BENJAMIN CRISMAN

Computational Social Scientist

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EXPERIENCE

ByBeam.co
2023 – Present

Senior Data Scientist

Building a better social safety net using responsible Machine Learning (ML) and Artificial Intelligence (AI). Developing internal ML models and frameworks to ethically and responsibly improve service delivery in the context of emergency cash assistance.

Giant Oak
2021 – 2023

Social Scientist & Science Team Co-Lead

Responsible for the strategic direction, development, and implementation of the Search Ranking, Natural Language Processing (NLP), and Entity Resolution models which comprise Giant Oak's core product (GOST). GOST is used by government agencies and financial institutions to screen and vet hundreds of thousands of entities and millions of documents every day for actionable content related to Money Laundering, Human Trafficking, and Terrorist Financing.

World Bank Group
2020 – 2021

Advisory & Analytics Short-Term Consultant

Enabled high-fidelity spatial and demographic targeting of Fragility, Conflict, and Violence programming in Tunisia by combining survey data, demographic data, and administrative data using Hierarchical Bayesian Multilevel Regression with Post-Stratification. After the initial project, the scope work was expanded to Social Cohesion programming in four additional West African countries.

UCLA + Mercy Corps
2018 – 2019

Research Consultant

Processed data, supported research design, and developed analysis scripts and replication material for a complex, multi-armed experiment conducted in Maiduguri, Nigeria examining the reintegration of former Boko Haram combatants. Coauthored a peer-reviewed article published in the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences.

Princeton University
2016 – Present

PhD Candidate, Department of Politics

Developed, conducted, and published independent quantitative research on International Development, Humanitarian Response, Social Movements, and Information Operations.

Precepted courses on Quantitative Methodology, R programming, Global Security, and Information Processing. Received median teaching evaluations of 5/5 for all courses taught.

Research Specialist II, Empirical Studies of Conflict

Undertook quantitative social science research related to the prevention of and response to conditions of Fragility, Conflict, and Violence. Collaborated with partners at the United Nations, World Bank, the RAND corporation, and USAID.

Center for Global Development
2015 – 2016

Research Assistant, Econometrics

Co-designed and implemented observational research projects related to education, public procurement, and gender issues in International Development.

EDUCATION

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ   2019–Present
    Ph.D. Candidate, Department of Politics
    M.A. Politics   2017–2019
University of East Anglia, Norwich, UK   2014–2015
    M.Sc. Development Economics *with Distinction*

Washington University in St. Louis, St. Louis, MO   2011–2014
    A.B. Economics and International & Area Studies

TEACHING

- *Data Visualization Consultant:* Stokes Library   2020-2021
- *Graduate Student Coordinator*: Senior Thesis Poster Session   Spring 2021
- *Preceptor*: Social Movements and Revolution (median rating 5/5)   Spring 2020
- *Preceptor*: Quantitative Social Science ×2 (median ratings 5/5 & 5/5)   Fall 2020
- *Teaching Fellow*: Global Security, Information Processing, and Leadership   Fall 2016

RESEARCH

Published Research and Reports

(8) Voytas, Elsa and Benjamin Crisman. (2023). "**State Violence and Participation in Transitional Justice: Evidence from Colombia**." *Journal of Peace Research.*

(7) Blair, Graeme, Mohamed Bukar, Rebecca Littman, Elizabeth R. Nugent, Rebecca Wolfe, Benjamin Crisman, Anthony Etim, and Chad Hazlett. (2021). "**Trusted authorities can change minds and shift norms during conflict.**" *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*.

(6) Crisman, Benjamin. (2020). "**Disease, Disaster, and Disengagement: Ebola and Political Participation in Sierra Leone**." *Studies in Comparative International Development.* (*Previously published as Afrobarometer Working Paper no. 174.*)

(5) Crisman, Benjamin and Carla Sung Ah Yoon, Curtis Goos, Danielle Hull, Emily Romano, Jennifer Johnson, Michelle Nedashkovskaya, Narayan Subramanian, Solomon Tesfaye, and Yashna Gungadurdoss. (2020). "**Preventing Violent Extremism: Lessons from Kenya.**" *Woodrow Wilson School Policy Workshop Report.* Princeton, NJ.

(4) Min, Eric. Manu Singh, Jacob N. Shapiro, and Benjamin Crisman. (2017). "**Understanding Risk and Resilience to Violent Conflicts.**" *Background paper for the United Nations–World Bank Flagship Study, Pathways for Peace: Inclusive Approaches to Preventing Violent Conflict. World Bank, Washington, DC.*

(3) Iyengar, Radha, Jacob Shapiro, Benjamin Crisman, and Manu Singh. (2017). "**Stabilization in Afghanistan: Trends in Violence, Attitudes, Wellbeing and Program Activity**" *RAND Labor and Population WR-1192.*

(2) Kenny, Charles and Benjamin Crisman. (2016). "**Results through Transparency: Does Publicity Lead to Better Procurement?**" *Center for Global Development Working Paper no. 437.*

(1) Crisman, Benjamin, Sarah Dykstra, Charles Kenny, and Megan O'Donnell. (2016). "**The Impact of Legislation on the Hazard of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting: Regression Discontinuity Evidence from Burkina Faso**." *Center for Global Development Working Paper no. 432.*

Working Papers

(1) Crisman, Benjamin, Samikshya Siwakoti, and Jacob N. Shapiro. "**The Impact of Alerting Social Media Users to Exposure to Information Operations**.".

Other Media

(2) Crisman, Benjamin. **Identifying Coordinated Abuse in Community Rating Systems: Evidence from Twitter's Birdwatch.** *www.bencrisman.com*. [Blog Post]

(1) Crisman, Benjamin, Alejandro Feged, Mike Findley, Oliver Kaplan, Kristina Kempkey, Paul Kuhne, Joe Young. **"Hacking" The Reintegration of FARC Rebels in Colombia.** *Political Violence at a Glance.* [Blog Post]