

Scott Abramson

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EDUCATION

Ph.D. *Princeton University* - (expected June 2014)

Committee: Carles Boix (Chair), David Carter, Kosuke Imai, Kristopher Ramsay

A.M. *Princeton University* (2010)

General Examination Fields: *Comparative Politics, Formal & Quantitative Methods*

M.Sc. *The London School of Economics and Political Science* (2007)

A.B. *Dartmouth College* (2006)

BOOK PROJECT: *Production, Predation, & the Origins of the Territorial State*

Why did large “territorial” states come to dominate other, smaller, forms of political organization? Building on literature in historical sociology and political science as well as models of economic geography and industrial organization this book develops and tests a micro-founded theory of state formation that explains variation across time and space in the geographic scale of premodern states. Using a new dataset describing the existence, location and boundaries of every European state between 1100 and 1789 this book represents the first ever set of systematic empirical tests of competing theories of state formation. To do this I combine both traditional historical analysis with statistical analysis centered around a series of quasi-experimental research designs. Exploiting three natural experiments, I test the theory of state formation this book develops.

WORKING PAPERS

- *The Roots of the Industrial Revolution: Institutions or (Socially Embodied) Know-How?* (With Carles Boix)
Presented at the Workshop on New Historical and Theoretical Perspectives on the Choice of Political Institutions, May 2012. Princeton, NJ; Columbia University, December 2012; New York University, December 2012.
- *A Military Revolution in State Size? An Empirical Analysis of New Data*
Presented at the 2012 Meetings of the Council for European Studies and the Midwest Political Science Association
- *The Economic Origins of the Territorial State*
- *Time is Power: Leader Duration, Elite Reproduction, and Political Stability in Non-Democracies* (With Carlos Velasco-Rivera)
Presented at the 2013 Meetings of the Midwest Political Science Association
- *The Origins of Territorial Conflict* (With David Carter)
Presented at the 2013 Meetings of the International Studies Association
- *Borders as a Natural Experiment: Assessing the Causal Effect of British Colonialism in Sub-Saharan Africa*
Presented at the 2011 Meetings of the American Political Science Association and the Midwest Political Science Association

ONGOING RESEARCH

- *Generalizing Experimental and Instrumental Variable Estimates via the Covariate Balancing Propensity Score* (With Kosuke Imai and Marc Ratkovic)
- *The Political Consolidation of Japan (1467-1603): An Empirical Test of Bellicist Theories of State Formation*

FURTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

Best Poster Award from the Society for Political Methodology Annual Meeting - Summer 2012

The Neihaus Center for Globalization and Governance - *Graduate Fellowship* - 2008-10

Dartmouth College, Department of Sociology - *The Truxal Prize* - 2006

Awarded to the most outstanding senior pursuing graduate work.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor

Introduction to Statistics - Summer 2010 -In the Woodrow Wilson School - (Undergraduate)

Advanced Statistics - Summer 2011 - In the Woodrow Wilson School - (Undergraduate)

Teaching Assistant

Democracy - Fall 2010 - Carles Boix & Nolan McCarty- (Undergraduate)

Advanced Statistics - Fall 2011 - Xun Pang - (Graduate)

Introduction to International Relations- Spring 2012 - David Carter - (Undergraduate)

DEPARTMENTAL/ PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Organizer

Conference on Causal Inference and the Study of Conflict - (With Kosuke Imai, Carlos Velasco Rivera, & Graeme Blair) - May, 2012.

The Neihaus Center for Globalization and Governance's Weekly "Pizza and Politics" Graduate Reading Group. (With Omar Bashir) - 2012-2013

The Columbia, Princeton, Yale Historical Political Economy Working Group (With Alexandra Cirone)

Statistical Consultant

Program in Quantitative and Analytic Political Sciences - 2012/2013

Reviewer

Quarterly Journal of Political Science

REFERENCES

Carles Boix email: cboix@princeton.edu; phone: (609)-258-2139

Robert Garrett Professor of Politics and Public Affairs.
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Kristopher Ramsay email: kramsay@princeton.edu; phone: (609)-258-2960

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