

# Cleo O'Brien-Udry

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University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign  
Department of Political Science  
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Employment	<b>University of Illinois, Urbana-Champaign</b>	
	Assistant professor	2024-present
	Affiliate, Institute for Sustainability, Energy, and the Environment	2026-present
	<b>University of Pennsylvania</b>	
	Postdoctoral associate, Christopher H. Browne Center	2023
Education	<b>Yale University</b>	
	Ph.D., Political Science	2023
	<b>Stanford University</b>	
	B.A. with Honors	2014
	M.A.	2015
Publications	3. "Innovation and interdependence: the case of gene-editing technology" (with Tyler Pratt) <b>International Studies Quarterly, 2025</b>	
	2. "The possibilities and limits of international status: evidence from foreign aid and public opinion" (with Lauren Ferry) <b>Review of International Organizations, 2024</b>	
	1. "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) <b>World Development, 2024</b>	
Under Review	The politics of the green energy transition in developing countries (R&R at <i>AJPS</i> )	
	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) (R&R at <i>GEP</i> )	
Working Papers	Aid, blame, and backlash	
	The political geography of the energy transition in the Global South	

	A domestic political economy of targeted aid	
In Progress	Superstar bureaucrats from the Global South (with Lindsay Dolan)	
	Communal property rights and expropriation: evidence from gold mining (with Christopher Udry)	
	The Power Dilemma: How the Green Energy Transition Reshapes Democracy in the Global South	
	Greening repression (with Gino Pauselli)	
	Strategic Rhetoric under Asymmetric Interdependence: Evidence from the 2025 USAID Withdrawal (with Kelly Matush, Jennifer Tobin, and Manon Fortemps)	
	The Political Economy of Carbon Offsets Scandals (with Mark Buntaine, Paasha Mahdavi, and Daniel Nielsen)	
	Observing aid withdrawal	
Other Work	"My Turn — How USAID funding cuts hurt Illinois" The News-Gazette. February 25, 2025. <a href="#">link</a>	
	"How will the end of federal funding to USAID impact institutions in Illinois?" The 21st Show. Illinois Public Media. February 18, 2025. <a href="#">link</a>	
	"Less stress, more confidence": Supporting Junior Scholars Online at the Graduate Student International Political Economy Workshop (with Alexander Kirss and Paul Ko) <b>PS: Political Science &amp; Politics, 2021</b>	
Teaching	<b>Department of Political Science, University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign</b>	
	Politics of International Development (UG)	<b>F2024, F2026</b>
	Politics of Climate and Development (UG)	<b>S2025, F2025, F2026</b>
	International Political Economy (G, UG)	<b>S2026, S2027</b>
	Global Climate Law and Policy (UG)	<b>S2027</b>
	<b>Department of Political Science, University of Pennsylvania</b>	
	Lecturer, Political Economy of Foreign Aid (UG)	<b>S2024</b>
	<b>Department of Political Science, Wesleyan University</b>	
	Lecturer, Political Economy of Foreign Aid (UG)	<b>S2022</b>

**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;  
Macalaster 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;  
Resourcing 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 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, MWEPS (2026-)  
Discussant, SOWEPS (2026)  
Organizing committee, Pre-ISA Workshop: Decline of the Liberal  
International Order (2026)  
Discussant, BU GDCP Mini Conference (2025)  
Placement Director, UIUC (2025-)  
Selection committee, Supporting Women in International Political Economy (2025)  
Organizing committee, Political Economy of Aid (2025-)  
Director, O'Brien-Udry Lab (2024-)  
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, 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)