

**WILLIAM D. TAYLOR**

Doctoral Student, Political Science and Public Policy, University of Michigan

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Research interests: analysis of algorithms; applied large-language models; coercion; deep learning; human rights; misconduct; multiple systems estimation; policy implementation and evaluation; record linkage; repression.

**Education**

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**University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill**

B.S. Computer Science and Political Science

2023

**University of Michigan—Ann Arbor**

Ph.D. Political Science and Public Policy

Expected 2030

**Research Experience**

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**Data Science Fellow**

Human Rights Data Analysis Group

Summer 2025-Present

- Lead evaluation and iteration on large-language model and record linkage pipelines for US-based police use-of-force studies.
- Develop large-language model applications for principled data processing.

**Graduate Research Assistant**

Reckoning Project (Carceral State Project)

Summer 2025-Present

- Lead implementation of record linkage pipelines for US-based police misconduct studies.
- Facilitate data collection using large-language model tools.
- Write substantive prose for reports delivered internally.
- Facilitate collaboration with external research partners.

**Analyst**

Criminal Justice Innovation Lab, UNC School of Government

2023-Feb 2025

- Provide quantitative and computational deliverables for projects on bail reform, court appearance, and reentry and second chance hiring.
  - Lead meetings associated with these projects.
- QC work completed by graduate assistants and other researchers affiliated with the Lab.
- Write substantive prose and methodological appendices for reports delivered to stakeholders.
- Implement software engineering best-practices to enable efficiency and reproducibility in the Lab's core data infrastructure.
- Led development on the [North Carolina Record Clearance Dashboard](#), an interactive dashboard to be used by policymakers and stakeholders in assessing prospects for criminal record clearance in North Carolina.

**Ralph Bunche Summer Institute Fellow**

2022

American Political Science Association Ralph Bunche Summer Institute, Duke University

- Completed two graduate-level courses—Probability and Basic Regression, and Race and American Politics.
- Wrote a quantitative research paper employing rare event analysis to study radicalization into political extremism in the United Kingdom.
- Invited to present at the 2022 American Political Science Association general conference.

**Undergraduate Research Assistant**

2021-2023

Dr. Frank Baumgartner, UNC Department of Political Science

- (December 2021—Summer 2022) Assisted with reshaping and feature engineering tasks for a country-wide death penalty dataset.
- (Fall/Winter 2022) Received mentorship while completing an independent research paper on disparate criminal justice contact in NC.
  - Presented on research design and theory for this project at the University of Michigan's Emerging Scholars political science conference.
  - Presented findings at the National Conference of Black Political Scientists Annual Meeting.

**NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates (REU) Fellow**

2021

Security and Political Economy Lab/LEWIS Registry, The University of Southern California

- Cleaned, updated, and merged data for several international relations projects, and the Princeton World Economics and Politics Dataverse.
- Analyzed survey data from police chiefs on the Law Enforcement Work Inquiry System ("LEWIS Registry").
- Collaborated with other research assistants (RAs) to generate reports that informed project direction.
- Held weekly office hours to assist other RAs with R and statistical computing concepts.
- Created visualizations and tables for academic papers, and updated prose with these changes.
- Gave presentations to professors and stakeholders outlining new quantitative findings.
- Created R video tutorials on data visualization, currently hosted on the SPEC Lab YouTube channel.

**Policy Evaluations**


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PRETRIAL REFORM IN ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA: FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT, with Jessica Smith, Lab Director; Jamie Vaske, Senior Research Associate; and Hannah Turner, Project Manager, November 2023.

- Responsible for the prose and analyses in the Pretrial Detention section.

PRETRIAL REFORM IN ORANGE COUNTY, NORTH CAROLINA: FINAL SUPPLEMENTAL REPORT — TECHNICAL APPENDIX, with Jessica Smith, Lab Director; and Jamie Vaske, Senior Research Associate, November 2023.

- Responsible for the prose and analyses in the Pretrial Detention section.

## Conference Presentations

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Bossous, Joel and **William Taylor**. 2024. "Anger and the Political Pendulum: Emotions as Call and Response." Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting. New Orleans, LA.

**Taylor, William**. 2023. "Social Vulnerability and Criminal Justice Contact in North Carolina." National Conference of Black Political Scientists. Atlanta, GA.

**Taylor, William**. 2023. "Social Vulnerability and Criminal Justice Contact in North Carolina." Eldersveld Emerging Scholars Conference. Ann Arbor, MI.

## Professional Memberships

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American Political Science Association  
National Conference of Black Political Scientists  
National Society of Black Engineers  
Society of Political Methodology  
Southern Political Science Association

## Service

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### *Leadership*

#### **Co-Coordinator**

Conflict and Peace Research and Development Workshop

Summer 2025-Present

### *Teaching*

#### **Graduate Student Instructor**

POLSCI 327: Election Law

Fall 2025

## Proficiencies

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### **Programming Languages**

Bash, Java, Python, R, Stata, SQL

### **Spoken Languages**

English (Native), Spanish (Basic)

### **Operating Systems**

\*nix, Mac OS, Windows 10, Windows Server

### **Applications:**

git/GitHub, Jupyter Notebook, Microsoft Office Suite, ollama, Rstudio/Quarto, Stata BE, Vim,  
VS Code