

Gabriel Magnus Nahmias

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Education

Ongoing **Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)**, *Cambridge, MA.*

PhD Candidate Political Science

Fields: Comparative Politics and Political Methodology

June 2013 **Emory University**, *Atlanta, GA.*

MA Political Science

BA Political Science

BA African Studies

Ongoing Projects

Dissertation **Nobody Asks: Why Activists [Don't] Recruit.**

Mixes interviews, surveys, text analysis, practitioner partnerships, and experiments to identify factors influencing individual political recruitment behavior in the US and South African contexts.

Under Review **Awakened: The Potential for Mobilization to Reshape Interest in Politics.**

Takes advantage of discongruous political mobilization in the 2012 presidential election to assess the impact of this organizing on individual political interest.

White Paper **Innovations in Collective Action in the Labor Movement**, *MIT Work of the Future Taskforce.*

Employs an original database of recent labor news to disentangle developments in collective action.

Working Paper **The Mobilization Toolbox: Mechanism for Overcoming the Collective Action Problem.**

Reviews existing literature to create a framework for understanding "non-ration" solutions to the collective action problem.

Masters Thesis **Organized Labor in a Globalized World.**

Draws from a century of text and event data in the United Kingdom to understand variation in trade union responses to globalization.

Fellowships, Awards, & Grants

2017-2022 **NSF Graduate Research Fellow**, *National Science Foundation.*

Awarded to graduate students who have demonstrated outstanding intellectual merit and the potential to contribute meaningfully to the sciences; provides three years of full financial support.

2020 **CIS Summer Study Fellow**, *MIT Center for International Studies.*

Summer support for dissertation research related to international affairs. (\$3,500)

2019 **Africa Travel Award**, *MIT Center for International Studies.*

Funding to support travel for fieldwork (\$1,400)

2017 **Ithiel de Sola Pool Fellow**, *MIT, Political Science.*

Awarded to an outstanding first year student in MIT Political Science.

2016 **Sahin Presidential Fellow**, *MIT, Office of the President.*

Awarded to outstanding students in graduate programs at MIT; provides 9 months of full financial support.

2014 **Princeton in Africa Fellow**, *Princeton in Africa.*

Fully funds year long fellowships at organizations in Africa to young leaders committed to Africa's advancement.

2013 **Summa Cum Lauda**, *Emory University.*

- 2013 **Levitas Award**, *Emory University, Political Science*.
Awarded to the most outstanding graduate in Political Science.
- 2012 **Phi Beta Kappa**, *Emory University*.
- 2011 **Pi Sigma Alpha, Political Science Honor Society**, *Emory University, Political Science*.
- 2011 **Institute for Developing Nations Scholar**, *The Carter Center & Emory University*.
Funds field research in developing contexts (\$2,500).
- 2009 **Goodrich C. White Dean's Achievement Scholar**, *Emory University*.
Awarded to rising sophomores and juniors demonstrating intellectual curiosity, creative thinking, servant leadership, communication skills, and commitment to community (\$10,000 annually for 3 years).
- 2008 **Liberal Arts Scholar**, *Emory University*.
Awarded to admitted students in recognition of academic excellence (\$10,000 annually for 4 years).

Teaching Experience & Training

- Fall 2020 **17.30: Making Public Policy (Undergraduate)**, *MIT*, TA.
Led weekly recitation, conducted student assessment, and mentored students.
- IAP 2020 **Building a Movement: The Organizer's Toolkit**, *MIT*, Co-Instructor.
Designed and taught a four-week workshop series covering: organizing conversations, theories of power and change, developing a campaign, persuasion, beating apathy, community mapping, leadership development, public speaking, and meeting facilitation.
- Spring 2019 **17.802: Quantitative Methods II, Causal Inference (Graduate)**, *MIT*, TA.
Led weekly recitation. Developed and graded problem sets and quizzes.
- Spring 2019 **Kaufman Teaching Certificate**, *MIT*, Participant.
A program designed develop the teaching skills of graduate students.

Conference Presentations

- American Political Science Association**, 2019, 2020.
International Political Science Association, 2020 (*Invited*).
Midwest Political Science Association, 2019, 2021.

Field Work

- Sept. – Nov. 2019 **Dissertation Research: Activist Profiles**, *South Africa*.
Interviewed a diverse set of 42 activists in Cape Town and Johannesburg regarding their personal activist histories, strategic decision points they experienced, and their understanding of the advocacy landscape.
- June – July 2017 **NGO Perspectives on Local Government**, *South Africa*.
Conducted semi-structured interviews with representatives from 41 non-governmental organizations across South Africa regarding their interactions with local councillors. This project was part of the South African Councillor Panel Study, intended to provide insights into the role of democratically-elected leaders in local government.
- Jan. – Feb. 2017 **Mystery Shopper: Testing Access to Information in Kenya**, *Kenya*.
Managed the logistics of a field experiment evaluating the efficacy of information requests made at county-level government offices throughout the country. This project was part of an ongoing collaboration between the MIT GOV/LAB and Twaweza (an NGO) to understand government accountability in east Africa.

