

1 Research Interests

My research falls within the international relations subfield with interests in political economy and international cooperation. Specifically, my research addresses the impact of international cooperation and coordination on the creation and distribution of public goods — especially in the area of health and the environment.

My primary research agenda focuses on the distribution and impact of development aid for health (DAH). Until recently, development aid for health (DAH) has been viewed as largely technical, and less political than other forms of aid. In addition, unlike economic development and military aid, efforts to promote international health have been disregarded by some in international relations as primarily humanitarian in nature. In my dissertation, I used variations in recipient need, disease distribution, and donor interests to examine the political factors that determine why and where DAH is distributed.

My current research builds on my dissertation, addressing how aid is being distributed. Recent research on the distribution of DAH suggests that bilateral donors like the United States are selective about the how aid is delivered — opting to give aid to NGOs or IOs missions in recipient countries when faced with a potentially corrupt or institutionally weak recipient government. Several of my recent projects address this channel selectivity using the donor motivation and principal-agent theories of coordination and cooperation. Specifically, bilateral donors will either use NGOs and IOs as agents to decrease the cost of coordinating policy on complex problems, or will be reluctant to give up control of vital policy to an agent and thus will use NGOs and IOs predominantly for funding less vital interests. Using variation in disease and aid purposes, I analyze how and why bilateral donors select aid delivery channels. This research has spurred several manuscripts that suggest that donors' desire to maintain control over vital policy is a better predictor of delivery channel than recipient level governance measures. As part of this research I conducted a field study in sub-Saharan Africa to examine which diseases were getting the most aid and how that aid was being delivered. This field work will be incorporated into a book proposal and has also led to the development of a new line of inquiry into the tools used by recipient countries to manage implementing agents. These projects also provide considerable opportunity for collaboration across disciplines and across continents. Indeed, I hope to use connections made during the field study to initiate future collaboration with scholars, universities, and organizations in Africa.

I am also interested in the effects of international cooperation strategies on the production and distribution of other types of public and collective goods, including those related to the environment and democracy. During graduate school I coauthored two articles examining the distribution of foreign aid for democracy promotion. The first article, “Assisting Democrats or Resisting Dictators?”, published in *Democratization*, examines the impact of democracy promotion aid from the National Endowment for Democracy (NED) on democratization in recipient countries. The results questioned the effectiveness of NED grants as a tool for supporting democracy. The second paper, “Sponsoring Democracy”, published in *International Relations Quarterly*, examines the simultaneous processes of democracy aid and democratization. Using a simultaneous equation model, we find that carefully targeted democracy aid is positively correlated with improvements to democracy in recipient states. I have continued this line of research with additional projects addressing the

measurement of aid quality and the effectiveness of foreign aid for democracy promotion.

I also have a developing research agenda examining international cooperation and environmental protection. Specifically, I am interested in how international institutions assist states in domestic level preservation. Using the UNs World Heritage site designation as an entry point, I analyze how the UN affects states efforts at preservation and states use the designation to protect resources and alter future domestic battles over the use and protection of those resources. My projects in this area address several key questions including: Why would a state commit itself to protection of resources through an international institution without doing so at the national level first? Why would an entities meant to encourage preservation of resources deny states voluntary commitment to do so? And do domestic actors use the World Heritage Site designation as a means of tying the hands of future policy-makers.

2 Grants, Fellowship, and Award Applications

<i>Date</i>	<i>Proposal</i>	<i>Program/Agency</i>	<i>Amount</i>	<i>Awarded</i>
10/11	Development Aid For Health and Disease Security in Donor Countries	Robert Wood Johnson	\$89,000	No
10/12	Comparative Health Impacts of Legal Rights to Traditional Food Sources Among Native Americans	Robert Wood Johnson	\$89,000	No
6/13	Disease Specific Aid to Africa	Creative Arts, Humanities, and Social Sciences (CAHSS) Award Texas Tech University	\$8,500	Yes
9/14	Improving Aid: Coordination, Scope and Agenda-setting	Global Development Network New Horizons	\$20,000	Pending