

Ryan C. Briggs

Guelph Institute of Development Studies
University of Guelph
MacKinnon Building, Room 904
Guelph, ON N1G 2W1

Email: rbriggs@uoguelph.ca
Web: <http://ryancbriggs.net>

Academic Positions

Affiliated Faculty, Guelph Institute of Development Studies, University of Guelph, 2018–

Associate Professor, Political Science, University of Guelph, 2021–

Assistant Professor, Political Science, University of Guelph, 2018–2021

Assistant Professor, Political Science, Virginia Tech, 2014–2018.

Professorial Lecturer, School of International Service, American University, 2013–2014.

Education

Ph.D. International Relations, School of International Service, American University, 2008–2013.

B.Soc.Sci. International Development and Globalization, University of Ottawa, 2004–2008.

Other Roles

Global Health and Development editor, the Unjournal. 2023–

Editorial Board member, Institute for Replication. 2023–

Research

Peer Reviewed Articles

Heinzel, Mirko and Cate Weaver and Ryan C. Briggs (forthcoming). Incentivizing Responses in International Organization Elite Surveys: Evidence from the World Bank. *Journal of Experimental Political Science*.

Briggs, Ryan C. and Omer Solodoch (forthcoming) Changes in perceptions of border security influence desired levels of immigration. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2021). Why does aid not target the poorest? *International Studies Quarterly*, 65(3), 739–752.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2021). Power to Which People? Explaining how electrification targets voters across party rotations in Ghana. *World Development*, 141, 105391.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2020). Results from single-donor analyses of project aid success seem to generalize pretty well across donors. *Review of International Organizations*, 15(4), 947–963.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2020). Canadians think that nearly all of us will be allowed back to work around August. *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, 53(2), 245–251.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2019). Receiving foreign aid can reduce support for incumbent presidents. *Political Research Quarterly*, 72(3), 610–622.

Aidoo, Kobina and Ryan C. Briggs (2019). Underpowered: Rolling blackouts in Africa disproportionately hurt the poor. *African Studies Review*, 62(3), 112–131.

Berinzon, Maya and Ryan C. Briggs (2019). Measuring and explaining formal institutional persistence in French West Africa. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 57(2), 183–202.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2018). Leaving no one behind? A new test of subnational aid targeting. *Journal of International Development*, 30(5), 904–910.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2018). Poor targeting: A gridded spatial analysis of the degree to which aid reaches the poor in Africa. *World Development*, 103, 133–148.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2017). Does foreign aid target the poorest? *International Organization*, 71(1), 187–206.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2017). Explaining case selection in African politics research. *Journal of Contemporary African Studies*, 35(4), 565–572.

Berinzon, Maya and Ryan C. Briggs (2016). Legal families without the laws: The fading of colonial law in French West Africa. *American Journal of Comparative Law*, 64(2), 329–370.

Winner of the Hessel Yntema Prize for best article published in *AJCL* in 2016 by authors under 40.

Briggs, Ryan C. and Scott Weathers (2016). The other white man's burden? Gender & location in African politics scholarship. *African Affairs*, 115(460), 466–489.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2015). The influence of aid changes on African election outcomes. *International Interactions*, 41(2), 201–225.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2014). Aiding and Abetting: Project Aid and Ethnic Politics in Kenya. *World Development*, 64, 194–205.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2012). Electrifying the base? Aid and incumbent advantage in Ghana. *The Journal of Modern African Studies*, 50(4), 603–624.

Book Chapters

Briggs, Ryan C. (in press). Aid Targeting, in *The Handbook of Aid and Development*, edited by Raj Desai, Shanta Devarajan, and Jennifer Tobin.

Working Papers

Quantitative Political Science Research is Greatly Underpowered, with Vincent Arel-Bundock, Hristos Doucouliagos, Marco Mendoza Aviña, and T.D. Stanley.

A (Partial) Sociology of Academic International Development.

Other Writing

Briggs, Ryan C. & Chris Ruttly (2023). Why we should declare a formal 'Smallpox Eradication Day' *Ottawa Citizen*.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2022). The abject failure of IRBs: Ethics-review systems have become exercises in absurdity and unpredictability. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*.

Briggs, Ryan C. and Dario Sidhu (2021). It's giving season — how do you ensure your charitable donations will be used effectively? *The Toronto Star*.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2021). Why does aid not target the poorest? *VoxDev*.

