

Bradley O. Erickson

Contact Information

Emory University
327 Tarbutton 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: *Three Essays on Autocratic Power-Sharing in Historical Europe*

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 Interests

Historical Political Economy, Autocratic Politics, Power-Sharing, State-Capacity and Its Substitutes, Archival Data Collection, and Causal Inference

Book Project

Monarchical Distribution

Working Papers

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

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 powersharing with elites. Rulers can overcome this and reduce elite rebellion by distributing goods that 1) transfer sufficient coercive capacity to elites and 2) provide sufficient rents back to the ruler once distributed. I argue that land meets this criteria in the case of late medieval and early modern England (1226-1572). To test this, I collect 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.

[“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 (2026) For “Crises, Conflict, and Localized State Building” (with Gabriel Leon-Ablan)
	Dean’s Teaching Fellowship, Emory University (2026) University-wide fellowship for teaching excellence
	Adam Smith Fellowship, Mercatus Center (2022-2024) Pre-candidacy fellowship in interdisciplinary political economy
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 (Ongoing) Example project: The Killing Age: How Violence Made the Modern World
	<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