

Richard A. Nielsen

- Contact Information* Department of Government *E-mail:* rnielsen@fas.harvard.edu
Harvard University *Web:* <http://people.fas.harvard.edu/~rnielsen/>
1737 Cambridge St
Cambridge, MA 02138 USA
- Research Interests* Political violence; Islam; human rights; economic development; research design.
- Education* **Harvard University**
Ph.D., Government, in progress
A.M., Statistics, 2010
Brigham Young University
B.A., Political Science, 2007
- Dissertation* *Clerics of the Jihad.* A book-length project explaining why some Islamic clerics adopt the ideology of militant Jihad while most do not.
- Publications* Nielsen, Richard, Michael Findley, Zachary Davis, Tara Candland, and Daniel Nielson. 2011. "Foreign Aid Shocks as a Cause of Violent Armed Conflict," *American Journal of Political Science*, 55 (2): 219-232. ([link](#))
- Publications in other fields* King, Gary, Richard Nielsen, and Aaron Wells. 2012. "Letter to the Editor (on McCall and Cromwell)," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 366 (7): 667. ([link](#))
King, Gary, Richard Nielsen, Carter Coberly, James Pope, and Aaron Wells. 2011. "Avoiding Randomization Failure in Program Evaluation, with Application to the Medicare Health Support Program," *Population Health Management*, 14: S11-S22. ([link](#))
- Fellowships and Awards* Predoctoral Fellow, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, 2012-2013.
Student Fellow, Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies, 2012-.
National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2012-2013.
Fellow, Program on Global Society and Security (Harvard), 2011-2012.
Jeanne Humphrey Block Dissertation Award (IQSS), 2011.
Fellow, National Security Studies Program (Harvard), 2010-2011.
National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship, 2009-2012.
Graduate Student Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs (Harvard), 2009-2010.
Harvard WCFIA Pre-dissertation Grant, 2010.
Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, 2010.
- Working Papers* "Rewarding Human Rights? Selective Aid Sanctions against Repressive States." *Revise and Resubmit.* ([link](#))

“Rewards for Rights Ratification? Testing for Tangible and Intangible Benefits of Human Rights Treaty Ratification,” (with Beth Simmons). *Under Review*. ([link](#))

“Case Selection via Matching.” ([link](#))

“Comparative Effectiveness of Matching Methods for Causal Inference,” (with Gary King, Carter Coberly, James Pope, and Aaron Wells). ([link](#))

Selected Talks

“Adoption of Jihadi Ideology by Islamic Clerics.” AALIMS Conference on Economic and Political Development of the Muslim World, Stanford University, May 6-7, 2012.

“Sources of Extremism: Jihadi Ideology among Islamic Clerics.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, September 1-4, 2011.

“Case Selection via Matching.” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, September 1-4, 2011.

“Comparative Effectiveness of Matching Methods for Causal Inference,” (with Gary King). PolMeth XXVIII, Princeton University, July 28-30, 2011.

Teaching

Teaching Assistant for *Introduction to Quantitative Methods I* (for PhD students) taught by Adam Glynn. Harvard University, fall 2010.

Teaching Assistant for *The Political Economy of Development* taught by Robert Bates. Harvard University, fall 2009.

Teaching Assistant for *International Law* taught by Beth Simmons. Harvard University, summer 2008.

Teaching Assistant for *Quantitative Political Methodology* taught by Jeremy Pope. Brigham Young University, 2006-2007.

Languages

Arabic, French (intermediate reading), Spanish (intermediate reading).

Statistical/Programming Languages: Python, R, Stata, Matlab, basic HTML.

Service

Referee:

American Journal of Political Science, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Review of International Organizations, Journal of Peace Research.

Coordinator:

IR Workshop, Harvard University, 2010-11

Graduate Student Political Economy Workshop, Harvard University, 2008-09

Civil Conflict Workshop, Harvard University, 2008-09

References

Beth A. Simmons (bsimmons@wcfia.harvard.edu)

Gary King (King@harvard.edu)

Robert H. Bates (robert.bates.harvard.edu@gmail.com)

Tarek Masoud (Tarek.Masoud@Harvard.edu)

Adam Glynn (aglynn@fas.harvard.edu)

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