019-2023.

#### *Awards and Internal Grants*

Travel Grant, International Studies Association, August 2022 (£750).

Stuart A. Bremer Award, Network of European Peace Scientists, June 2022.

Overseas Institutional Visit Award, Economic and Social Research Council, May 2022 (£3,000).

Service Recognition, International Studies Association, April 2022.

Postgraduate Research Development Grant, University of Essex, April 2022 (£600).

Travel Grant, International Studies Association, August 2021 (£500).

SAGE Publishing Methods Training Grant, July 2020 (£1,000).

The Eric Tanenbaum Prize for Best Postgraduate Student, University of Essex, June 2020 (£100).

Scholarship, Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, July 2020 (£1,000).

Travel Grant, University of Zürich, June 2020 (£500).

Best Dissertation Prize, Department of Politics, University of Strathclyde, April 2018 (£100).

Granger Memorial Prize for Academic Excellence, University of Strathclyde, April 2017 (£150).

## Research Appointments

Policy Lab, United Nations Educational, Scientific, and Cultural Organisation (2020 - present).

Analyst, Global Risk Insights (2019 - 2020).

Researcher, Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (2019 - 2020).

Commissioning Editor, E-International Relations (2018 - 2020).

Sub-Saharan Africa Analyst, AKE International (2019 - 2020).

Analyst, Lloyds Banking Group (2018 - 2019).

Research Assistant, Action on Armed Violence (2018 - 2019).

Research Assistant, Department of Politics, University of Strathclyde (2017 - 2018).

Development Assistant, Ecuador Trust (2014 - 2016)

Research Assistant, House of Commons, UK Parliament (2013 - 2015).

## Teaching Appointments

### *International College, University of Essex*

Political Analysis (Instructor of Record).

Conflict and Cooperation (Instructor of Record).

### *Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis*

Longitudinal Data Analysis (Teaching Assistant for Dr. Maria Pampaka).

Panel Data Analysis for Comparative Research (Teaching Assistant for Professor Christopher Adolph).

### *University College London*

Protest and Revolution (Teaching Assistant for Dr. Katerina Tertychnaya).

War and Violence (Teaching Assistant for Dr. Bugra Susler).

International Conflict and Cooperation (Teaching Assistant for Professor Kristin Bakke).

### *University of Strathclyde*

War, Terrorism, and Conflict (Teaching Assistant for Dr. Jun Koga Sudduth).

International Relations and Global Politics (Teaching Assistant for Dr. Narisong Huhe).

## Invited Appearances

### *Guest Lectures*

“Hostage-Taking in Civil War,” Department of Political Science, University College London, 2021.

### *Research Talks*

Invited Speaker, “Terrorist Hostage-Taking in Civil War,” Department of Government, University of Essex, 2022 (Scheduled).

Invited Speaker, “Terrorist Hostage-Taking in Civil War,” School of Government & Public Policy, University of Arizona, 2022 (Scheduled).

Invited Speaker, “The Lethality of Hostage-Taking in Civil War,” MIRTH Speaker Series, University of California Berkeley, 2022 (Scheduled).

Invited Speaker, “The Spatial Profile of Militant Violence,” PIPC Speaker Series, National University of Singapore, 2021.

Invited Panellist, “COVID-19 and Non-State Actor Governance,” Department of Political Science, University College London, 2020.

Invited Panellist, “Simulations in International Security Studies,” Department of Military and Strategic Studies, United States Air Force Academy, 2020.

## Conference and Workshop Participation

“The Lethality of Hostage-Taking in Civil War.”

Peace Science Society (International), Annual Meeting 2022.

Network for European Peace Scientists, Annual Meeting 2022.

“Intergroup Competition and Terrorist Restraint.”

American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting 2022.

International Studies Association, Annual Meeting 2022.

Network for European Peace Scientists, Annual Meeting 2022.

“Taking Hostages: The Behavioural Dynamic of Terrorist Kidnapping in Civil War.”

