

# Cleo O'Brien-Udry

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University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
Department of Political Science  
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## Employment

### **University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**

Assistant professor, 2024-present

### **University of Pennsylvania**

Postdoctoral associate, Christopher H. Browne Center, 2023

## Education

### **Yale University**

Ph.D., Political Science, 2023

### **Stanford University**

B.A. with Honors 2014

M.A. 2015.

## Publications

“Innovation and interdependence: the case of gene-editing technology”  
(with Tyler Pratt) **International Studies Quarterly**, 2025

“The possibilities and limits of international status: evidence  
from foreign aid and public opinion” (with Lauren Ferry)

**Review of International Organizations**, 2024

“Foreign Aid Withdrawals and Suspensions: Why, When and Are They Effective?”  
Introduction to Special Issue on Foreign Aid Withdrawals and Suspensions”  
(with Nic Cheesemand and Haley Swedlund) **World Development**, 2024

“Less stress, more confidence”: Supporting Junior Scholars Online  
at the Graduate Student International Political Economy Workshop  
(with Alexander Kirss and Paul Ko)

**PS: Political Science & Politics**, 2021

## Working Papers

The politics of the green energy transition in developing countries

The political geography of the energy transition in the Global South

Giving a Green Light to the Global South: How International Chaos  
Puts Developing Countries at the Forefront of Climate Initiatives  
(with Ed Mansfield and Jon Pevehouse)

	Phasing out coal-fired power in Indonesia (with Sam S. Rowan)
	Aid, blame, and backlash
	A domestic political economy of targeted aid
In Progress	Superstar bureaucrats from the Global South (with Lindsay Dolan)
	Seasonal elections (with Christopher Blair)
	Gendering climate in the Global South (with Lauren Ferry)
	Communal property rights and expropriation: evidence from gold mining (with Christopher Udry)
Teaching	<p><b>Department of Political Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</b>  Politics of International Development (Fall 2024)  Politics of Climate and Development (Spring, Fall 2025)</p> <p><b>Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania</b>  Lecturer, Political Economy of Foreign Aid (Spring 2024)</p> <p><b>Department of Political Science, Wesleyan University</b>  Lecturer, Political Economy of Foreign Aid (Spring 2022)</p> <p><b>Peace Corps Kosovo</b>  English Language Teacher, 2015-2017</p>
Invited Talks	<p><b>2026</b> University of Notre Dame  <b>2025</b> University of Wisconsin, Madison  <b>2024</b> University of California, Santa Barbara  <b>2023</b> Villanova University; University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign;  Macalaster University; Cornell University</p>
Conferences	<p><b>2025</b> PEIO; ISA; Individuals in International Policy Workshop; APSA;  The Future of Development Assistance  <b>2024</b> PEIO; APSA; Workshop on International Financial Institutions  <b>2023</b> PEIO; APSA; IPES; Climate Pipeline Project Workshop;  Resourcing international organizations (EFIO);  Political Economy of Climate and Environment (PECE) Conference;  Political Economy of Aid (PEA)</p>

**2022** PEIO (declined); ISA; MPSA; EPSA; Yale IR Workshop; APSA; IPES; German Development Economics Conference; DVPW-ÖGPW-SVPW Joint International Political Economy Conference; Regional Responses to Global Economic Pressure  
**2021** PEIO; ISA; MPSA; NEWEPS; SOWEPS; HSE-ICSID; BSIA-GPE Dissertation Workshop; InterGroup Relations Workshop; German Development Economics Conference; APSA; Yale IR Workshop; IPES; GSIPE; EPSA; VIPES  
**2020** PEIO; APSA; EPSA (cancelled); GSIPE; Yale IR Workshop; Technology and Global Governance Virtual Forum  
**2019** Arizona State University, Internationalizing Kosovo 1989-2019; IPSA Sarajevo; CEE-ISA Belgrade; European Studies Council workshop (declined)  
**2018** Yale CHESS-EHESS Graduate Student Conference

## Service

Organizing committee, Pre-ISA Workshop: Decline of the Liberal International Order (2025)  
 Selection committee, Supporting Women in International Political Economy (2025)  
 Organizing committee, Political Economy of Aid (2025-)  
 Selection committee, Political Economy of Climate and the Environment (2024)  
 Organizer, Supporting Women in International Political Economy Conference (2024)  
 Co-founder, Graduate Student International Political Economy workshop (2020-2021)  
 Organizer, APSA TLC Workshop on Organizing Online Workshops (2021)  
 Co-organizer, Virtual Aid Withdrawal and Suspensions Workshop (2021)  
 Student Organizer, Comparative Politics Workshop (2019-2020)  
 Student Organizer, Casual [sic] Inference Lab (2019-2020)  
 Student Co-organizer, Boston-area Working Group on African Political Economy (2019)

## Research Grants

**Campus Research Board, UIUC, 2025, \$15,500**  
**European Studies Council, 2022, \$500**  
**Georg Walter Leitner Grant, 2022, \$5000**  
**MacMillan Center International Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2022, \$9000**  
**MacMillan Center Pre-Dissertation Grant, 2019, \$1560**  
**European Union Studies Grant, 2019, \$2000**  
**Foreign Language Area Studies Summer Fellowship, 2018, \$7500**

## Reviewer

*American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, World Politics, International Studies Quarterly, World Development, Political Research Quarterly, Journal of Peace Research, Economics & Politics, PS: Political Science & Politics, Review of International Organizations, Journal of Experimental Political Science, Conflict Management and Peace Science, International Politics,*

*Foreign Policy Analysis, Journal of International Development,  
Studies in Comparative and International Development, Regulation & Governance*

## Advising

Jaeyoung Li (graduate, 2024-)  
Paul Un (graduate, 2024-)  
Michael Huang (graduate, 2025-)  
Julianna Armetta (undergraduate, 2025)

## Languages and Skills

English (native), Serbian (advanced), Albanian (intermediate)  
R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X