

# Thomas A. Leavitt

PH.D. CANDIDATE, POLITICAL SCIENCE

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## EDUCATION

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**Columbia University**  
Department of Political Science

*Ph.D., May 2020 (Expected)*  
*M.A., May 2015; M.Phil., May 2017*

**Dissertation:** “The Role of Racial Worldviews and Economic Incentives in Political Transitions”  
**Advisers:** Macartan N. Humphreys (Chair), Isabela Mares  
**Major Field:** Comparative Politics  
**Minor Field:** Methodology (Minor Committee: José R. Zubizarreta and Donald P. Green)

**University of Chicago**  
International Relations

*M.A. (with Honors), 2014*

**DePauw University**  
Political Science

*M.A., Magna Cum Laude, 2009*

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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**Substantive:** Historical Political Economy, Political Economy of Development, State Formation, Political Transitions, African Studies, Race and Ethnic Politics  
**Methodological:** Causal Inference, Bayesian Statistics

## PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

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“Causal-Inference & Design-Based Inferential Methods” (with Jake Bowers). Forthcoming in *Sage Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science & International Relations*.

“The Epistemic Value of Randomization for Bayesian Belief Revision about Causal Effects.” Under review at *Statistical Science*.

“Design-Based Bayesian Inference for Causal Effects.” Working paper.

“A Sensitivity Analysis for Clustered Assignment Mechanisms” (with Georgiy Syunyaev). Working paper.

“Political Suffrage in Circumscribed State Boundaries: The Theoretical Implications of Apartheid South Africa’s Historical Experience.” Working paper.

“Colonial Territory or Embryonic State? An Experiment on the Role of Race and Language in Americans’ Preferences for Puerto Rican Statehood” (with Viviana Rivera Burgos). Working paper.

“Race and Homelands: The United States and South Africa in Comparison.” Working paper.

## TEACHING

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**Causal Inference for the Social Sciences (Graduate)**  
Instructor

*Summer 2018, 2019*  
*ICPSR Summer Program – University of Michigan*

**Political Systems of Africa (Undergraduate)**  
Lecturer

*Spring 2018*  
*City College of New York (CCNY)*

<b>Politics of International Economic Relations (Undergraduate)</b> Teaching Assistant	<i>Spring 2018</i> <i>Columbia University</i>
<b>Math Methods for Political Science (Graduate)</b> Teaching Assistant	<i>Fall 2016, 2017</i> <i>Columbia University</i>
<b>Causal Inference for the Social Sciences (Graduate)</b> Teaching Assistant	<i>Summer 2013 – 2017</i> <i>ICPSR Summer Program – University of Michigan</i>
<b>Advanced Topics in Quantitative Research (Graduate)</b> Teaching Assistant	<i>Spring 2017</i> <i>Columbia University</i>
<b>Data Analysis and Statistics (Undergraduate)</b> Teaching Assistant	<i>Spring 2016</i> <i>Columbia University</i>

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## CONFERENCES AND INVITED PRESENTATIONS

<b>Microhistorical Analysis in Social Science Research</b> Presenter	<i>2019</i> <i>Yale University</i>
<b>MPSA Annual Meeting</b> Presenter	<i>2018, 2019</i> <i>Chicago, IL</i>
<b>APSA Annual Meeting</b> Presenter	<i>2018</i> <i>Boston, MA</i>
<b>Politics and History Network</b> Presenter	<i>2017</i> <i>New York University</i>

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## SERVICE

<b>Methods Workshop</b> Coordinator (with Georgiy Syunyaev)	<i>2016 – 2017</i> <i>Columbia University</i>
<b>Political Science Graduate Student Council (PSGSC)</b> President	<i>2015 – 2016</i> <i>Columbia University</i>
<b>Contemporary African Political Economy Research Seminar (CAPERS)</b> Coordinator	<i>2015</i> <i>Columbia University</i>

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## HONORS AND AWARDS

<b>Dissertation Development Grant</b> <i>Department of Political Science, Columbia University</i>	<i>2018</i>
<b>Proposal Development Grant</b> <i>The Abdul Latif Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL), MIT</i>	<i>2017</i>
<b>Summer Research Grant</b> <i>Center for Development Economics and Policy (CDEP), Columbia University</i>	<i>2016</i>
<b>Summer Research Grant</b> <i>Center for the Study of Development Strategies (CSDS), Columbia University</i>	<i>2015</i>
<b>Dean's Fellow</b> <i>Graduate School of Arts &amp; Sciences, Columbia University</i>	<i>2014 – 2019</i>

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## TECHNICAL SKILLS

<b>Programming</b>	[R], Stan, Stata (beginner), Python (beginner)
<b>Software</b>	L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X, Mathematica

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Political Science Association (APSA)

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

African Studies Association (ASA)

Society for Political Methodology (SPM)