- Jan. – June 2016 **Of "Loose Papers and Vague Allegations": A Social Audit Report on the Safety and Sanitation Crisis in Western Cape Schools**, *Western Cape, South Africa*.
Project managed, provided analysis for, and compiled a social audit of safety and sanitation conditions in schools throughout the Western Cape. This included interviews with 220 administrators, 912 learner questionnaires, 229 physical inspections of schools, 14 freedom of information requests and budget analyses, and synthesization of existing knowledge. This project was conducted during two years spent living in South Africa, working for Equal Education (Aug. 2014 – June 2016).
- March 2011 **Relative Democracy: Rwandan Perceptions of What Constitutes Representative Government**, *Rwanda & Uganda*.
Included interviews with Rwandan nationals, both in Rwanda and in refugee camps in neighboring Uganda, regarding their views on democracy. This project was part of four months living in Rwanda, studying Post-Genocide Reconstruction with the School for International Training (Jan. – April 2011).

Technical Skills

- Collection SurveyCTO, Qualtrics
- Analysis R, STAN, Rcpp, STATA, GIS, Python, Tableau
- Publishing \LaTeX , RMarkdown, RShiny, Microsoft Office Suite, Adobe Creative Suite
- Collaboration Overleaf, GitHub, Slack, Trello
- Communication French (Intermediate), Kinyarwanda (Beginner), Swedish (Beginner)
- Presentation 5+ Years Improv Theater Experience

Methodological Training

- 2019 **Summer Institute**, *Consortium on Qualitative Research Methods*.
Logic of qualitative research, GIS, social network analysis, text analysis, and interpretive methods.
- 2019 **Public Opinion Research (Graduate)**, *MIT, Political Science*.
Survey design and implementation, the nature of the survey response, and survey experiment design.
- 2018 **Advanced Topics in Quantitative Methods (Graduate)**, *MIT, Political Science*.
Supervised learning, dimension reduction, mixture models, text analysis, network models, and panel match.
- 2017 **Generalized Linear Models and Extensions (Graduate)**, *MIT, Political Science*.
Maximum likelihood estimation, generalized linear models, multilevel models, and Bayesian statistics.
- 2017 **Causal Inference (Graduate)**, *MIT, Political Science*.
Neyman-Rubin causal model, randomized experiments, quasi-experimental designs, causal inference with observational data, synthetic control, and mediation analysis.
- 2017 **Practitioner-Academic Collaboration Practicum (Graduate)**, *MIT, Political Science*.
Models of practitioner-academic partnerships, collaboration ethics, and methods for applied research.
- 2016 **Statistical Inference (Graduate)**, *MIT, Political Science*.
Probability theory, statistical inference with linear regression, and statistical analysis with R.
- 2016 **Political Science Scope and Methods (Graduate)**, *MIT, Political Science*.
Introduction to methods for research using experimental data, observational data, case studies, and ethnography, as well as mixing methods.
- 2012 **Qualitative Methods (Graduate)**, *Emory, Political Science*.
Inference using single and multi-case analysis; data gathering through interviews, participant observation, and archival research; QCA analysis; conceptualization; and the effective use of typologies.
- 2012 **Research Design (Graduate)**, *Emory, Political Science*.
Philosophy of science as applied to social phenomena; the process of theorizing, conceptualizing, and operationalizing; and the structures of inference used in the study of politics.

- 2011 **Field Research (Undergraduate)**, *School for International Training*, Kigali, Rwanda.
Conducting structured and unstructured interviews in the field, identifying informants, analysis of interviews, sensitive data security, and field work ethics.
- 2011 **Do No Harm (Certificate)**, *CDA Collaborative*, Kigali, Rwanda.
Mitigating negative impacts & supporting local capacities when working in conflict & post-conflict environments.

University Service

- 2020 **MIT Graduate Student Council**, *MIT*, Member.
- 2018–2019 **Corporation Joint Advisory Committee on Institute-Wide Affairs**, *MIT*, Member.
- 2016–2019 **Political Science Graduate Student Council**, *MIT*, Ex-Officio Member.
- 2018–2019 **Graduate Student Work-In-Progress**, *MIT, Political Science*, Coordinator.
- 2016–2018 **Social Committee**, *MIT, Political Science GSC*, Chair.