

ADAM LICHTENHELD

EDUCATION

University of California, Berkeley

Ph.D, M.A. in Political Science

Dissertation: “Making Migrations: Population Displacement Strategies in Civil Wars”

Major Fields: International Relations, Comparative Politics, Public Policy and Organizations

Berkeley, CA

15/08/2019

University of Wisconsin-Madison

B.A. in Political Science and International Studies

Thesis: “Exclusion to Expansion: Internally Displaced Persons and the Global Refugee Regime”

Madison, WI

18/05/2008

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Leiden University

Assistant Professor of Peace Studies, Conflict Resolution & International Relations

The Hague, NL

06/11/2025 - present

Stanford University

Research Affiliate, Immigration Policy Lab

Executive Director, Immigration Policy Lab

Stanford, CA

07/01/2025 - 31/10/2025

18/07/2022 - 1/07/2025

Georgetown University

Affiliated Scholar, Institute for the Study of International Migration

Washington, DC

01/09/2018 - present

Yale University

Postdoctoral Associate, MacMillan Center for International and Area Studies

Lecturer, Department of Political Science

New Haven, CT

01/07/2019 - 30/06/2020

01/07/2019 - 31/12/2019

Makerere University

Research Associate, Refugee Law Project

Kampala, Uganda

01/01/2016 - 15/05/2017

PUBLICATIONS

Books and Book Chapters

Lichtenheld, A. “Armed Conflict and Internal Displacement,” in Cantor, David, Megan Bradley, Winifred Ekezie, Utz Johann Pape, and Natalia Baal, eds. *Oxford Handbook on Internal Displacement* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, Forthcoming 2025).

Lichtenheld, A. *Guilt by Location: Forced Displacement and Population Sorting in Civil Wars* (New York: Cambridge University Press, 2024).

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Matanock, A. and Lichtenheld, A. “[How Does International Intervention Work? A Mechanism for Securing Peace Settlements in Civil Conflicts.](#)” *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 52, No. 4 (2022): pp. 1810-30.

Carnegie, A., Howe, K., Lichtenheld, A., and Mukhopadhyay, D. “[Winning Hearts and Minds for Rebel Rulers: Foreign Aid and Military Contestation in Syria.](#)” *British Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 52, No. 3 (2022): pp. 1333-1354.

Lichtenheld, A. and Schon, J. “[The Consequences of Internal Displacement on Conflict Dynamics: Evidence from Syria.](#)” *Political Geography*, Vol. 86 (2021): pp. 1023-1046.

Carnegie, A., Howe, K., Lichtenheld, A., and Mukhopadhyay, D. “[The Effects of Foreign Aid on Rebel Governance: Evidence from a Large-Scale U.S. Aid Program in Syria.](#)” *Economics & Politics*, Vol. 34, No. 1 (2021): pp. 41-66.

- Lichtenheld, A. “Explaining Population Displacement Strategies in Civil Wars: A Cross-National Analysis.” *International Organization*, Vol. 74, No. 2 (Spring 2020): pp. 253-294.
- Lichtenheld, A. “Beyond Ethno-Sectarian Cleansing: The Assortative Logic of Forced Displacement in Syria.” *Refugee and Migration Movements in the Middle East*. Ed. Marc Lynch. Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Series No. 25 (March 2017): pp. 42-48.
- Lichtenheld, A. “Forced Displacement and Identity Politics in the Middle East.” *Nations and Nationalism*. Ed. Marc Lynch. POMEPS Series No. 14 (June 2015): pp. 22-25.

Works in Progress

- MacDonald, M., and Lichtenheld, A. “Support for Refugee Integration in a Major Refugee-Hosting Country: Evidence from Kenya.”
- Lichtenheld, A. “The Stayer’s Penalty: Wartime Migration and Social Acceptance of Returnees in Post-Islamic State Iraq.”
- Lichtenheld, A., and Steele, A. “State Responses to the Internally Displaced: A New Dataset.”
- Carnegie, A., Gracheva, A., Lichtenheld, A., and Mukhopadhyay, D. “Balancing Act: Terrorism and Regime Stability.”
- Adong, A., Clingain, C., Hainmueller, J., Lichtenheld, A., MacDonald, M., Musiime, D., Weber, S., Wendo, A., and Zeitlin, A. “Building Business Networks to Strengthen Refugee Economic and Social Integration.”

