

BRYAN T. BAYNE

3rd Year PhD Student in Political Science

Department of Government, American University, Washington, DC

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EDUCATION

American University, Washington, DC

2024 – present

Ph.D. student, Political Science (fields: Comparative Politics; Political Methodology)

Comprehensive examination in Comparative Politics passed with distinction, 2026

Advisor: Todd A. Eisenstadt

Palacký University Olomouc (CZ) & Uppsala University (SE)

2020 – 2022

Dual M.A., European Studies (Erasmus Mundus Joint Master “Euroculture”), with honors

Thesis: Swedish forest policy in the European Union context (content analysis and process tracing)

Universidade Federal Fluminense, Niterói, Brazil

2014 – 2017

B.A., History (minor in International Relations); teacher licensure

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Climate shocks and electoral accountability; politics of energy infrastructure and regulation; climate adaptation; comparative environmental politics; causal inference with spatial data.

WORKING PAPERS

- “Does Democracy Die in Darkness? Storm-Driven Blackouts, Turnout, and Vote Choice in São Paulo.” Ph.D. qualifying paper, 2026.
Builds an outage panel for 104 electricity distribution areas and links it to geocoded electoral results, 2008–2024. Difference-in-differences with a continuous treatment and a two-way fixed-effects runoff panel; wind-speed surface as an instrument for outage hours; rainfall and off-storm outage windows as placebos; randomization inference, entropy balancing, and a 32-specification curve.
- “Watt Powers Voters: Data Centers and the 2025 Georgia Public Service Commission Election.”
County- and precinct-level synthetic control, synthetic difference-in-differences, and spatial spillover designs.
- “Decoupling Without Democracy: Does Economic Openness Drive Green Transitions in Authoritarian States?”
Panel of 165 countries, 2001–2023; staggered difference-in-differences, synthetic control, and machine-learning screening of mechanisms.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Bayne, Bryan. “Two Versions of ‘Climate Justice’: Private Adaptation Projects on Each Bank of the Río Coyolate, Guatemala.” Center for Environmental Policy Case Study No. 5, American University, 2026.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting, Chicago, 2026. “Storm-Driven Blackouts, Turnout, and Vote Choice in São Paulo.”
- International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Columbus, OH, March 2026. “Storm-Driven Blackouts, Turnout, and Vote Choice in São Paulo.”
- ISA Asociación Mexicana de Estudios Internacionales (AMEI) Joint Conference, Huatulco, Mexico, 2025. “Storm-Driven Blackouts, Turnout, and Vote Choice in São Paulo.”
- American University Tri-School Graduate Student Conference, Washington, DC, 2026. “Storm-Driven Blackouts, Turnout, and Vote Choice in São Paulo.”

SCHOOLS AND WORKSHOPS

São Paulo School of Advanced Science on Regulatory Governance August 3–13, 2026
Fundação Getulio Vargas (FGV EAESP, FGV Direito SP, FGV Direito Rio, FGV EBAPE), São Paulo.
Competitively selected; fully funded by FGV.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

CLIPPS Expert Survey, American University 2024 – present
Project Outreach Coordinator. *Climate Laws, Institutions, Policies and Practices in Nation-States*, NSF-funded (#2444306, #2444307); PIs Todd Eisenstadt and Tofigh Maboudi.

- Identified and vetted about 1,000 prospective expert respondents for a survey of nearly 2,000 experts across roughly 80 countries, using multilingual searches and partly automated search workflows.
- Coordinate the project’s international advisory board and stakeholder communications.
- Co-organizing a CLIPPS side event at COP31, Antalya, Türkiye, November 2026.

Research Assistant to Todd A. Eisenstadt, American University 2024 – present
Literature reviews and research on German climate litigation, the European Green Deal, and the Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism; author and editor of Center for Environmental Policy teaching case studies used in Comparative Environmental Politics (GOVT 332).

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

American University, Department of Government 2024 – present
Teaching Assistant to Todd A. Eisenstadt, including Comparative Environmental Politics (GOVT 332) and Political Conflict (GOVT 235)

- Delivered guest lectures and led discussion sections.
- Updated syllabi, course modules, and role-play exercises on European and comparative climate policy; graded student writing.

Cultura Inglesa, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil 2018 – 2020
English language instructor for adults and teenagers, including TOEFL and Cambridge FCE preparation. Cambridge CELTA (Grade B), 2018. Lehmann Foundation award for most creative lesson plan, 2019.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- Full funding, São Paulo School of Advanced Science on Regulatory Governance, FGV, 2026
- Erasmus Mundus Joint Master Scholarship, European Commission, 2020–2022 (full tuition and €27,000 stipend)
- Graduate funding, American University
- Lehmann Foundation award for most creative lesson plan, 2019

SERVICE

- Ph.D. Student Coordinator, Department of Government, American University, 2026–present. Organize internal departmental conferences; liaise between faculty and doctoral students.
- Editor-in-Chief, *The Eurocultur* (graduate magazine on European affairs), 2021–2022. Led a team of eight editors.
- Member, International Studies Association; Midwest Political Science Association.

SELECTED GRADUATE COURSEWORK

Research Design; Conduct of Inquiry I–III (graduate statistics sequence); Statistical Machine Learning; Environmental GIS; Comparative Environmental Politics: Climate Change; Political Institutions in Comparative Perspective; Political Behavior in the U.S.

METHODS AND SKILLS

Methods: difference-in-differences and event studies (incl. staggered adoption), synthetic control and synthetic DiD, instrumental variables, panel and fixed-effects models, entropy balancing, spatial econometrics (Conley SEs, Moran’s I, SLX/SEM/SDM), areal interpolation, statistical machine learning (lasso, random forests, PLS, clustering), expert surveys.

Software: R (fixest, sf, spdep, tidyverse, ggplot2), Stata, ArcGIS, Python, Git, $\text{\LaTeX}$, Quarto.

LANGUAGES

English (native), Portuguese (native), German (C1), Swedish (B2), French (B2), Italian (B1), Spanish (reading), Czech (A2).

REFERENCES

Todd A. Eisenstadt, Professor, Department of Government, American University
Andrew Flores, Associate Professor, Department of Government, American University