Briggs, Ryan C., Robert Falconer, and Juan Moreno-Cruz (2020). Canada should take advantage of the U.S. immigration debacle and capitalize on high-skilled labour fleeing the US. *Calgary Herald*.

Aidoo, Kobina & Ryan C. Briggs (2020). Power cuts in Africa disproportionately hurt the poor. *Africa at LSE*.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2019). Review of *The Development Dance*. *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 57(1), 178–179.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2019). Why acceptance rates are falling and what can we do about it? *Citing Africa Podcast, Episode 1 (Guest interview)*.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2018). Box 10.1. Does aid target the poorest? *OECD DAC Development Co-operation Report 2018*.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2018). Does foreign aid reliably spur sustained economic growth in sub-Saharan Africa? *CQ Researcher: At Issue*.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2018). Millions of Americans as destitute as the world's poorest? Don't believe it. *Vox.com*.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2017). Development aid isn't reaching the poorest. Here's what that means. *The Washington Post (The Monkey Cage)*.

Berinzon, Maya and Ryan C. Briggs (2017). 60 years later, are colonial-era laws holding Africa back? *The Washington Post (The Monkey Cage)*.

Briggs, Ryan C. and Scott Weathers (2016). Gender and location in African politics scholarship: Q&A with Ryan C. Briggs and Scott Weathers. *OUPBlog*.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2015). Review of *Neopatrimonialism in Africa and Beyond*. *Journal of Cold War Studies* 17(3), 264–266.

Bräutigam, Deborah and Ryan C. Briggs (2011). Wikileaks - China, the US and Africa. *African Arguments*.

Briggs, Ryan C. (2007). The Importance of the Aid-Rentier Model to Development. *Undercurrent*, 4(1), 13–21.

Invited Presentations

Quantitative Political Science is Greatly Underpowered.

University of Zurich, 2023.

University of Toronto & American University, 2022.

Why does aid not target the poorest?

University of Fribourg, 2023.

Reach Research Conference, Munk School of Global Affairs & Public Policy, University of Toronto, 2020.

Changes in perceptions of border security influence desired levels of immigration, Concordia University, Montreal, 2022.

O-Ring Research Production. Toronto Workshop on Reproducibility, University of Toronto, 2021.

Receiving foreign aid can reduce support for incumbent presidents. EPRC and PRIO workshop, Kampala, Uganda, 2018.

The Geography of Poverty and Development Resources: What do we know? what should we know? and why does it matter? Institute for African Development, Cornell University, 2018.

Power to Which People? How information externalities explain when parties target core or swing voters. Center for Global Development, 2017.

Does Foreign Aid Target the Poorest? American University, School of International Service, 2017.

Does Aid Target the Poorest? Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas A.C. (CIDE), 2015.

A Primer on Foreign Aid to Africa. Foreign Service Institute, US Department of State, 2014.

Aiding and Abetting: Development Assistance and Incumbent Advantage in Ghana. MIT Center for International Studies, 2012.

Selected Conference Presentations

Why does aid not target the poorest? PEIO 2020 & CASID 2019.

Who are the poorest? An exploratory analysis of lived poverty in Africa, with Lindsay Katz. ASA 2019

Receiving Foreign Aid Can Reduce Support For Incumbent Presidents. APSA 2017.

Does Chinese Aid Target the Poorest? African Studies Association 2016.

Power to the People: The Electoral Targeting of Electricity in Ghana. APSA 2016, SPSA 2016, APSA 2014, & the African Studies Association 2014.

Teaching Experience

At Guelph I teach graduate courses on international development theory and research methods and undergraduate courses on the economics of poverty and project evaluation.

At Virginia Tech I taught a graduate course on research methods and undergraduate courses on African politics, economic development, international relations, and comparative politics.

At American University I taught graduate courses on African political economy and international development and undergraduate courses on African politics and international development.

Grants & Awards

Effective Altruism Funds Grant, 2021. \$18,000

Insight Development Grant, SSHRC, 2020. \$68,000

Doctoral Fellowship, SSHRC, 2011. \$20,000

Young Scholar Award, Washington DC Cosmos Club, 2011. \$3,000

Additional Professional Activities & Service

Peer Reviews

Lots

Other Service to the Discipline

Led a team that got Snoop Dogg to record a video asking students to read the syllabus

Southern Ontario Development Workshop, Organizer, 2019.

African Studies Association, Program Committee member (Co-Chair for the Economics, Political Economy, and Entrepreneurship subtheme), 2019

African Politics Conference Group Best Article Award, Committee Chair, 2019