

Eric T. Dunford

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McCourt School of Public Policy

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CURRENT POSITIONS

- 2018 - present** **Associate Director**, Masters of Science in Data Science for Public Policy, McCourt School of Public Policy, *Georgetown University*.
- 2018 - present** **Assistant Teaching Professor**, McCourt School of Public Policy, *Georgetown University*.
- 2020 - present** **Research Scientist** (computational social science), Core Data Science, *Facebook, Inc.*

EDUCATION

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|--------------|---|------|
| Ph.D. | Political Science, University of Maryland, College Park | 2019 |
| MA | Political Science, University of Maryland, College Park | 2016 |
| BA | Political Science, Beloit College | 2010 |

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- 2019** “Integrating Conflict Event Data” (With Karsten Donnay, Erin McGrath, David Cunningham, and David Backer). *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.
- 2018** “Cultural Imprinting, Institutions, and the Organization of New Firms” (with David Waguespack and Johanna K. Birnir). *Strategic Science*.
- 2014** “A Voice in the Process: A Cross-National Look at Ethnic Inclusion and Economic Growth in the World.” (With Johanna K. Birnir.) *Development*. 57(2).

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- 2019** “Where a Founder Is from Affects How They Structure Their Company” (with David Waguespack and Johanna K. Birnir). *Harvard Business Review*.
<https://hbr.org/2019/09/research-where-a-founder-is-from-affects-how-they-structure-their-company>

2017 “The Geography of Organized Armed Violence Around the World” (with Erik Melander and David Backer). *Peace and Conflict 2017*, Routledge.

UNDER REVIEW/WORKING PAPERS

“The Dark Side of Diversity: Membership Diversity and Tactical Innovation in Violent Non-State Organizations” (Under Review)

“An Integrated Picture: the Impact of Integrating Conflict Data in Africa” (with David Cunningham) (Under Review)

“Predicting Conflict Occurrence Using Search History Data” (with David Cunningham) (Working Paper)

“The Illusion of Precision” (with Karsten Donnay) (Working Paper)

“Hashtags that Matter: Measuring the propagation of Tweets in the Dilma Crisis” (with Ernesto Calvo and Neil Lund)

“Gender Norms and Violent Behavior in a Virtual World” (with David Waguespack and Johanna Birnir) (Working Paper)

“A Break from the Past: why mapping deviations in diplomatic networks reveal shifts in foreign policy strategies” (with Michael Joseph) (Working Paper)

GRANTS

2020 Massive Data Institute, Georgetown University. “Estimating Violent Deaths Associate with Political Instability”. Seed Grant (\$20,000).

2015 - 2018 National Science Foundation. “INSPIRE Track 2: Computational Modeling of Grievances and Political Instability through Global Media.” Under the direction of Gary LaFree, David Backer, and David Cunningham (\$2.5 Million).

INVITED TALKS

2020 *The Dark Side of Diversity: Membership Diversity and Tactical Innovation in Non-State Organizations*, Facebook (Fall)

2019 *Conflict Event History Data and Prediction*, Central Intelligence Agency (Summer)

2019 *Predicting Conflict Occurrence Using Search History Data*, Facebook, Washington DC office (Spring)

PRESENTATIONS

2020 *The Illusion of Precision*, International Studies Association (Canceled due to COVID-19)

2019 *Membership Diversity and Tactical Variation*, American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (Fall)

2019 *Gender Norms and Violent Behavior in a Virtual World*, Politics and Computational Social Science, Annual Meeting (Fall)

2019 *Predicting Conflict Occurrence using Search History Data*, International Studies Association, Annual Meeting (Spring)

2018 *Advancing Measurement in the Study of Conflict and Political Violence*, Preconference Workshop, Peace Science Society, Annual Meeting (Fall)

2017 *A Break from the Past: why mapping deviations in diplomatic networks reveals shifts in foreign policy strategies*, International Studies Association, Annual Meeting (Spring) & Peace Science Society, Annual Meeting (Fall)

2016 *An Automated Aggregation of Geo-coded Violent and Non-violent Conflict Events*, Peace Science Society, Annual Meeting (Fall)

2016 *Integrating African Conflict Event Data*, American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (Fall)

2016 *MELTT: Matching Event Data by Location, Time, and Type*, The Society for Political Methodology, Annual Meeting (Summer)

2016 *MELTT: Matching Event Data by Location, Time, and Type*, Midwest Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (Spring)

2015 *Providing to Compete: An Examination of Social Welfare Provisions by Regime Change Movements*, Midwest Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (Spring)

TEACHING

2019-2021 Accelerated Statistics for Public Policy II (PPOL561), McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University

- 2018-2020** Data Science 1: Foundations (PPOL564), McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University
- 2019-2021** Introduction to Data Science for Public Policy (PPOL670), McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University
- 2017 - 2018** Multilevel Models: Introduction and Application, ICPSR, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor (Teaching Assistant)

SOFTWARE DEVELOPMENT

TIDYSYNTH: An R package for implementing synthetic control designs in R.

