

Cleo O'Brien-Udry

University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign
Department of Political Science
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- Employment**
- University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign**
Assistant professor 2024–present
Affiliate, Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and the Environment
2026–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**
3. Pratt, Tyler and Cleo O'Brien-Udry. "Innovation and Interdependence: The Case of Gene-Editing Technology." *International Studies Quarterly* 69.2 (2025): sqaf032.
 2. Ferry, Lauren Lee and Cleo O'Brien-Udry. "The Possibilities and Limits of International Status: Evidence from Foreign Aid and Public Opinion." *Review of International Organizations* (2024): 1-30.
 1. Cheeseman, Nic, Haley J. Swedlund, and Cleo O'Brien-Udry. "Foreign Aid Withdrawals and Suspensions: Why, When and Are They Effective? Introduction to Special Issue on Foreign Aid Withdrawals and Suspensions." *World Development* 178 (2024): 106571.
- Under Review**
3. O'Brien-Udry, Cleo. "Greening Aid, Shifting Votes: The Domestic Politics of International Climate Finance." *American Journal of Political Science* (R&R).
 2. O'Brien-Udry, Cleo, Jon Pevehouse, and Ed Mansfield. "Giving a Green Light to the Global South: How International Chaos Puts Developing Countries at the Forefront of Climate Initiatives."
 1. O'Brien-Udry, Cleo, and Sam Rowan. "Phasing Out Coal-Fired Power in Indonesia." *Global Environmental Politics* (R&R).

Working Papers

3. O'Brien-Udry, Cleo. "Aid, Blame, and Backlash."
2. O'Brien-Udry, Cleo. "The Political Geography of the Energy Transition in the Global South."
1. O'Brien-Udry, Cleo. "A Domestic Political Economy of Targeted Aid."

In Progress

7. Dolan, Lindsay and Cleo O'Brien-Udry. "Superstar Bureaucrats from the Global South."
6. O'Brien-Udry, Cleo, and Chris Udry. "Communal Property Rights and Expropriation: Evidence from Gold Mining."
5. O'Brien-Udry, Cleo. "The Power Dilemma: How the Green Energy Transition Reshapes Democracy in the Global South."
4. O'Brien-Udry, Cleo, and Gino Pauselli. "Greening Repression."
3. Matush, Kelly, Cleo O'Brien-Udry, Manon Fortemps, and Jennifer Tobin. "Strategic Rhetoric under Asymmetric Interdependence: Evidence from the 2025 USAID Withdrawal."
2. Buntaine, Mark, Paasha Mahdavi, Daniel Nielsen, and Cleo O'Brien-Udry. "The Political Economy of Carbon Offsets Scandals."
1. O'Brien-Udry, Cleo. "Observing Aid Withdrawal."

Other Work

3. O'Brien-Udry, Cleo. "My Turn | How USAID Funding Cuts Hurt Illinois." *The News-Gazette*, 25 Feb. 2025, news-gazette.com.
2. O'Brien-Udry, Cleo. "How Will the End of Federal Funding to USAID Impact Institutions in Illinois?" *The 21st Show*, Illinois Public Media, 18 Feb. 2025, will.illinois.edu.
1. Kirss, Alexander, Paul Ko, and Cleo O'Brien-Udry. "Less Stress, More Confidence: Supporting Junior Scholars Online at the Graduate Student International Political Economy Workshop." *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 2021.

Teaching

Department of Political Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign	
Politics of International Development (UG)	F2024, F2026
Politics of Climate and Development (UG)	S2025, F2025, F2026
International Political Economy (G, UG)	S2026, S2027
Global Climate Law and Policy (UG)	S2027

Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania

Lecturer, Political Economy of Foreign Aid (UG) **S2024**

Department of Political Science, Wesleyan University

Lecturer, Political Economy of Foreign Aid (UG) **S2022**

Peace Corps Kosovo

English Language Teacher 2015–2017

Invited
Talks

2026 University of Notre Dame, Lehigh University

2025 University of Wisconsin, Madison

2024 University of California, Santa Barbara

2023 Villanova University; University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign;
Macalester University; Cornell University

Conferences

2026 PEIO; ISA; Registered Reports in IPE and Global Governance;
Environmental Politics and Governance; PEADS; APSA; IPES

2025 PEIO; ISA; Individuals in International Policy Workshop; APSA;
The Future of Development Assistance

2024 PEIO; APSA; Workshop on International Financial Institutions

2023 PEIO; APSA; IPES; Climate Pipeline Project Workshop; Resourc-
ing International Organizations (EFIO); Political Economy of Climate
and Environment (PECE) Conference; Political Economy of Aid (PEA)

2022 PEIO (declined); ISA; MPSA; EPSA; Yale IR Workshop; APSA;
IPES; German Development Economics Conference; DVPW-ÖGPW-
SVPW Joint International Political Economy Conference; Regional Re-
sponses to Global Economic Pressure

2021 PEIO; ISA; MPSA; NEWEPS; SOWEPS; HSE-ICSID; BSIA-GPE
Dissertation Workshop; InterGroup Relations Workshop; German De-
velopment 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, MWEPS 2026–present

Discussant, SOWEPS 2026

Organizing committee, Pre-ISA Workshop: Decline of the Liberal Inter-
national Order 2026

Discussant, BU GDCP Mini Conference 2025

Placement Director, UIUC 2025–present

Selection committee, Supporting Women in International Political Econ-
omy 2025

Organizing committee, Political Economy of Aid 2025–present
 Director, O’Brien-Udry Lab 2024–present
 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, \$5,000
MacMillan Center International Dissertation Research Fellowship, 2022, \$9,000
MacMillan Center Pre-Dissertation Grant, 2019, \$1,560
European Union Studies Grant, 2019, \$2,000
Foreign Language Area Studies Summer Fellowship, 2018, \$7,500

Reviewer

American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, 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, Regulation & Governance, Conflict Management and Peace Science, International Politics, Foreign Policy Analysis, Journal of International Development, Studies in Comparative and International Development, European Journal of Political Science, European Political Science Review, Journal of Development Studies, Environmental Development

Advising

Graduate Tobi Adewunmi (MA, 2026), Michael Huang, Jaeyoung Lee, Paul Un
Undergraduate Julianna Armetta (2025)

Languages

English (native), Serbian (advanced), Albanian (intermediate)