

# Chase LaSpisa

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## NATIONAL HONORS

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**Fulbright Grantee**, 24-25 Fulbright U.S Study/Research Award to Norway 2024-2025

## EDUCATION

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Ph.D. Political Science, **University of Iowa** May 2026 (expected)

Dissertation: “*Maritime Zones of Contention: The Effect of Offshore Fossil-Fuel Resources on Maritime International Conflict and Cooperation*”

Committee: Sara Mitchell (chair), Brian Lai, Frederick Boehmke, Krista Wiegand

M.A. Political Science, **University of Iowa** December 2021

B.A. Political Science, **Oklahoma State University** May 2020

Minors: Economics & Russian Language and Literature

Summa Cum Laude & Honors College Degree

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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**LaSpisa, Chase**. 2025. “Dangerous Development: The Effect of Offshore Fossil-Fuel Discovery and Production on Maritime Diplomatic Conflict”. *International Interactions* 25 (1): 29-57. [\[LINK\]](#)

**LaSpisa, Chase** and Sara McLaughlin Mitchell. 2025. “Testing the Waters: Exploring Why Democracies Have More Maritime Conflict”. *Foreign Policy Analysis* 21 (2): 1-15. [\[LINK\]](#)

## MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW

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**LaSpisa, Chase**. “The Oil-Repression Nexus: Oil Reliance and Government Incentives to Repress” [\[LINK\]](#)

## MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

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**LaSpisa, Chase**. “From Land to Sea: The Domestic Origins of Maritime Conflict over Fossil-Fuel Resources” [\[LINK\]](#)

**LaSpisa, Chase**. “Revisiting the Resource Location-Conflict Link: The Impact of Natural Resource Proximity on Local Civil Conflict Intensity”

Millerd, Carly and **Chase LaSpisa**. “Protesting the Patriarchy: Public Gender Attitudes and Women’s Mobilization”

Millerd, Carly and **Chase LaSpisa**. “When it Rains, it Pours: The Effect of Natural Disasters on Low-Scale Social Conflict”

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Conflict and Political Violence, Maritime Conflict and Cooperation,  
Environmental/Natural Resource Politics, Social Mobilization, Resource Curse

## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>Research Consultant</b> , <i>Ulowa Center for Social Science Innovation</i> | Fall 2023-present       |
| <b>Research Assistant</b> , <i>Cooperation in Civil Wars</i>                   | Fall 2023-Summer 2024   |
| <b>Editorial Assistant</b> , <i>American Political Science Review</i>          | Fall 2022-Summer 2023   |
| <b>Editorial Assistant</b> , <i>Foreign Policy Analysis</i>                    | Spring 2021-Summer 2022 |
| <b>Research Assistant</b> , <i>Issue Correlates of War</i>                     | Summer 2021             |

## HONORS, AWARDS, & FELLOWSHIPS

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| <b>University of Iowa Post-Comprehensive Fellowship</b> , Declined                                           | Spring 2024 |
| <b>Lynne Rienner Award</b> for Best Paper Presented by a Graduate Student, International Studies Association | Fall 2023   |
| <b>Delegate</b> , Bridging the Gap New Era Workshop, University of Denver                                    | Fall 2023   |
| <b>Best Seminar Paper</b> , Departmental Award, University of Iowa                                           | Fall 2022   |
| <b>Graduate College Recruitment Fellowship</b> , University of Iowa                                          | Spring 2020 |
| <b>NSF Research Experience for Undergraduates</b> , University of North Texas                                | Summer 2019 |

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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- “Distinct Impacts of Offshore Oil and Offshore Natural Gas on Maritime Conflict”  
American Political Science Association. Philadelphia, PA. Fall 2024.
- “From Land to Sea: The Domestic Origins of Maritime Conflict over Fossil-Fuel Resources”  
International Studies Association. San Francisco, CA. Spring 2024.
- “Testing the Waters: Exploring Why Democracies Have More Maritime Conflict” with Sara McLaughlin Mitchell  
International Studies, Midwest. St Louis, MO. Fall 2023.
- “Maritime Zones of Contention: The Impact of Maritime Border-Proximate Offshore Oil Resources on Diplomatic Conflict”  
European Political Science Association. Glasgow, Scotland. June 2023.
- “Revisiting the Resource Location-Conflict Link: The Impact of Natural Resource Proximity on Local Civil Conflict Intensity”  
International Studies Association. Montréal, Québec, Canada. Spring 2023.
- “Fishing for Oil: The Effect of Offshore Oil and Natural Gas Reserves on Maritime Diplomatic Conflict”  
International Studies, Midwest. St Louis, MO. Fall 2022.

## TEACHING INTERESTS

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International Relations, Interstate Conflict, Civil Conflict, Foreign Policy, Conflict Management, Maritime International Relations, Social Mobilization, Natural Resource Politics, Research Design

## TEACHING & MENTORING EXPERIENCE

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### Primary Instructor

International Conflict Fall 2025

### Workshop Instructor, Iowa Social Science Research Center

Introduction to Stata Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Introduction to Data Visualization using Stata Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

### Graduate Teaching Assistant, University of Iowa

Introduction to American Foreign Policy (online) Fall 2021-Fall 2022

Introduction to International Relations Spring 2021

Introduction to American Foreign Policy Fall 2020

### Undergraduate Teaching Assistant, Oklahoma State University

Introduction to Comparative Politics Spring 2019

### Mentorship, Department of Political Science

Peer Mentor for Incoming Graduate Students 2021- Present

Undergraduate Research Assistant Mentor Spring, Fall 2023

Mentored and managed two undergraduate research assistants on a project collecting longitude and latitude data on maritime disputes and taught them the basics of the research and data collection process.

## ACADEMIC SERVICE & INVOLVEMENT

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**Reviewer**, International Interactions 2024 - Present

**At-large Board Member**, International Studies Association-Midwest 2022 - 2024

**Vice-President**, Graduate Association of Political Science, University of Iowa 2021 - 2023

**Student Union Rep.**, Graduate Association of Political Science, University of Iowa 2020 - 2021

## PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

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International Studies Association

Bridging the Gap

American Political Science Association

## ANALYTICAL & TECHNICAL SKILLS

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Software: Stata, R, Tableau, QGIS, ArcGIS, Microsoft Office, SPSS, Qualtrics, and Python (basic)

## REFERENCES

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Sara McLaughlin Mitchell  
Professor and Collegiate Fellow  
University of Iowa  
[sara-mitchell@uiowa.edu](mailto:sara-mitchell@uiowa.edu)

Brian Lai  
Associate Professor  
University of Iowa  
[brian-lai@uiowa.edu](mailto:brian-lai@uiowa.edu)

Elizabeth Menninga  
Associate Professor  
University of Iowa  
[elizabeth-menninga@uiowa.edu](mailto:elizabeth-menninga@uiowa.edu)