Building on the Synth package, tidysynth makes a number of improvements when implementing the method in R. These improvements allow users to inspect, visualize, and tune the synthetic control more easily. <https://github.com/edunford/tidysynth>

MELTT: Merging Event Data by Location, Time, and Type (with Karsten Donnay)

An R package that offers a methodology for systematically integrating disparate geospatial event data by leveraging information on spatio-temporal co-occurrence and event-specific metadata.

<https://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/meltt/index.html>

Qualify: An R package for transparent data generation

An R package that allows users to generate customizable user interface for data entry and collection. The packages makes deploying data collection projects across an array of coders easy and tracks all meta-data about how data entries are coded. (In development).

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Affiliated Faculty – *Massive Data Institution (MDI)*, Georgetown University

Affiliated Faculty – Interdisciplinary Laboratory of Computational Social Science (ILCSS), University of Maryland, College Park

Consortium Member - *A Global Registry of Violent Deaths (GReVD)*, Brookings Institution and Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI).

Faculty Fellow - *Ed Snider Center for Enterprise and Markets*, Smith School of Business, University of Maryland, College Park

Partner – *Center for Global Data* (www.centerforglobaldata.org)

Member – *American Political Science Association; Peace Science Association; Society for Political Methodology*

LED WORKSHOPS & SHORT COURSES

- 2019** *Building a professional web presence using R*
Data Science in Action Seminar
McCourt School of Public Policy
Georgetown University (Fall)
- 2018** *A Crash Course in Statistical Computing*
Short Course
College of Behavioral and Social Sciences
University of Maryland, College Park (Fall)
- 2017** *Applied Statistics and Data Management in R*
Short Course
Smith School of Business,
University of Maryland, College Park (Fall)
- 2017** *Tools and Best Practices for Integrating Spatial Data*
APSA Short Course (co-taught with Karsten Donnay and Andrew Linke)
American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting (Fall)
- 2017** *An Introduction To Statistical Programing In R: A short course on processing, analyzing, and visualizing data in R*
Short Course
Creative Associates International, Washington DC (Spring)
- 2017** *The ABC's of Bayesian Estimation in R*
University of Maryland, College Park (Spring)
- 2016** *Learning R Programming*
Short Course
Department of Government and Politics,
University of Maryland, College Park (Fall)
- 2016** *Web-scraping and Automated Data Process in R*
University of Iceland, Reykjavik (Spring)
- 2016** *Web-scraping and Automated Data Process in R*
University of Maryland, College Park (Spring)
- 2015** *Functional Programming in R – Intermediate R*
University of Maryland, College Park (Fall)
- 2015** *Real-Time Modeling of Social Protest: Ferguson, Twitter, and the Opacity of Social Media Data,*
University of Maryland, College Park (Spring)

HONORS

- 2019** Charles A. Caramello Distinguished Dissertation Award Nomination, College of Behavioral and Social Sciences, University of Maryland, College Park
- 2018** University of Maryland GVPT Methods Field Funds
- 2017-2018** Graduate Fellow – Ed Snider Center for Enterprise and Markets, Smith School of Business, University of Maryland, College Park
- 2017** Summer Research Funds, University of Maryland (\$5000)
- 2016** Research Field Funds, University of Maryland (\$2000)
- 2016** Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) Participant
- 2016** Summer Research Fellowship – University of Maryland Graduate School (\$5000)
- 2016** National Science Foundation Travel Funds (Political Methodology)
- 2015** Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) Certified
- 2015** Clifford C. Clogg Scholarship (ICPSR) (ICPSR Tuition and Fees)
- 2015** National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship (Honorable Mention)
- 2015** University of Maryland GVPT Methods Field Funds (\$3000)
- 2014** University of Maryland GVPT Comparative Field Funds (\$4000)

JOURNAL REFEREE

Journal of Politics
Journal of Conflict Resolution
Journal of Peace Research

RELEVANT SKILLS

Programing: R; Python; C++
Databases: Presto; MySQL; Hive; MongoDB
Visualization: R; Python; Tableau; Illustrator