

# Vanessa A. Lefler

SOCIAL SCIENTIST · GLOBAL GOVERNANCE EXPERT · INSTRUCTOR

3437 Cobble Street, Nashville, TN 37211

☎ (319) 541-5234 | ✉ [vanessa@vanessalefler.com](mailto:vanessa@vanessalefler.com) | 🏠 <https://vanessalefler.com>

## Synopsis

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Social science researcher and instructor with subject-matter expertise in statistical analysis, government, and conflict resolution. Seeking to apply research, analytic, and communication skills to address social and political problems, the solutions to which have immediate, measurable impacts.

## Education

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### University of Iowa

Iowa City, IA

PH.D. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2012

- *Concentrations:* International Relations, Theoretical Modeling, and Statistical Methodology

### Westminster College

Fulton, MO

B.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE & ENGLISH

2006

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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|------|---|--------------------------|
| 2017 | <b>The Data Scientist's Toolbox and R Programming</b> , via Coursera                      | Johns Hopkins University |
| 2014 | <b>An Introduction to Interactive Programming in Python</b> , via Coursera                | Rice University          |
| 2012 | <b>Experimental Political Science Methodology</b> , Winter Institute in Political Methods | Texas A&M University     |

## Skills & Experience

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### Statistical Analysis

- Experienced in data analysis and modeling: 22 credit hours of training in statistical research methods and 15 credit hours of training in theoretical and computational modeling; 11 years of combined graduate and post-graduate statistical research
- Familiarized in a variety of analysis methods, covering linear and non-linear statistics: Pivot Tables and other Descriptive Statistics, Bivariate and Multivariate Regression, Categorical and Limited Dependent Variables, Survival/Risk Models, ANOVA
- Skilled in post-estimation techniques – data visualization and graphing, generating marginal and change effects – for interpreting and presenting statistical results for technical and non-technical audiences

### Data Collection & Manipulation

- Processed data for research and institutional planning
- Familiarized in collecting and manipulating variety of raw and processed data formats: CSV, Excel, XML, JSON, Stata (.dta), SPSS (.sav)
- Performed small-sample survey research (fewer than 100 subjects) and laboratory experiments; additional knowledge in human subjects research protocols, survey experiment design, and Amazon Mechanical Turk (MTurk)

### Project Management & Collaboration

- Chaired and participated in strategic planning committees; as chair coordinated multi-discipline teams and prepared executive reports of committee activities
- Completed, as co-principal investigator, department program change and follow-up program evaluation, taking lead role in statistical analysis of program effectiveness
- Studied in principles and practice of dispute resolution and conflict management, regularly providing instruction in best practices and applying concepts to international relations, inter-cultural communication, and collective problem-solving
- Supervised completion of 5 MA graduate capstone projects and 5 undergraduate theses and oversaw 3 graduate assistants; currently mentoring 3 additional MA graduate capstone projects and 2 undergraduate theses and managing 1 graduate assistant
- Prepared on a quick and timely basis student performance assessments, committee and institution-wide meeting records, and annual self-evaluations

## Communication

- Produced written reports and research manuscripts featuring statistical results for professional and non-technical audiences  
*Selected Publications & Reports*
  - Lefler, Vanessa A. 2015. "Strategic Forum Selection and Compliance in Interstate Dispute Resolution." *Conflict Management and Peace Science*. 32(1): 76-98.
  - Lefler, Vanessa A. 2017. "Quick Facts on United States' Dues Assessments to the United Nations." Report prepared for the UNA-USA Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter, Nashville, TN.
- Delivered oral presentations and lectures for professionals, students, and non-technical audiences  
Received outstanding evaluations of teaching – at or above average institution scores – from student and peer evaluations  
*Selected Presentations*
  - "The Consequences of Other Claims on Peaceful Settlement Agreement." Research Presentation at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association. 31 Aug.-03 Sep., 2017. San Francisco, CA.
  - "China's Contentious Claims in the West Pacific: A Conflict Management Approach." Guest Lecture at Columbia State Community College. 11 Nov. 2015. Columbia, TN.
  - "Bargain Shopping for Peace? Effects of Institutions and Norms on Peaceful Settlement of Maritime Claims." Guest Lecture prepared for Rotary International, Murfreesboro, TN, Chapter. 26 Mar., 2013. Murfreesboro, TN.
- Corresponded with internal and external funding sponsors, preparing strategic plans and compliance reports

## ADDITIONAL SKILLS

**Analysis Tools** Advanced proficiency in Stata and Excel; R, SQL, SPSS, and Mathematica; Microsoft Office Access

**Publishing & Graphics** Advanced proficiency in Microsoft Office Suite - Word, Publisher, PowerPoint,  $\LaTeX$ ; data visualization in Stata and R; GIMP, Prezi, Lucidchart

**Web** HTML, WordPress, Python

**Productivity** GitHub, Trello, Sandglaz

## Employment

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### Middle Tennessee State University

1301 E. Main Street  
(615) 898-2708

Murfreesboro, TN  
01 Aug. 2012 - present  
May contact

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE & INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

- Serve full-time (40+ hrs/week) as tenure-track instructor and researcher in international relations
- Carry out administrative tasks in addition to teaching and research; includes academic advising, strategic planning, and university governance performed independently and in collaboration with other faculty, administrators, and civic groups

### University of Iowa

341 Schaeffer Hall  
(319) 335-2358

Iowa City, IA  
21 Aug. 2006 - 31 May 2012  
May contact

RESEARCH FELLOW AND GRADUATE ASSISTANT, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE & GRADUATE COLLEGE

- Served part-time (20 hrs/week) as a teaching and research assistant to a full-time faculty instructor
- Devised and executed research designs for a variety of projects, including a National Science Foundation (NSF) sponsored program
- Provided supplemental instruction for courses in International Relations and American Politics

## Professional & Civic Service

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- Aug. 2017 - present **Faculty Senate Recording Secretary**, Middle Tennessee State University *Murfreesboro, TN*
- Apr. 2016 - present **Board of Directors**, UNA-USA – Nashville Cordell Hull Chapter *Nashville, TN*
- Aug. 2014 - present **Internal Advisory Board**, NSF ADVANCE Catalyst Grant: Participation and Advancement of Women in Academic STEM Careers, Middle Tennessee State University *Murfreesboro, TN*
- Nov. 2015 - Jun. 2017 **Program Committee**, On-line Peace Science Colloquium, Peace Science Society (International) *University Park, PA*