International Studies Association, Annual Meeting 2022.

Workshop on Conflict Dynamics, Nuffield College, University of Oxford 2021.

Conflict Research Society Conference, Annual Meeting 2021.

Conflict and Change Workshop, University College London, 2021.

“Rebel Child Soldiering and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence.”

International Studies Association, Annual Meeting 2022.

Midwest Political Science Association, Annual Meeting 2021.

“The Spatial Profile of Militant Violence Against Civilians.”

European Consortium for Political Research, Annual Meeting 2021.

International Political Science Association, Annual Meeting 2021.  
International Studies Association, Annual Meeting 2021.  
Midwest Political Science Association, Annual Meeting 2021.  
Conflict and Change Workshop, University College London, 2021.  
Graduate Students in International Security Etc. Workshop, December 2020.  
Society for Terrorism Research, Annual Meeting 2020.  
Global Negotiation Conference, June 2020.

“The Growth of Domestic Terrorism.”

School of International Relations Graduate Conference, University of St. Andrews, June 2019.  
Social Science Graduate Conference, University of Exeter, August 2018.  
Political Science Association, Annual Meeting 2018.

## Public Engagement

“Child Soldiering in Boko Haram” BBC Africa, 2021.  
“LGBTQ+ Inclusion and Diversity in Academia,” South East Network for Social Scientists, 2020.  
“Common Futures Conversations: Conflict and Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa,” Chatham House, 2020.  
“Competition and Territory for Al Shabaab in Somalia,” BBC Africa, 2020.

## Additional Training

Advanced Machine Learning for Social Scientists  
Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, 2022 (Dr. Reto Wüest).

Data Science Bootcamp  
The Erdős Institute, University of Michigan, 2022.

Quantitative Methods for Causal Inference and Policy Evaluation  
Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, 2021 (Dr. Adam Zelizer).

Quantitative Field Research  
German Institute for Global and Area Studies, 2021 (Dr. Roos van der Haer).

Broadcast Media  
London School of Economics, 2021 (Rachel Shabi).

Machine Learning and Conflict Prediction  
University of Essex, 2020 (Professor Michael Colaresi).

Spatial Econometrics  
Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, 2020 (Professor Scott Cook).

Mathematics for Social Scientists  
Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, 2020 (Professor Jessica Claridge).

R for Data Analysis  
Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis, 2020 (Professor Martin Elff).

Terrorism Analysis  
The National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, 2019.

Supporting Learners with Additional Support Needs  
HF Foundation, 2018.

## Language and Technical Skills

Software: MS Office, Open Office, Google Suite, WordPress, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X.

Programming: R, Python, STATA, SPSS, QGIS, ArcMap.

Methods: Causal Inference, Maximum Likelihood, Network Analysis, Spatial Econometrics.

Languages: English (native), Spanish (intermediate), French (intermediate), Arabic (initial).

## Professional Service

Reviewer for: *Oxford University Press, International Studies Quarterly*.

Service: Organizer, Graduate Students in International Security Etc. (2022–); Replicator, Institute for Replication, University of Ottawa (2022–); Conference Programme Assistant, Network for European Peace Scientists (2022); Conference Programme Assistant, International Studies Association (2021-2022); Ph.D. Representative, Department of Government, University of Essex (2021-2022).

Inclusion and Diversity: LGBTQ+ Inclusion Officer, UK Economic and Social Research Council; Member of International Studies Association LGBTQ+ Diversity Group.

## Professional Affiliations and Membership

American Political Science Association, Conflict Research Society, The Human Rights Centre at Essex, International Studies Association, Midwest Political Science Association, Network for European Peace Scientists, Peace Science Society (International), Urban Violence Research Network.

## References

Professor Kristian S. Gleditsch  
Regius Professor  
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Dr. Brian J. Phillips  
Reader  
Department of Government  
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Dr. Ursula Daxecker  
Associate Professor  
Department of Political Science  
University of Amsterdam  
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