

Bradley O. Erickson

Contact Information

Emory University
327 Tarbuton Hall
1555 Dickey Drive
Atlanta, Georgia 30322

Email: bradley.erickson@emory.edu
Website: bradleyoerickson.com

Education

Emory University

PhD Candidate in Political Science

2027 Expected

Dissertation: *Monarchical Distribution*

Committee: [Jack Paine](#) (Chair), [Miguel Rueda](#), and [Kiela Crabtree](#)

Dean's Teaching Fellow 2026-27

MA in Political Science

2024

American University

BA in Economics and Interdisciplinary Studies

2019

University of Oxford, Lady Margaret Hall

Visiting Student in Economics and Politics

2017-2018

Research Areas

Comparative Politics, Historical Political Economy, Autocratic Politics

Book Project and Dissertation

Monarchical Distribution

“[Constrained Monarchs, Stable Bargains](#)” (JMP)

Abstract: How do rulers with weak or non-existent bureaucracies distribute goods to remain in power and avoid conflict? Unlike their counterparts with robust bureaucracies, low-capacity autocrats face constraints when sharing power with elites. Rulers can overcome this and reduce elite rebellion by distributing goods that 1) are difficult to revoke and 2) provide sufficient rents back to the ruler once distributed. I argue that land meets these criteria. I test the rebellion-quelling effects of land grants in case of late medieval and early modern England (1226-1572) with three novel datasets: 600,000 charters and patents, rebellious counties from 32 civil conflicts, and 502 elites' grants and participation in the Second Barons' War. Elites who received land grants were less likely to join the rebels during the civil war, and counties were less likely to rebel immediately after receiving a land grant. Thus, even monarchs without bureaucratic buying power can build stable bargains.

Working Papers

“[Are Uncles Evil?](#)”

“[Taking Off the Emperor's Clothes: Concubinage in Autocracies](#)” with [Giang Pham](#)

[“Strategic Migration under Duress: Evidence from the Great Migration, 1900-1930”](#) with [Kiela Crabtree](#)

Works in Progress

“Crises, Conflict, and Localized State Building: Evidence from the Deaths and Property of Medieval English Elites” with [Gabriel Leon-Ablan](#)

“Autocratic Business Cycles: Evidence from Medieval English Monarchs”

“Public Goods Provision and Civil Society” with [Kiela Crabtree](#) and [Zack Johnson](#)

“Merry Wives of Wangchuck: Autocrats and Polygamy” with [Giang Pham](#)

Original Datasets

[Medieval England](#)

Datasets include rebellions against English monarchs in response to the grants, patents, charters, and other privileges distributed to elites (1226-1572). Also includes measures of localized state capacity (1236-1509). State capacity measures, many types of grants, and conflicts are geolocated to historic English counties.

Second Barons’ War Rebels | Pre-Modern English Rebellions | Royal Grants, Patents, and Charters | County Capacity from *IPMs* with [Gabriel Leon-Ablan](#) (In progress)

[Historical Europe](#)

Datasets capture royal biographical characteristics and family dynamics across 32 European monarchies (1000-1800) and provide polity-level data like family members, conflicts, and presence of parliaments on smaller polities often excluded from panel data research on historical Europe (e.g., Gwynedd, Milan, Barcelona).

Small European States | Royal Sibling Conflicts | Brotherly Secular and Ecclesiastical Appointments | Royal Illegitimate Children and Siblings | Abrupt Monarch Deaths

[Imperial Vietnam](#) with [Giang Pham](#)

Datasets include a large sample of elite families of Vietnam during the Nguyen Dynasty (1802-1883), their relationships and interactions with the emperor via concubinage and rebellion, and imperial patronage dispensed to those elites.

Elite Vietnamese Families | Imperial Concubines | Elite Rebellions | Imperial Bureaucratic Appointments | Imperial Building Projects (In progress)

[American South](#) with [Kiela Crabtree](#) and [Zack Johnson](#)

Datasets describe the nature of civil society in the American South (1900-1960) for white and black Americans and state substitutes (i.e., public goods provision).

Black Civil Society (1900-1940) | Savannah Local Public Goods Provision (In progress)

Publications Before PhD

[“Institutional Determinants of Emerging Market Returns and Flows”](#) with [Ralph Sonenshine](#)

Emerging Markets Review 51: 100888, 2022

[“Spatial Dynamics of Racialized Income Inequality in the Washington, DC Metropolitan Area”](#) with [Daniel E. Esser](#), and [Kieran L. Turner](#)

The Professional Geographer 73 (1): 72–84, 2021

Grants, Awards, Fellowships	Academic Mentorship Grant, Institute for Humane Studies - \$8,000 For “Crises, Conflict, and Localized State Building” (with Gabriel Leon-Abian)	2026
	Dean’s Teaching Fellowship, Emory University University-wide fellowship for teaching excellence	2026
	Adam Smith Fellowship, Mercatus Center Pre-candidacy fellowship in interdisciplinary political economy	2022-2024
Presentations	Hankin Conference, Junior Scholars in Quantitative Conflict Workshop, SoWEPS	2026
	<i>Annual Conferences</i> APSA (2025, 2026), MPSA (2025, 2026), SPSA (2025)	
Teaching Experience	Emory University	
	<i>Instructor</i> , Historical Political Economy - Undergraduate	2027
	<i>Instructor</i> , Directed Research in Political Science - Undergraduate	2024-2026
	<i>Mentor</i> , First Year Graduate Student Mentorship Program	2025, 2026
	<i>Co-Instructor</i> , Technology Bootcamp - Graduate	2025, 2026
	<i>Co-Instructor</i> , Political Economy of Development - Undergraduate	2024
	<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Research Design and Methods - Undergraduate	2024, 2025
	<i>Grader</i> , Introduction to Comparative Politics - Undergraduate	2022
Non-Academic Experience	<i>Historical Data Visualization Analyst</i> , Independent Consulting Example project: The Killing Age: How Violence Made the Modern World	Ongoing
	<i>Research Analyst</i> , EAB - Higher Education	2020-2021
	<i>Research Associate</i> , EAB - K-12 Education	2019-2020
Service	<i>Organizer</i> , Emory University Graduate White Board Sessions	2026
	<i>Organizer</i> , Emory University Graduate Student HPE Reading Group	2023
	<i>Editorial Assistant</i> , American Journal of Political Science	2018-2019
Skills	STATA, L ^A T _E X, Mathematica, Python, Tableau, JavaScript/D3, R	