

**Makayla R. Wendland**  
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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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