BLAINE FINSTEIN

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EDUCATION

University of California, Los Angeles   *(expected) 2028*
Ph.D., Political Science, Major fields: Comparative Politics and Political Methodology
- Current projects explore the relationship between NGO crowdout and state governance and use anomaly detection to estimate municipal-level corruption

University of Texas at Austin   *2019*
B.A., *High Honors*, International Relations and Plan II Honors
- One of 170 selected from 1,800 applicants for Plan II Honors, a competitive interdisciplinary honors major comprised of small research-based seminar courses with leading faculty across the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, and mathematics
- Recipient of 7 University-wide merit scholarships and full tuition totaling $98,000

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political economy of development; distributive politics; computational methods.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

2023 IIE Martin Kriesberg Fellowship ($10,000)
- Supports graduate study for Fulbright alumni preparing to work in international development

2022 Fulbright Research Fellow, Ateneo de Manila University, Philippines ($12,000)
- Funded for 9 months of data collection in four provinces on the political economy of natural disaster response
- Affiliate of the Department of Political Science and Coastal Cities at Risk in the Philippines

2019 Plan II Honors Thesis Travel Grant ($500)
- Conducted interviews with migrants, government officials, and elites as part of a thesis project

2018 Gilman Scholar ($5,000)
- Studied migration and security in Latin America at the National Autonomous University of Mexico while conducting fieldwork for a thesis project in partnership with a local NGO

FIELDWORK

2022-23 Manila, Batangas, and Capiz, Philippines
2019-20 Bataan and Roxas City, Philippines, as a **Peace Corps Volunteer** in the Education sector
2019 Chiapas, Mexico
2018 Mexico City, Mexico

WORKING PAPERS

Finstein, B. "Seeing Through Water: Augmenting the Dynamics of Disaster Relief in the Philippines."
- Supported by the Fulbright Program in partnership with Dr. Emma Porio of Ateneo de Manila University

PUBLICATIONS & CONTRIBUTIONS

Denly, M. "Measuring Corruption Using Governmental Audits: A New Framework and Dataset." August 2021.
- Coded 28 municipal Honduran audit reports and analyzed findings using regression analysis in R and Stata to identify corruption

Finstein, B. "Drowning on Dry Land: Rethinking Mexican Migration Policy From a Human Rights Perspective." *University of Texas at Austin*, May 2019.
- Analyzed text and archival sources along with original interviews with migrants, NGOs, and state actors to explore the security risks that migrants face in passage through Mexico to the United States and offer policy proposals for the Mexican government to mitigate them

"Between Brutality and Impunity: Criminal Atrocities Committed Under the Cover of Military Security Strategy (2006-2018)." Mexican Commission for Defense and Promotion of Human Rights. October 2020.
- Conducted interviews with victims of human rights violations by state actors and developed a quantitative dataset on the frequency of such abuses from 2006-2016 through freedom of information act requests

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

University of California, Los Angeles - Los Angeles, CA   *October 2023 – Present*
Consultant for the CDRI with Prof. Cesi Cruz
- Designing a nationally representative development survey for the Cambodian Development Resource Institute (CDRI) and prepared inclusive development analysis and recommendations for Cambodia 2030
- Conducted trainings for research staff at the CDRI to promote local capacity building, including econometric software, statistical computing, and data management

Ateneo de Manila University - Quezon City, Metro Manila, Philippines   *April 2022 – January 2023*
Fulbright Scholar
- Conducted a comparative case study between the Philippines and Indonesia in order to evaluate the effect of NGO oversight on disaster recovery outcomes
- Created a novel dataset on housing and livelihood recovery following Typhoon Odette (Rai) and the 2018 Sulawesi earthquake and tsunami

University of Texas at Austin - Austin, TX   *August 2020 – May 2021*
Research Assistant for Prof. Wendy Hunter
- Developed a literature review for an integral case study in Prof. Hunter's forthcoming book (Cambridge University Press) on emerging forms of statelessness

Innovations for Peace and Development - Austin, TX   *Fall 2018 – Spring 2019*
Research Assistant for Prof. Michael Findley
- Coded audit reports on local government municipalities in Nicaragua to assess levels of corruption in partnership with UN and external stakeholders and conducted data analysis via linear regression

Mexican Commission for Defense and Promotion of Human Rights - Mexico City, Mexico   *Spring 2018*
Research Assistant
- Developed a dataset on the municipal distribution of detention and internal displacement in Mexico from 2006-2016 via Freedom of Information Act requests

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Rescue Committee - Dallas, TX   *December 2021 – March 2022*
Afghan Response Caseworker
- Organized North Texas Afghan resettlement and core service delivery, including intake interviews, government documentation, and housing
- Coordinated case transition from the International Organization of Migration (IOM)

University of Texas at Austin - Austin, TX   *May 2020 – October 2021*
One Stop Coordinator for Enrollment Management Services
- Advised over 2,000 students per semester on financial aid, student billing, and registration
- Administered a million-dollar grant fund to support student technology needs while learning remotely

Peace Corps Philippines - Roxas City, Capiz   *July 2019 – March 2020*
Learning Program Facilitator
- Designed and implemented community development projects in an integrated barangay school including remedial reading and student research programs
- Coordinated and strategized with community members, Peace Corps Philippines staff, and government institutions to ensure projects met local and national development goals

LANGUAGES AND SOFTWARE

Languages: English (native), Spanish (fluent), Tagalog (proficient), Hiligaynon (proficient)

Applications: R, Python, Excel