

Melissa Pavlik

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EDUCATION

Exp. 2026 **Ph.D. in Political Science, Yale University**

Dissertation: Producing Preacuity: The Coercive Logic of Selective Enforcement

Committee: Kate Baldwin, Elisabeth Wood, Gerard Padró i Miquel, Sarah Bush

Fields: Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methodology, International Relations

2018 **M.A. in War Studies, King's College London (UK)**

with distinction

2016 **B.A. in Political Science (Minor in Statistics), University of Chicago**

with honors

ACADEMIC POSTS

Exp. 2026 **Wesleyan College**

Visiting instructor in Political Science

2023–2024 **University of Lagos (Nigeria)**

Visiting researcher at Center for Sustainable Housing and Urban Development

RESEARCH

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Grasse, Don, **Melissa Pavlik**, Hilary Matfess and Travis B. Curtice 2021. “Opportunistic Repression: Patterns of civilian targeting by the state in response to COVID-19.” *International Security* 46 (2): 130–165.

↳ Presented at Yale Political Violence and its Legacies Workshop (2020).

UNDER REVIEW

Grasse, Don and **Melissa Pavlik**. 2025. “Climate change, conflict, and property rights: Evidence from Nigeria.” Under review at *Journal of Politics*.

↳ Presented at MPSA (2023), BGWAPE (2023), ESOC (2024).

Bush, Sarah Sunn, Jennifer Hadden and **Melissa Pavlik**. 2024. “Mind the Gaps: Assessing Missingness and Its Implications in INGO Datasets.” Under review at *International Organization*

↳ Presented at PEIO Stockholm (2024), APSA (2024), VIPES (2024)

Starc Card, Katja, Blaise Muhire, Joseph Wilson, Celia Akawu, Babakura Bukar, Sandra Rincon, Andrew Meaux, Zara Ahmadu, **Melissa Pavlik**, Belen Fodde; Haruna Ayuba; Connor Smith. 2024. “Not a Voluntary, Sustainable, or Scalable Outcome: Resilience in Urban Settings of Fragility in Sub-Saharan Africa.” Under review at *Environment and Security*.

WORKING PAPERS

Pavlik, Melissa. “Connivance and coercion” 2024. *Job market paper.*

↳ Presented at APSA (2024); NEWEPS (2025); BWGAPE (2025); EPSA (2025)

Pavlik, Melissa. “Mapping the Margins: Geospatial methods for measuring informal economies.” 2025. *Working paper.*

↳ Presented at EPSA (2025); APSA (2025)

Pavlik, Melissa and Ryan Pike. 2024. “Words of Warcraft: Experimental Evidence of States’ Social Media Frames during the Russia-Ukraine Invasion.” *In the field.*

↳ Presented at MPSA (2023); EPSA (2024); APSA (2024)

Pavlik, Melissa. 2023. “Assistance, resistance, and the ‘informalization incentive’: Rethinking the aid-conflict nexus in sub-Saharan Africa.” *Working paper.*

↳ Presented at APSA (2021), MPSA (2022).

Pavlik, Melissa and Wiedemann, Johannes. 2022. “The Cost of Doing Business: Sender-state firms and supply-side sanctions politics.” *Working paper.*

BOOK PROJECT

Pavlik, Melissa. *Producing Precarity: The coercive logic of selective state enforcement.*

SELECTED ANALYSIS & GENERAL AUDIENCE

Pavlik, Melissa. 2022. “To Understand Global Conflict, Start With a Map.” *World Politics Review (WPR)*

Pavlik, Melissa. 2022. “The West’s Border Closure Reflex Comes With a Cost.” *World Politics Review (WPR).*

Pavlik, Melissa. 2021. “The Horror and the Humanity: Review of Samuel Moyn’s *Humane*.” Roundtable on Samuel Moyn’s *Humane*. *Tocqueville 21*

Pavlik, Melissa. 2021. “Democracies Bear Some Blame for Democracy’s Global Erosion.” *World Politics Review (WPR)*

Pavlik, Melissa. 2021. “Anti-Interventionism Isn’t Enough For Left Foreign Policy.” *Foreign Policy* (online + print edition)

Grasse, Don, Melissa Pavlik, Hilary Matfess, and Travis B. Curtice. 2020. “Autocratic governments are using coronavirus as a pretext to clamp down on opponents.” *Washington Post Monkey Cage*

Pavlik, Melissa. 2020. “A great and sudden change: the global political violence landscape before and after COVID-19.” *Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)*

Kishi, Roudabeh, Melissa Pavlik and Sam Jones. 2020. “ACLED 2019: The year in review.” *Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)*

Kishi, Roudabeh, Hilary Matfess, and Melissa Pavlik. 2020. “‘Terrible and terrifyingly normal’: Political violence targeting women.” *Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)*

GRANTS

2024	18,000 USD	International Dissertation Research Fellowship (IDRF) from the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University
	15,000 USD	Interdisciplinary Experimental Research Grant from the Institute for Social and Policy Studies at Yale University
	5,000 USD	Nuclear Security Policy Fellowship from the Nuclear Security Program at Yale University
2023	15,000 USD	Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG) , National Science Foundation via American Political Science Association
	5,000 USD	International Research Grant From International Security Studies (ISS) Center at Yale University
	5,000 USD	Pre-Dissertation Research Grant from the MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies at Yale University

TEACHING

FALL 2025	GAME THEORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE Prof. Ian Turner, Department of Political Science Course description here ; course evaluations here
FALL 2024	GAME THEORY AND POLITICAL SCIENCE Prof. Ian Turner, Political Science Course description here ; course evaluations here
FALL 2023	CONTESTING INJUSTICE Prof. Elisabeth Wood, Political Science Course description here ; course evaluations here
SPRING 2023	GOVERNANCE & POLITICS IN AFRICA Prof. Kate Baldwin, Political Science Course description here ; course evaluations here
FALL 2022	INTRODUCTION TO PROBABILITY THEORY Prof. Robert Wooster, Statistics & Data Science Course description here ; course evaluations here

RESEARCH EMPLOYMENT

2021-2023	(Quantitative) Research Assistant Institute for Social and Policy Studies (ISPS) at Yale University
2017-2021	Research Analyst Armed Conflict Location & Event Data Project (ACLED)
2017-2018	Research Analyst Emerging African Paradigms Project, King's College London
2016-2017	Research Fellow; Head of Global Counterterrorism Team Institute for the Study of War (ISW)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

2025	European Political Science Association (EPSA)
2025	Boston Area Working Group on African Political Economy (BWGAPE)
2025	Northeast Workshop on Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS)
2025	Comparative Labor Politics Group at APSA
2024	Virtual International Political Economy Studies (VIPES)
2024	American Political Science Association (APSA)
2024	European Political Science Association (EPSA)
2024	Political Economy of International Organizations (PEIO)
2023	Boston Area Working Group on African Political Economy (BWGAPE)
2023	American Political Science Association (APSA)
2023	Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA)
2022	American Political Science Association (APSA)
2022	Midwestern Political Science Association (MPSA)
2021	American Political Science Association (APSA)
2020	Oxford Conflict Dynamics
2019	Households in Conflict Network (HiCN)

SERVICE

Editorial Assistant, APSR (Elisabeth Wood 2021-2023 / Alexandre Debs 2024, 2025).

Student Coordinator, Leitner Political Economy Workshop, Yale University (2022–2024).

Peer Reviewer: International Interactions (2021), Journal of Experimental Political Science (2022)

Last Updated: July 4, 2025