

# Tosin Salau

*Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science*

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## Research Interests

**International Relations:** Intrastate conflict, African Politics, Political Economy

**Research Methods:** Network Analysis, Formal Model, Text Analysis, Causal Inference

## Education

2021–Present **Ph.D. in Political Science**, *Michigan State University*, East Lansing, MI

- **Fields:** International Relations, Research Methods (Expected 2026)
- **Certificate:** Computational Modeling, Science & Engineering (2024)
- **Dissertation:** *Beyond Victims and Pawns: Civilian Agency in War and Conflict Dynamics*
- **Committee:** Shahryar Minhas (Chair), Andrew Kerner (Co-chair), Andy Halterman, Cassy Dorff, Jessica Braithwaite

2019–2021 **M.A. in International Relations**, *University of Rhode Island*, Kingston, RI

2014–2018 **B.A. in International Relations & Political Science**, *University of Indianapolis*, Indianapolis, IN

*Merit Awards/Scholarships:* Richard Lugar Scholarship, Dean's List 2014–2018, Summa Cum Laude recipient

## Working Papers

"Citizens' Unrest: Understanding Civilian Cooperation with Militant Groups Amid Subsidy Reductions"

"Targeting Civilians, Dividing Rebels: How Civilian Ties Shape Rebel Dynamics in Counterinsurgency"

"When Rebels Advance, Civilians Mobilize: Self-Defense Militias and Their Strategic Alignment with the State"

"Frenemies" (with Arica Schuett, Willa Jeffers, and Emily Gade)

"Dynamic Bilinear Networks: Understanding Conflict and Cooperation" (with Shahryar Minhas)

"Understanding Events in Sequence: Reprisals Against Civilians in Nigeria" (with Andrew Halterman)

"Which Way to Safety? Government Military Behavior and Violence Against Civilians in Nigeria" (with Cassy Dorff and Shahryar Minhas)

"Examining Police Repression During the 2020 BLM Protests: Introducing the BLM Repression Dataset" (with Brendan Skip Mark and Alia Poulos)

## Policy Papers

### Afrobarometer Publications

- 2023 Salau, T., & Boio, D. (2023). "Angolans approve of government's pandemic response but say aid to households inadequate." *Afrobarometer Dispatch* 595.
- 2023 Lekorwe, M., Salau, T., & Bogopa, T. (2023). "Botswana offer mixed assessments of police trustworthiness and professionalism." *Afrobarometer Dispatch* 597.

- 2022 Malephane, L., & Salau, T. (2022). "Basotho cite brutality, lack of professionalism, and corruption among police failings." *Afrobarometer Dispatch 555*.
- 2022 Kamau, P., Onyango, G., & Salau, T. (2022). "Kenyans cite criminal activity, lack of respect, and corruption among police failings." *Afrobarometer Dispatch 552*.
- 2022 Salau, T., & Logan, C. (2022). "Rising concern, falling performance: Health-sector challenges evident before and after onset of COVID-19 pandemic." *Afrobarometer Policy Paper No.80*.

## Software

- netify R package for modeling event data with Shahryar Minhas, Cassy Dorff, Ha Eun Choi, and Colin Henry. In development. [github://netify-dev/netify](https://github.com/netify-dev/netify)
- srm Social Relations Models for Network Analysis with Shahryar Minhas and Cassy Dorff. In development. [github://netify-dev/srm](https://github.com/netify-dev/srm)
- lame Latent Additive and Multiplicative Effect with Shahryar Minhas and Cassy Dorff. In development. [github://netify-dev/lame](https://github.com/netify-dev/lame)
- dbn Dynamic Bilinear Networks with Shahryar Minhas. In development. [github://netify-dev/dbn](https://github.com/netify-dev/dbn)

## Invited Talks, Workshops & Conferences

### Invited Talks

- Feb 2024 Violence in Politics (Virtual): Citizens' Unrest: Understanding Civilian Cooperation with Militant Groups Amid Subsidy Reductions

### Workshops

- 2024 Workshop on Network Analysis: Peace Science, Vanderbilt University

### Conferences

- 2025 American Political Science Association (APSA)
- 2024 International Studies Association (ISA)
- 2024, 2025 Midwest Political Studies Association (MPSA)
- 2025 Peace Science
- 2025 Political Methodology (PolMeth)
- 2025 Political Networks (PolNet)

## Teaching Experience

### Michigan State University (2021-Present)

- Spring 2024 PLS 802: Causal Inference Techniques, Teaching Assistant for Prof. Andrew Halterman
- Fall 2024 PLS 202: Introduction to Data Analytics, Teaching Assistant to Hyerin Seo
- Summer 2024; 2025 PLS 201: Introduction to Methods of Political Analysis, Co-Instructor
- Summer 2023 PLS 200: Introduction to Political Science, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Erica Frantz
- Summer 2022 PLS 201: Introduction to Methods of Political Analysis, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Andrew Kerner

### University of Rhode Island (2019-2021)

- Fall 2019 PLS 100: Intro to American Politics, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Emily Lynch
- Spring 2020 PLS 110: Intro to International Relations, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Marc Hutchison & 2021
- Fall 2020 PLS 200: World Politics Theories & Applications, Teaching Assistant to Prof. Skip Mark

## Research Experience

- Fall 2025 **Research Assistant to Prof. Andrew Halterman**, *Michigan State University*, East Lansing, MI
- Spring 2025 **Research Assistant to Prof. Shahryar Minhas**, *Michigan State University*, East Lansing, MI
- 2021–2023 **Research Assistant, Afrobarometer**, *Michigan State University*, East Lansing, MI
- 2019–2020 **Graduate Research Assistant**, *Center for Nonviolence and Peace Studies*, University of Rhode Island

## Awards

- 2025 \$200 Travel Award (PolNet)
- 2025 \$500 Cloud Computing Fellow (Michigan State University)

## Academic Service & Activities

- 2024–Present Professionalization Representative, Department of Political Science, MSU
- 2023–2024 Academic and Admission Representative, Department of Political Science, MSU
- November 2016 Participant, Model United Nations

## Technical Skills

- Computing R, Latex, Python, HLM, SPSS, Qualtrics, Microsoft Office
- Languages Fluent in English and Yoruba, Beginner's Arabic
- Certificates Collaborative Institutional Training Initiative, Diversity and Inclusion Training (2021), Computational Modeling, Science & Engineering (2024), AWS Academy Cloud Foundations (2025)