S. Ra'phael Davis
The Ohio State University | Department of Political Science
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EDUCATION

The Ohio State University — Columbus, OH
Ph.D., Political Science — Expected 2026
Dissertation: The Social Legibility of Conflict and Peace: Essays on Framing, Bargaining, and Measurement in Nigeria
Committee: Amanda Robinson (Chair), Chris Gelpi (Co-Chair), Ousman Kobo

M.A., Political Science — 2023
Exams: International Relations and Comparative Politics

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock — Little Rock, AR
B.A. International Studies — 2020
B.A. Philosophy — 2020

PUBLICATIONS

Davis, S. Ra'phael, and Eric Wiebelhaus-Brahm. "Should Heritage Be Preserved? Examining Contention Over Confederate Monument Removal" in *Heritage and Human Rights,* edited by Gianluigi M. Bonaviri and Miroslaw M. Sadowski. 2024.

UNDER REVIEW

Davis, S. Ra'phael. "Working Better Together: How Material and Symbolic Transitional Justice Affect Post-Civil War Peace."
Davis, S. Ra'phael. "Signals Without Social Sight: Relational Info1rmation and Bargaining Failure in Nigerian Farmer-Herder Conflict"

WORKING PAPERS

Davis, S. Ra'phael. "Crosses and Crescents or Cattle and Crops: Framing Farmer-Herder Conflict in Southern Nigeria"
Davis, S. Ra'phael. "Making Peace Legible: Local Understandings and the Measurement of Peace in Nigeria"

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

The Ohio State University — Columbus, OH
Instructor, Intervening for Peace: Peacekeeping and Collective Security (upcoming) — SP 2027
Instructor of Record, Domestic Politics and International Conflict — AU 2026
Instructor of Record, Introduction to Global Politics — AU 2023 – AU 2024
Graduate Teaching Associate, Introduction to Global Politics — AU 2022 – SU2023

The University of Arkansas at Little Rock — Little Rock, AR
Learning Coach, Introduction to International Studies and Philosophy of Law — SP 2018 – SP 2020

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Duke University — Columbus, OH
Research Assistant, Early Prediction of Protest and Rebellion — 2022 – Current

The Ohio State University — Columbus, OH
Graduate Research Associate, Cultural Renewal in Malawi — 2023

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Graduate Research Associate, Oral History of African Muslim Communities in Columbus 2022 – 2023

ADDITIONAL EXPERIENCE

Global Ties Arkansas Little Rock, AR
Program Officer 2020 –2024

- Coordinated the inaugural version of the Africa-Caribbean partnership on dismantling social inequality as part of the International Visitor's Leadership Program with the U.S. Department of State.
- Acquired 20+ contracts from the U.S. Department of State to implement international exchange programs supporting U.S. foreign policy goals.
- Presented at public events and lobbied congressional delegates to continue supporting educational exchange initiatives.
- Managed Africa programs such as the Countering Violent Extremism, Human and Civil Rights for Marginalized Groups, and Pan-Africa Youth Leadership Program.
- Facilitated the Open-World Ukraine – U.S. program on Local Government and Elections Administration.

The Confess Project Little Rock, AR
Research and Product Development Officer 2019 – 2020

- Partnered with local government to educate 200+ nonprofit professionals on mental health.
- Successfully set up, steered, and performed post-launch evaluation of training for educators, assisting in the professional development of 80+ educators.
- Applied business acumen and analytics to make data-backed recommendations on business plans to the Executive Director.

INVITED TALKS

U.S. Foreign Policy Toward Africa: Humanitarian Engagement and Strategic Shifts. Center for African Studies, U.S. Army Reserves, 412th Civil Affairs Battalion. Abuja, Nigeria 2025

Conflicts, Coups, and Non-State Actors: Understanding Instability in Contemporary Africa, Center for African Studies, U.S. Army Reserves 412th Civil Affairs Battalion. Abuja, Nigeria 2025

Everyday Diplomacy and Peace Support: Local Engagement in Conflict and Post-Conflict Settings. Center for African Studies, U.S. Army Reserves, 412th Civil Affairs Battalion. Abuja, Nigeria 2025

Developing Into Civic-Minded Leaders. Pacesetter's Unlimited. Columbus, OH 2023

The Global Leadership Development Workshop. African Youth Leadership Program. Little Rock, AR 2023

The Global Leadership Development Workshop. Arkansas State University. Newport, AR 2023

