

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; Cline Center (Linowes Fellow 2022-2024); Center for International Trade and Security (CITS), University of Georgia (nonresident fellow)

2019-2020 Assistant Professor, Department of International Affairs, School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia (UGA).

Faculty Affiliate: 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
Dissertation: “Colonial Policy, Social Trust, and Economic Resilience: The Long-term Impacts of Imperial Russian Settlement in Southern Kazakhstan”
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. <https://doi.org/10.1017/9781108860741>
ISBN (Electronic), 9781108860741; ISBN (Print), 9781108816854

Refereed journal articles:

- 2022 Webb Williams, Nora and Margaret Hanson. "Captured Courts and Legitimized Autocrats: Kazakhstan's Constitutional Council" *Law and Social Inquiry* 47(4), 1201-1233. <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%2F00905992.2017.1288204>
- 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 Casas, Andreu and Nora Webb Williams. "Introduction to the Special Issue on Images as Data". *Computational Communication Research* 4(1), 1-10. <https://computationalcommunication.org/ccr/article/view/139>
- 2022 Casas, Andreu and Nora Webb Williams (eds). "Special Issue: Images as Data" for *Computational Communication Research* 4(1). All articles peer reviewed, 10 accepted papers. Non-peer reviewed introductory article. <https://computationalcommunication.org/ccr/issue/view/8>

Book/handbook chapters:

- 2023 Webb Williams, Nora. "What Type of Data Are Images?", in Janet M. Box-Steffensmeier, Dino P. Christenson, and Valeria Sinclair-Chapman (eds), *Oxford Handbook of Engaged Methodological Pluralism in Political Science (Vol 1)* (2024; online edn, Oxford Academic, 23 Oct. 2023), <https://doi.org/10.1093/oxfordhb/9780192868282.013.47>

- 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>

Textbook:

- 2022 Imai, Kosuke and Nora Webb Williams. *Quantitative Social Science: An Introduction in tidyverse*. Princeton University Press. ISBN: 9780691222271
<https://press.princeton.edu/books/paperback/9780691222288/quantitative-social-science>

IN PREPARATION

Book project: *Surviving Colonialism and Collapse: Resilience and Trust in Southern Kazakhstan* (under review)

Webb Williams, Nora, Andreu Casas, Kevin Aslett, and John Wilkerson. “When Conservatives See Red but Liberals Feel Blue: Why Labeler-Characteristic Bias Matters for Data Annotation” (under review)

Lu, Lucie and Nora Webb Williams. “Symbolic or Substantive? Codes of Conduct in Political Science Conferences” (under review)

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

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

PAPERS/BOOKS IN PROGRESS

“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)

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

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

GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS

- 2022-2025 Minerva Research Initiative Grant, 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.” (\$1.5 million for three years/\$706,427 UIUC subaward, with additional two-year option possible)
- 2022-2025 Cline Center (UIUC) Linowes Fellowship (\$10,000)
- 2022 Provost’s Matching Grant for National Center for Faculty Development and Diversity – Faculty Success Program. (\$2,200)
- 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). (\$13,000)
- 2018 PolMeth NSF Funding for Conference Travel (\$1,300)
- 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)
- 2017 PolMeth NSF Funding for Conference Travel (\$1,375)
- 2016 Camden Hall Graduate Research Grant, “Images that Matter.” Department of Political Science, UW (\$3,000)
- 2014-15 Academic Year Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship. U.S. Department of Education via Ellison Center (Russian, UW) (\$33,000)
- 2011-12 Fulbright U.S. Student Study/Research Grant to Kyrgyz Republic. U.S. State Department (\$25,422)
- 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)

AWARDS AND HONORS

- 2022 Jim Kuklinski Graduate Mentoring Award, UIUC Department of Political Science
- 2020, 2021 List of Teachers Ranked as Excellent, UIUC (Fall 2020 and Fall 2021). Three courses listed, all noted as “outstanding.”
- 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

EXTERNAL INVITED TALKS (SINCE 2017)

- 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, University College Dublin, 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"

CONFERENCE/WORKSHOP PARTICIPATION (SINCE 2019)

- 2023 American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting. Paper presentation ("Elite Network Events from Authoritarian News Sources"); roundtable organizer/chair ("Task Force on Engaged Methodological Pluralism Mini-Conference: Ending the Divide? Advances in Computational Social Science"); discussant ("Advancements in Images-as-Data for Computational Political Science").
- 2023 Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference. "Symbolic or Substantive? Codes of Conduct in Political Science Conferences" (presented by Lucie Lu)
- 2021 Association for Slavic, East European and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES) Annual Conference. Dec. 2. "Rural Resilience After the Soviet Collapse: Evidence from Southern Kazakhstan" (virtual)
- 2021 Visions in Methodology (VIM) Annual Conference. Nov. 12. "Transcending Training from Scratch"
- 2021 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 MPSA Annual Conference. “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)

- 2022 REEEC Current Affairs Roundtable on Ukraine, Nov. 17
- 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

- 2023 Comparative Politics Proseminar (PS541)
- 2022 Introduction to Text and Images as Data (PS590, 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

2023-2024 Executive Committee Member, UIUC Russian, East European, and Eurasian Center
2023-2024 MPSA Section head for (Post) Communist Countries
2023-2024 Department Graduate Affairs Committee
2022-2024 Associate/Section Editor, Oxford Handbook of Engaged Methodological Pluralism
2022- 2023 Editorial Board, Central Asia Research Cluster, UIUC
2021-2023 Department Advisory Committee (elected by faculty), 2x
2021-2022 Department Graduate Student Ombudsperson (elected by graduate students)
2021-2022 Department 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; Science Advances; Perspectives on Politics; International Journal of Press/Politics; International Studies Review; Policy Studies Journal; Central Asian Survey; Central Asian Affairs; Sociological Methodology; Journal of Information Technology & Politics; Caucasus Survey; Big Data and Society; Social Science Computer Review; 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