Alexander Wais

University of Texas at Austin
Department of Government

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Candidate, Government, University of Texas at Austin 2025 (expected)
Fields: International Relations, Methods
Dissertation: Three Essays on Foreign Aid and Electoral Behavior and
Accountability
Committee: Michael Findley (chair), Wendy Hunter, Daniel Nielson, and Kishore
Gawande (external member)

M.Sc., Economics, University College London 2017
Dissertation: 200 Studies Later and Inequality's Impact on Growth Remains
Unknown (completed with Distinction)

B.A., Economics, Tufts University 2014

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political economy of development and foreign aid; the domestic political effects of
foreign aid; political attitudes and behavior; electoral accountability; policy feedback
effects

UNDER REVIEW

Voters Engage Where Democracy Delivers (Job Market Paper)
- Presented at the 2023 Latin American Public Opinion Project Conference and
  2024 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference

WORKING PAPERS

Can World Bank Development Projects Loosen the Ethnic Voting Trap?

How Electoral Accountability Falters Between a Rock and a Hard Place

SOFTWARE

GEORELATE: python package that facilitates geospatial analysis (co-created with
Edward Krueger)
- Presented at UT GIS Day 2023

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Graduate School Dissertation Writing Fellowship, UT-Austin	2024
Professional Development Award, UT-Austin	2023
Pre-Dissertation Summer Research Fellowship, UT-Austin	2020
ICPSR Sponsorship, UT-Austin	2020

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Co-instructor at the University of Texas at Austin:
- Introduction to International Relations and Global Studies (fall 2020)

Teaching Assistant at the University of Texas at Austin:
- Issues & Policies in American Government: National Security (spring 2023;
  spring 2024, fall 2024)
- Citizenship in Democratic Politics (fall 2022)
- Terrorism and Counterterrorism (spring 2022)
- American Government (fall 2021; fall 2023)

- Issues and Policies in American Government: U.S. Foreign Policy (fall 2019; spring 2020; spring 2021)

Workshop leader and co-leader at CEGA, University of California at Berkeley
- Delivered workshops on causal inference and transparent and reproducible practices for graduate students and junior policymakers at UC Berkeley, the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and the African Population & Health Research Centre (APHRC) in Nairobi, Kenya (2014-2016)

MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE/ PLACEMENT

Mentored three students from developing countries interested in pursuing careers and advanced degrees in quantitative social science, international relations, and policy analysis:
- Apoorva Yavuz (United Nations Research Associate)
- Sujaan Aryal (incoming Economics PhD students at Clark University)
- Selemani Omari (Freelance Researcher)

RESEARCH & CONSULTING EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant - University of Texas at Austin   2019-2021
Assisted Dr. Michael Findley conduct analysis in R and STATA

Consultant - United Nations Women   20016-2017
Worked with principal investigators Dr. Laura Tyson and Dr. Jeni Klugman to publish: Leave No One Behind a Call to Action for Gender Equality and Women's Economic Empowerment

Research Assistant - Center for Effective Global Action (CEGA), University of California, Berkeley   2014-2016
Created replication sets for Dr. Edward Miguel

METHODS TRAINING

(ICPSR) Multilevel Modeling, Time Series Analysis II, Data Science and Text Analysis; (UT Austin Gov) MLE, Formal Theory I; (UCL) Econometrics, Advanced Microeconometrics, and Program Evaluation (causal methods)

LAUGANGES/ COMPUTER SKILLS

Native English and Spanish (US/Mexico dual citizen)
Stata, R and Python

REFERENCES

Michael Findley: Professor, Department of Government, UT Austin
mikefindley@utexas.edu

Wendy Hunter: Professor, Department of Government, UT Austin
wendyhunter@austin.utexas.edu

Daniel Nielson: Professor, Department of Government, UT Austin
dannielson@utexas.edu