NGOs, Public Diplomacy, and the Push for Peace. School of Public Affairs. University of Arkansas at Little Rock. Little Rock, AR 2021

PAPERS PRESENTED

"The Limits of Local Peace: Structures of Collaboration and Resource Capture in Southwest Nigeria". **Lagos Studies Association.** Lagos, Nigeria 2026

"Crosses and Cressents or Cattle and Crops? Framing Farmer-Herder Conflict in Southern Nigeria". **International Studies Association.** Columbus, OH 2026

"Racial Mobilization and Transitional Justice in the U.S. Explaining the Removal of Confederate Monuments." **International Studies Association**.	Nashville, TN 2022
"Developing Inclusive Social Integration and Mental Health Access Programs." **Maastricht University Center for European Studies** to U.S. nonprofit leaders.	Maastricht, Holland 2019
"Working Better Together: How Material and Symbolic Transitional Justice Affect Post-Civil War Peace." **Midwest Political Science Association**.	Chicago, IL 2019
"Working Better Together: How Material and Symbolic Transitional Justice Affect Post-Civil War Peace." **Midwest Political Science Association**."	St. Louis, MO 2018

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

Fulbright U. S. Student Program, Fieldwork for Ph.D. dissertation, research and community service to nonprofits in Nigeria in peacebuilding and education sectors. Abuja, **Nigeria** ($40,000). 9 months.	2025
Office of International Affairs, funding to support curriculum development using Collaborative Online International Learning/Virtual Exchange model for Fall 2026 course. ($2,300). 2 weeks.	2025
Mershon Center for International Security Studies, Preliminary fieldwork for Ph.D. dissertation, including interviews of NGO leaders in Abuja, **Nigeria** ($4,500). 8 weeks.	2024
Armed Conflicts and Im/mobility Project – Graduate Grant, Fieldwork for Ph.D. dissertation, including NGO and government interviews, **Nigeria** ($3,000). 4 weeks.	2024
Citizen Diplomacy Action Fund, U.S. Exchange Alumni, *International Peek Program*, international professional development program for rural youth, United States, **Nigeria**, and Dominican Republic ($10,000). 7 months.	2023
Francis R. Aumann Award for Excellence in Service, The Ohio State University	2022
Mershon Center for International Security Studies, Preliminary fieldwork for Ph.D. dissertation, including interviews of NGO leaders in Abuja, **Nigeria** ($3,000). 10 weeks.	2022
Graduate Student Research Grant, Department of Political Science, Preliminary fieldwork for Ph.D. dissertation, including interviews of NGO leaders and civilians in **Nigeria** ($3,000). 10 weeks.	2022
Predoctoral Fellowship, West African Research Association, Preliminary Fieldwork interviews for dissertation in **Nigeria** ($6,000). 10 weeks.	2022
Diversity Fellowship, American Political Science Association, Stipend ($2,000).	2021
The Dean's Distinguished Graduate Enrichment Fellowship, The Graduate School, funds tuition and fees for three (3) years of graduate study (1st, 2nd, and 5th).	2020

SERVICE

International Education Working Group, General Member	2024 – Current
Center for African Studies, Advisory Board Member	2022 – Current
Committee for the Status of Graduate Students, General Member	2019 – 2022
Black Graduate and Professional Student Caucus, Vice President	2019 – 2022
Graduate Student Committee, Representative	2019 – 2021

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Center for Research, Teaching, and Learning	2023 – Current
United States Institute of Peace	2022 – 2025
Black Professionals in International Affairs	2021 – Current
International Studies Association	2018 – Current
American Political Science Association	2018 – Current
Global Ties Network	2016 – 2025

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LANGUAGES

Spanish	Advanced Reading	Advanced Writing	Intermediate Speaking
Igbo	Intermediate Reading	Intermediate Writing	Intermediate Speaking
Portuguese	Intermediate Reading	Beginner Writing	Beginner Speaking
French	Beginner Reading	Beginner Writing	Beginner Speaking

REFERENCES

Amanda Robinson (Chair)	Professor of Political Science, Director of Graduate Studies (Chair)	robinson.1012@osu.edu
Chris Gelpi (Co-Chair)	Professor of Political Science, Chair of Peace and Conflict Resolution	gelpi.10@osu.edu
Ousman Kobo	Associate Professor of History, Director of Center for African Studies	kobo.1@osuledu

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