

HEATHER M. KOPP

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Academic Position

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Texas Tech University, Fall 2024 - Present

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, University of Missouri, July 2024

Dissertation: Foreign Policy Issue Ownership, Interstate Conflict, and U.S. Vote Intention

Committee: Stephen L. Quackenbush (co-chair), Laron K. Williams (co-chair), Bryce W. Reeder, and Bradley J. Nichols

B.S., Political Science and History, Truman State University, May 2019

Magna Cum Laude, Departmental Honors in Political Science, Departmental Honors in History

Additional Training

Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) Summer Institute, hosted by University of California, Berkeley, Summer 2022

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, University of Michigan, Summer 2021

Multilevel Models I: Introduction and Application, EITM Certified

Multilevel Models II: Advanced Topics, EITM Certified

Data Visualization, EITM Certified

Simultaneous Equation Models, EITM Certified

IPSA-USP Summer School in Concepts, Methods, and Techniques in Political Science, Public Policy, and International Relations, University of São Paulo, Brazil, January 2020

Essentials of Time Series Analysis for Time Series Cross-Section Analyses

Fundamentals of Time Series Cross-Section Analyses

Advanced Time Series Cross-Section Analyses

Publications

Kopp, Heather M., Bryce W. Reeder, and Thorin M. Wright. 2023. "International Conflict Involvement, Domestic Repression, and the Escalation of Civil Conflict." *Political Research Quarterly* 76(4): 2004-2017.

Rudy, Michael, and Heather M. Kopp. 2021. "Quality and Quantity: Government Quality, Capitalist Peace, and Dispute Escalation." *Midsouth Political Science Review* 21: 57-88.

Research Interests

Domestic determinants and consequences of international conflict; interstate and intrastate conflict linkages; peacekeeping; public opinion, voting behavior, and foreign policy; and party issue ownership

Conference Presentations and Invited Talks

2026. "Theorizing the Link Between Preemptive Repression, International Conflict, and Domestic Instability," "Patterns of Preemptive Repression Across Regimes and Regions," "Preemptive Repression and Repressive Adaptability in Interstate Conflict," and "From Wartime Repression to Domestic Instability." With Bryce W. Reeder and Thorin M. Wright. Presented at the International Studies Association Conference, Columbus, OH, March.
2025. "US Public Opinion on Foreign Policy Issue Ownership." Presented at the International Studies Association-Midwest Conference, St. Louis, MO, November.
2025. "A Unified Model of Civil War and Interstate Conflict Onset." With Bryce W. Reeder. Presented at the Peace Science Society (International) Conference, Orlando, FL, November.
2025. "US Public Opinion and the United Nations." Presented at the International Studies Association-South Conference, Lubbock, TX, October.
2024. "The Effect of Foreign Policy Issue Ownership and Interstate Conflict on U.S. Vote Intention." Presented at the International Studies Association-Midwest Conference, St. Louis, MO, November.
2023. "Issue Ownership on the Severity of Audience Costs." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL, April.
2022. "The Diffusion of Peace? UN Peacekeeping in Conflict Neighborhoods." With Yu Bin Kim and Bryce W. Reeder. Presented at the International Studies Association-Midwest Conference, St. Louis, MO, November.
2022. "Into the Gray Zone: The Space Between Peace and War in the Russia-Ukraine Crisis." With Michael Rudy. Invited to present for the Global Issues Colloquium, Truman State University, October.
2022. "Extreme Party Movement and Party Proximity on Voter Certainty in New Democracies." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL, April.
2021. "The Diffusion of Peace: How UN Peacekeeping Missions Prevent the Onset of Militarized Interstate Conflict." With Yu Bin Kim and Bryce W. Reeder. Presented virtually at the American Political Science Association Conference, Seattle, WA, October.
2021. "Rebel Group Dynamics and Civil War-Interstate Conflict Linkages." With Yu Bin Kim. Presented at the International Studies Association-Midwest Conference, St. Louis, MO, November.
2019. "An Empirical Examination of the Space Between Peace and War: The Gray Zone." With Michael Rudy. Presented at the International Studies Association-Midwest Conference, St. Louis, MO, November.
2019. "You Can Lead a State to Crisis, and You Can Make It Fight: Violent Non-State Actors and Crisis Escalation." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL, April.
2018. "Violent Non-State Actors and Crisis Escalation." Presented at the International Studies Association-Midwest Conference, St. Louis, MO, November.

