

Makayla R. Wendland

Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Political Science

University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL)

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EDUCATION

2020-2026 University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Political Science, Ph.D. (expected 2026)
2015-2017 University of Denver-Josef Korbel School of International Studies, International Studies, M.A.
2011-2015 Hastings College, Political Science (*Distinction*) and Sociology (*High Distinction*), B.A.

AREAS OF SPECIALIZATION

Terrorism	Foreign Policy
International Relations	Conflict Resolution
International Security	Geography and Conflict

RESEARCH

Journal Publications

Makayla Wendland. 2025. "Introducing the tracking of terrorist organization splintering (TOTOS) dataset." *International Interactions*, 51(3): 515-535.

Research Under Review

Makayla Wendland, Noah Schimenti, and Tom Hammerle, "Power, Signaling, and Credibility: Terrorist Group Alliances and the Bargaining Range for Peace." *Revise and Resubmit*.

Makayla Wendland and Ross Miller "Understanding the Impact of Climate Change on the Geography of Terrorism in the Sahel." *Under Review*.

Research in Progress

Makayla Wendland "We Are Family: A Dynamic Spatiotemporal Analysis of Splintering and the Geography of Terrorism."

Makayla Wendland, "Drying Up and Moving Out: Understanding the Global Impact of Drought on the Geographic Patterns of Terrorism."

Makayla Wendland, "Divide and Conquer or Splitting to Succeed: How Counterterrorism Efforts Contribute to Terrorist Group Splintering"

Makayla Wendland, "Mixed Strategies of Terrorist Organizations: Nonviolent Strategies Impact on Public Tolerance."

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant for Dr. Ross Miller, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2022-2025.

- United States Air Force. "Phase 1 Numerical Weather Modeling (NWM) Building a Global Composite Drought Indicator (GCDI). Hot Spot Early Warning and Information System, Phase 1 (2022-2023)." PI: UNL Drought Mitigation Center. \$1,000,000.
- United States Air Force. "Phase 2 and 3 Numerical Weather Modeling (NWM) Building a Global Composite Drought Indicator (GCDI). Hot Spot Early Warning and Information System, Phase 2 and 3 (2023-2025)." PI: UNL Drought Mitigation Center. \$1,600,000.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record Courses

At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

POLS 263: Causes of War and Peace, Summer 2025

POLS 270: From National to Human Security, Summer 2021; Summer 2024; Fall 2025

POLS 338: Women in Politics, Spring 2022; Summer 2022

Teaching Assistant with Discussion Sections

At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

POLS 160: Introduction to International Relations, Fall 2020

POLS 250: Genetics, The Brain and Politics, Spring 2021; Fall 2021

Invited Guest Lecturer

At the University of Nebraska-Lincoln

POLS 227: The Presidency, Spring 2025, "Understanding National Security and Executive Power"

POLS 286: Political Analysis, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, "Writing a Literature Review"

POLS 363: United States Foreign Policy, Fall 2024, "The War on Terror and Reshaping American Foreign Policy"

POLS 472: State Terror, Fall 2020, "Introduction to Violent Extremism"

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

Paper Presenter

"Understanding the Impact of Climate Change on the Geography of Terrorism in the Sahel," Presented at the 2025 ISA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, March 2025.

"Power, Signaling, and Credibility: Terrorist Group Alliances and the Bargaining Range for Peace" Presented at the 2024 ISSS-IS Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2024.

"Understanding the Impact of Climate Change on the Geography of Terrorism in the Sahel," Presented at the 2024 ISSS-IS Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, October 2024.

"Introducing the Tracking of Terrorist Organization Splintering (TOTOS) Dataset," Presented at the 2024 International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, April 2024.

"Introducing the Tracking of Terrorist Organization Splintering (TOTOS) Dataset," Presented at the 2023 Annual Meeting of the Peace Science Association, St. Louis and Rising Scholars Workshop.

“Introducing the Tracking of Terrorist Organization Splintering (TOTOS) Dataset,” Presented at the IS-ISSS Conference, Colorado Springs, CO, October 2023.

“Splitting to Survive, Fight or Ally: Understanding Terrorist Organizational Splintering,” Presented at the 2022 Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL.

Panel Chair

Contemporary Power Balances and their Consequences
IS-ISSS Annual Conference, Pittsburgh, PA, 2024.

Panel Discussant

Terrorism, The Use of Force, Non-state Actors, and the Implementation of International Law
ISA Annual Conference, Chicago, IL, 2025.

DEPARTMENTAL SERVICES AND AWARDS

Competitive Grants, Honors and Awards

Dean’s Fellowship, UNL Graduate Fellowship Committee, UNL, 2025-26 (\$5,000)
Summer Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2025 (\$6,000)
Graduate Student Travel Award, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2024 (\$500)
Summer Graduate Research Assistantship, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2024 (\$6,125)
Summer Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2024 (\$6,000)
Graduate Student Travel Award, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2024 (\$500)
Summer Graduate Research Assistantship, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2023 (\$6,000)
Susan Welch Graduate Research Award, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2023 (\$2,000)
Graduate Student Travel Award, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2023 (\$500)
Summer Graduate Research Assistantship, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2022 (\$6,000)
Summer Graduate Teaching Assistantship, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2022 (\$6,000)
Graduate Student Travel Award, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2022 (\$555)
Teaching Assistant of the Year Award, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2021
Best Research Paper of the Year Award, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2022
Research Assistant of the Year Award, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2023

Departmental Service

Research in Political Science (RiPS) Presenter and Participant, UNL, 2020-present.
Peer Mentor for Graduate Students in Political Science, UNL, 2021-present.
Department of Political Science Graduate Government Events Coordinator, UNL, 2022-2023.
Department of Political Science Graduate Government President, UNL, 2023-2024.
Search Committee Member, Tenure Track Position in International Relations, UNL, 2023.
Political Science Writing Group Founding Member, UNL, 2023-present.

REFERENCES

Ross Miller (Chair)
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