

Richard A. Nielsen

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E-mail: rnielsen@mit.edu
Web: <http://www.mit.edu/~rnielsen/>
- Research Interests* Political violence; Islam; human rights; foreign aid; research methods.
- Academic Appointments* **Massachusetts Institute of Technology**
Associate Professor of Political Science (without tenure), 2017 - current.
Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2013 - 2017.
- Education* **Harvard University**
Ph.D., Government, 2013
A.M., Statistics, 2010
Brigham Young University
B.A., Political Science, 2007
- Book* Nielsen, Richard. 2017. *Deadly Clerics: Blocked Ambition and the Paths to Jihad*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge Studies in Comparative Politics.
- Articles* King, Gary and Richard Nielsen. Conditionally Accepted. "Why Propensity Scores Should Not Be Used for Matching," *Political Analysis*. ([link](#))
King, Gary, Christopher Lucas, and Richard Nielsen. 2017. "The Balance-Sample Size Frontier in Matching Methods for Causal Inference," *American Journal of Political Science*, 61 (2): 473-489. ([link](#))
Nielsen, Richard. 2016. "Case Selection via Matching," *Sociological Methods and Research*, 45 (3): 569-597. ([link](#))
Nielsen, Richard and Beth Simmons. 2015. "Rewards for Ratification: Payoffs for Participating in the International Human Rights Regime?" *International Studies Quarterly*, 59 (2): 197-208. ([link](#))
Lucas, Christopher, Richard Nielsen, Margaret Roberts, Brandon Stewart, Alex Storer, and Dustin Tingley. 2015. "Computer Assisted Text Analysis for Comparative Politics," *Political Analysis*, 23 (3): 254-277. ([link](#))
Nielsen, Richard. 2013. "Rewarding Human Rights? Selective Aid Sanctions against Repressive States," *International Studies Quarterly*, 57 (4), 791-803. ([link](#))
Nielsen, Richard, Michael Findley, Zachary Davis, Tara Candland, and Daniel Nielson.

2011. "Foreign Aid Shocks as a Cause of Violent Armed Conflict," *American Journal of Political Science*, 55 (2): 219-232. ([link](#))

Chapters

Nielsen, Richard. 2016. "Ethics for Experimental Manipulation of Religion," in *Ethics and Experiments: Problems and Solutions for Social Scientists and Policy Professionals*, Scott Desposato, editor. ([link](#))

Other Writing

Nielsen, Richard. "Women will soon be issuing fatwas in Saudi Arabia. This isn't as groundbreaking as you'd think." Monkey Cage, *washingtonpost.com*. October 10, 2017. ([link](#))

Nielsen, Richard. "Anatomy by Memory: Sassoon on the Politics of Arab Authoritarianism," H-Diplo Roundtable Review, Vol. XIX, No. 6. October 9, 2017. ([link](#))

Nielsen, Richard. "The Changing Face of Islamic Authority in the Middle East" Middle East Brief, Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University. May 9, 2016. ([link](#))

Nielsen, Richard. "Does the Islamic State Believe in Sovereignty?" Monkey Cage, *washingtonpost.com*. February 6, 2015. ([link](#))

Mironova, Vera, Loubna Mrie, Richard Nielsen, and Sam Whitt. "Syria's Democracy Jihad: Why ISIS Fighters Support the Vote." *Foreignaffairs.com*. January 13, 2015. ([gated link](#))

Nielsen, Richard. "Thoughts on the Ethics of Interventions When Studying Religion and Politics in the Middle East," in *The Ethics of Research in the Middle East*, POMEPS Studies 8, July 2, 2014. ([link](#))

King, Gary, Richard Nielsen, and Aaron Wells. 2012. "Letter to the Editor (on McCall and Cromwell)," *New England Journal of Medicine*, 366 (7): 667. ([link](#))

King, Gary, Richard Nielsen, Carter Coberly, James Pope, and Aaron Wells. 2011. "Avoiding Randomization Failure in Program Evaluation, with Application to the Medicare Health Support Program," *Population Health Management*, 14: S11-S22. ([link](#))

Fellowships and Awards

Andrew Carnegie Fellowship, Carnegie Corporation of New York, 2017-2019.

Neubauer Junior Research Fellow, Crown Center for Middle East Studies, Brandeis University, 2015-2016.

Graduate Fellow, Harvard Academy for International and Area Studies, 2012-2013.

Research Fellow, International Security Program, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, 2012-2013.

National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, 2012-2013.

Jeanne Humphrey Block Dissertation Award, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard, 2011.

National Science Foundation, Graduate Research Fellowship, 2009-2012.

Pre-dissertation Grant, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard, 2010.

Certificate of Distinction in Teaching, Harvard University, 2010.

<i>Invited Talks</i>	University of Michigan 2018, George Washington University 2018, Urban Institute 2018, Princeton 2018, University of South Carolina 2018, Australia National University 2017, University of Connecticut 2017, New York University 2017, Texas A&M 2017, Northwestern 2016, Harvard 2016, Yale 2016, UT Austin 2016, NYU Abu Dhabi 2016, University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign 2016, Columbia 2015, Stanford 2015, Brigham Young University 2013.
<i>Languages</i>	Arabic, French (intermediate reading), Spanish (intermediate reading).
<i>Dissertation Committees</i>	Completed: Stephen Wittels (MIT 2017), George Yin (Harvard 2017), Marika Landau-Wells (MIT 2018) In progress: Michael Freedman (MIT), Elizabeth Dekeyser (MIT), Andrew Miller (MIT), Marsin Alshamary (MIT), Kacie Miura (MIT), Andy Halterman (MIT), Matt Cancian (MIT).
<i>Service</i>	Referee: <i>National Science Foundation, Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, International Organization, American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, International Studies Quarterly, British Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, International Security, World Politics, Journal of Conflict Resolution, European Journal of International Relations, Political Science Research and Methods, Terrorism and Political Violence, Review of International Organizations, Journal of Peace Research, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Sociological Methods and Research, World Development, The International Journal of Human Rights, Political Studies, Foreign Policy Analysis, Research and Politics, The Energy Journal.</i>

Last updated November 6, 2018