2018. "Purchasing Peace: A Capitalist Peace and Conflict Escalation Study." With Michael Rudy. Presented at the Great Plains Political Science Association Conference, Maryville, MO, October.

2017. "Cheap Talk or Walking the Walk: An Examination of Escalation to Violence After Displays of Force." With Michael Rudy, Nathan Fajkus, Andrea Otte, and Benjamin Sherman. Presented at the International Studies Association-Midwest Conference, St. Louis, MO, November.

Teaching

Graduate

"Pro-Seminar in International Relations" (Texas Tech University, Fall 2024, Fall 2025, Fall 2026)

"Independent Study" (Texas Tech University, Summer 2026)

Undergraduate

"Genocide, Terrorism, and Civil War" (Texas Tech University, Fall 2024, Spring 2026, Spring 2027; University of Missouri, Fall 2022)

"Intro. to International Politics" (Texas Tech University, Spring 2025, Spring 2026, Spring 2027; University of Missouri, Spring 2024)

"Domestic Politics and International Conflict" (Texas Tech University, Fall 2026)

"Comparative Political Systems" (University of Missouri, Fall 2023)

"Politics and War" (University of Missouri, Summer 2023)

Department Workshops

"Geospatial Modeling in R" (University of Missouri, Spring 2022)

Teaching Assistant

"Categorical Data Analysis: Models for Categorical, Ordinal, and Count Outcomes" (ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, Summer 2023)

Instructors: Olga Chyzh and Mark Nieman

"U.S. Foreign Policy" (University of Missouri, Spring 2022)

Instructor: Heather-Leigh K. Ba

"International Relations" (University of Missouri, Fall 2021)

Instructor: Bryce W. Reeder

"Intro. to Political Research," TA and Lab Instructor (University of Missouri, Fall 2020 - Spring 2021)

Instructor: Laron K. Williams

"Politics and War" (University of Missouri, Spring 2020)

Instructor: Stephen L. Quackenbush

"Politics of International Economic Relations" (University of Missouri, Fall 2019)

Instructor: Heather-Leigh K. Ba

Service

Department

Member, Undergraduate Affairs Committee, Department of Political Science, Texas Tech University (Fall 2024 - Present)

Member, IR Comprehensive Exam Committee, Department of Political Science, Texas Tech University (Fall 2025)

Member, Dissertation Committee, Department of Political Science, Texas Tech University (1 student: Fall 2024 - Present)

Member, Second Year Paper Committee, Department of Political Science, Texas Tech University (1 student: Fall 2024-Spring 2025, 1 student: Fall 2025-Spring 2026)

Discipline

Mentor, Pay it Forward Workshop, International Studies Association-Midwest Conference (2025)

Discussant, International Studies Association-Midwest Conference (2025), Midwest Political Science Association Conference (2023, 2025)

Awards

Phi Beta Kappa Influential Professor, Texas Tech University
Spring 2025

Graduate Assistantship, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs, University of Missouri
Fall 2019 - Spring 2024

G. Ellsworth Huggins Fellowship, Graduate School, University of Missouri
Fall 2019 - Spring 2024

J.G. Heinberg Award, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs, University of Missouri
Spring 2022

EITM Certification Scholarship for ICPSR Summer Program 2021
Spring 2021

Paul Wallace and Robin Remington Graduate Research Scholarship, Truman School of Government and Public Affairs, University of Missouri
Spring 2021

Missouri Excellence in Political Science Teaching Award, Department of Political Science, University of Missouri
Spring 2020

Pay it Forward Workshop Mentee and Travel Grant, International Studies Association-Midwest Conference
Fall 2019

National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates Fellow (Civil Conflict Management and Peace Science), University of North Texas, Denton, TX
Summer 2018

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association

International Studies Association

Midwest Political Science Association
Peace Science Society (International)

Technical Skills

Stata, R, \LaTeX , GeoDa, and ArcGIS Pro

Last updated: 05/20/2026