

# Alexander Wais

Stockholm University  
Department of Economic History and International Relations

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## EDUCATION

Ph.D., Government 2025

**University of Texas at Austin**

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 2017

**University College London**

Dissertation: 200 Studies Later and Inequality's Impact on Growth Remains Unknown (completed with Distinction)

B.A., Economics 2014

**Tufts University**

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Economic History and International Relations  
**Stockholm University** 2025-

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative and International Political Economy; Foreign Aid; Government Spending; Public Opinion; Democratic Attitudes, Behavior and Accountability; Democratization; Democratic Theory; International Organizations; Global Governance

## UNDER REVIEW/R&R

**Wais, Alex.** Voters Engage When Democracy Delivers: CDD's Impact on Ballot Spoiling in Brazil (Revise and Resubmit at Political Research Quarterly)

- Presented at the Latin American Public Opinion Project (LAPOP) Conference and the Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference

**Wais, Alex.** Can Government Spending Loosen the Ethnic Voting Trap? Evidence from 100,000 Voters

- Presented at the MPSA Annual Conference

## WORKING PAPERS/WORKS IN PROGRESS

**Wais, Alex.** Does Government Spending in Young Democracies Inspire Democratic Support?

**Wais, Alex, Lisa Dellmuth, and Tanushree Rao.** Foreign Aid and Trust in Government: How Positive Aid Shocks Erode Trust

- Presented at the MPSA Annual Conference

**Wais, Alex** and Lisa Dellmuth. The Paradox of the Wealthy: Does Local Decline Undermine Trust in Global Economic Governance?

- Presented at the MPSA Annual Conference and the Political Economy of International Organization (PEIO) Annual Conference

Dellmuth, Lisa, **Alex Wais**, and Miriam Zehnter. Elite Scapegoating of IOs and Attitudes towards Cooperative Internationalism

- Presented at the Scapegoating International Organizations Workshop

**Wais, Alex.** Can Aspiring Autocrats Delegitimize Democratic Guardrails?

**Wais, Alex.** Do Populist Leaders Undermine Public Trust in International Organizations?

## 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 at CEGA, University of California at Berkeley**

- Delivered workshops on causal inference and transparent and reproducible practices at UC Berkeley, the University of Dar es Salaam in Tanzania and the African Population & Health Research Centre (APHRC) in Kenya (2014-2016)

## PhD GRADUATE ADVISING

PhD Dissertation Co-Advisor

- Annika Hilgert (ongoing)

## MENTORSHIP EXPERIENCE/ PLACEMENT

Mentored students from Asia and Latin America interested in pursuing careers and advanced degrees in quantitative social science/policy analysis in the United States:

- [Apoorva Yavuz](#) (United Nations Development Programme Research Associate)
- [Sujaan Aryal](#) (Economics Ph.D. student)
- [Selemani Omari](#) (Freelance Researcher)

**RESEARCH &  
CONSULTING  
EXPERIENCE**

**Research Assistant - University of Texas at Austin** 2019-2021  
Worked with Dr. Michael Findley

**Consultant - United Nations Women** 2016-2017  
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  
Worked with 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)

**LANGUAGES/  
COMPUTER  
SKILLS**

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

**REFERENCES**

**Lisa Dellmuth:** Professor, Department of Economic History and International  
Relations, Stockholm University

**Michael Findley:** Professor, Department of Government, University of Texas at  
Austin  
[mikefindley@utexas.edu](mailto:mikefindley@utexas.edu)

**Wendy Hunter:** Professor, Department of Government, University of Texas at  
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[wendyhunter@austin.utexas.edu](mailto:wendyhunter@austin.utexas.edu)

**Daniel Nielson:** Professor, Department of Government, University of Texas at  
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