

# Blair Read

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<b>Date of Birth</b>	4 <sup>th</sup> March 1991	<b>Email</b>	bmread@mit.edu
<b>Nationality</b>	United States of America		

## Education

**2016 -** Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
Ph.D. Student in Political Science  
*Comparative Politics and Methodology*

**2009-2013** Tufts University  
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Economics  
Honors: Cum Laude, Phi Sigma Alpha

## Research Experience

**July, 2015 - Present** MIT GOV/LAB  
*Graduate Research Assistant*

Serve as a graduate research assistant at MIT GOV/LAB, a research group that connects academic scholars and graduate students to civil society practitioners, funders, and governments to better understand how programs and interventions can make governments more accountable to its citizens. With MIT GOV/LAB, I have worked on the following projects:

- Examining the relationship between taxation and government accountability
- Studying voter behavior in Tanzania and Uganda
- Studying differences in how men and women are able to make demands to the government for public goods provision

**July 2015 - April 2016** MIT GOV/LAB, Twaweza East Africa  
*Field Research Associate*

Spent 10 months in East Africa designing research about electoral participation and the General Elections in Tanzania and Uganda:

- Conducted qualitative interviews with Tanzanian and Uganda citizens on political engagement and the upcoming General Election
- Designed survey instrument and methodology for 1,000+ person field experiment
- Conducted extensive trainings with 40 enumerators to field survey in Swahili and Ugandan local languages
- Coordinated the logistics of fielding a survey with over 1,000 respondents in almost 100 villages in Tanzania and Uganda
- Managed grant from Twaweza East Africa for projects in Tanzania and Uganda
- Evaluated Twaweza's election debate initiatives with baseline and endline survey of audience members and focus groups
- Performed data analysis on survey data collected in Tanzania and Uganda, and compiled a report for Twaweza on survey findings from Uganda

**August 2013** -Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Political Science

**June 2015** *Research Support Associate*

Provided research assistance to Profs. Lily Tsai, Evan Lieberman, Regina Bateson, David Singer, Andrea Campbell:

- Perform data analysis for research projects, including compiling datasets, cleaning survey and cross-sectional data, conducting statistical tests, and building models
- Conduct literature reviews for articles and book projects, on topics including political participation, victimization and the politics of activism, US tax policy and the American welfare state, African politics, and international banking and finance
- Coordinate on-going research projects, building relationships between the MIT Political Science Department, the World Bank, and civil society organizations in the developing world
- Organized speaker series and conferences on American politics, comparative politics, and qualitative research methods

**May 2012** - Tufts University, International Labor Organization

**May 2013** *Research Assistant*

Served as a research assistant on a project undertaken by Tufts University and the ILO, investigating barriers to women's participation in formal labor markets in Indonesia:

- Authored literature review on women's participation in formal and informal labor markets
- Conducted qualitative field research and held key informant interviews in East Java, Indonesia
- Developed survey instrument administered to 800 study participants in East Java and North Sumatra, Indonesia
- Performed final data analysis for report analyzing survey results, including original research on household bargaining power and the politics of the informal institution of the household

## Professional Experience

**Sept. 2010** - Massachusetts Campus Compact

**July 2013** *America Students in Leadership Program Assistant*

Coordinated the America Students in Leadership Program, a service-learning program designed to encourage and compensate college students performing community service throughout Massachusetts

**Sept. 2011** - Institute for Economic Affairs

**Dec. 2011** *Public Policy Intern*

Conducted field research interviewing citizens of Accra for publications assessing Ghanaian consumer confidence

## Publications

"Gender Difference in Citizen Attitudes toward World Politics in Global Perspective," in Jill Steans and Daniela Tepe, eds, *Handbook of Gender in World Politics*, London: Edward Elgar Publishers, 2015, (with Richard C. Eichenberg)

## Skills

**Computer** R, Stata, SPSS, LaTeX, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office

**Language** French (beginner), Arabic (beginner), Swahili (beginner)

## **Fieldwork Experience**

**Ghana** Fall 2011

**Indonesia** June 2012

**Bangladesh** November 2014

**Tanzania** July - December 2015

**Uganda** December 2015 - April 2016