Policy Analysis and Program Evaluations

- Lichtenheld, A., and Steele, A. “Three Decades of Policies on Internal Displacement: Patterns, Progress, and an Uncertain Future.” *Researching Internal Displacement*, March 2026.
- Lichtenheld, A. Gang, T., Bezares Calderón, A., and Olawole, I. *Mediating Resilience: Inclusive and Climate-Informed Pathways to Peace* Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2026).
- Olawole, I., Ribar, M., Sheely, R., Lichtenheld, A., Lance, K., Karfo, S. *Equipped for Peace: Conflict Resolution Training and Youth Violence Prevention in Niger* Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2026).
- MacDonald, M., Lichtenheld, A., and Asrat, T. “Kenya embraces refugee integration – and citizens are on board.” *The New Humanitarian*, April 2025.
- Steele, A., Schwartz, S., and Lichtenheld, A. “The Politics of Forced Displacement and How States Respond.” *Researching Internal Displacement*, April 2024.
- Lichtenheld, A., Lupieri, S., and Chaudhuri, N. “Resistant to Reform? Improving U.S. Immigration Policy Through Data, Evidence, and Innovation.” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace (2024).
- Micinski, N., Lichtenheld, A., and Norman, K. “Israel’s mass displacement of Gazans fits strategy of using migration as a tool of war.” *The Conversation* (2023).
- Lichtenheld, A. *Mobilizing Communities to Build Social Cohesion and Reduce Vulnerability to Violent Extremism: Evidence from a Peacebuilding Program in Niger*. Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2022).
- Lichtenheld, A. and Sheely, R. “Overcoming Misperceptions about Violent Extremism.” Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2022).
- Lichtenheld, A. *Towards Durable Solutions to Displacement: Understanding Social Acceptance of Returnees in Post-ISIS Iraq*. Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2021).
- Lichtenheld, A. *‘Fear of the Unknown’: Religion, Identity, and Conflict in Northern Nigeria*. Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2021).
- Lichtenheld, A., and Alam, M. “To Ease Iraq’s Displacement Crisis, Restorative Justice and Peacebuilding are Vital.” *Just Security* (2021).

- Kelly, L., Nogueira-Budny, D., Anuj, H., Butscher, J., Dani, A., Lichtenheld, A., Dodds, E., Freymeyer, C., Rebosio, M., van der Werf, M., and Zheng, J. “World Bank Engagement in Situations of Conflict: An Evaluation of FY10–20 Experience.” Independent Evaluation Group. Washington, D.C.: The World Bank (2021)
- Alam, M., Lichtenheld, A., and Sheely, R. “The Pandemic Has Reshaped Conflicts Around the World. Here’s What Got Worse.” *The Washington Post Monkey Cage* (2021)
- Aron, G., Herrera Kelly, D., Lichtenheld, A., and Sheely, R. *A Clash of Contagions: The Impact of COVID-19 on Conflict in Nigeria, Colombia, and Afghanistan*. Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2021).
- Lichtenheld, A., Olawole, I., and Sheely, R. “Prioritizing Research and Learning within the Global Fragility Strategy.” Washington, D.C.: Mercy Corps (2021).
- Lichtenheld, A. “Strategic Displacement and the Politics of Wartime Mobility: Implications for Policymakers and Practitioners.” UNHCR working paper, contribution to UNHCR’s *State of the World’s Forcibly Displaced 2021* (2020).
- Lichtenheld, A. *What Makes Refugees and Migrants Vulnerable to Detention in Libya? A Microlevel Study of the Determinants of Detention*, Mixed Migration Centre of North Africa (2020).
- Lichtenheld, A. “Guilt by Location.” *Foreign Policy* (2020).
- Lichtenheld, A. “You Can’t Go Home Again: Pressures and Prospects of Refugee Return to Syria.” Institute for the Study of International Migration, Georgetown University (2019).
- Lichtenheld, A. “How to Really Help the World’s New Refugees.” *The Washington Post Monkey Cage* (2015).
- Lichtenheld, A. “The Identity Politics of Displacement in the Middle East.” *The Washington Post Monkey Cage* (2015).
- Lichtenheld, A. “Syria, Libya, and the Challenge of Intervention.” *UN Dispatch* (2014).
- Lichtenheld, A. “The Problem with ‘Safe Zones’ in the Middle East.” *UN Dispatch* (2014).
- Lichtenheld, A. “What Boko Haram Has Learned from ISIS.” *UN Dispatch* (2014).
- Lichtenheld, A. “The Aid Diversion Dilemma.” *UN Dispatch* (2014).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

International Studies Association	2026
<i>Distinguished Book Award in Ethnicity, Nationalism, and Migration (for “Guilt by Location”)</i>	
Conflict Research Society	2025
<i>Book of the Year (for “Guilt by Location”)</i>	
Stanford Impact Labs, Stanford University	2024 - 2029
<i>Stage 3 Grant for Immigration Policy Lab</i>	\$2,500,000
Stanford University	2024-2029
<i>Private donation for Immigration Policy Lab</i>	\$500,000
Innovations for Poverty Action	2024 - 2025
<i>Displaced Livelihoods Initiative Research Grant</i>	\$60,000
King Center for Global Development, Stanford University	2024
<i>Global Development Research Grant</i>	\$25,000
King Center for Global Development, Stanford University	2023
<i>Global Development Research Grant</i>	\$75,000
International Political Economy Society	2019
<i>David A. Lake Best Paper Award</i>	

National Science Foundation <i>Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant</i>	2018 - 2019 \$20,569
Truman National Security Network <i>National Security Fellowship</i>	2019
Phi Beta Kappa Northern California Association <i>Graduate Fellowship</i>	2018 - 2019 \$10,000
Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation <i>Dissertation Fellowship</i>	2018 - 2019 \$20,000
African Studies Center, University of California, Berkeley <i>Rocca Dissertation Fellowship</i>	2016 - 2017 \$5,000
Human Rights Center, University of California, Berkeley School of Law <i>Human Rights Fellowship</i>	2016 - 2017 \$5,000
U.S. Institute of Peace <i>Jennings Randolph Peace Fellowship</i>	2015 - 2016 \$20,000
University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation <i>Herb York Global Security Fellowship</i>	2015 - 2016 \$18,000
African Studies Center, University of California, Berkeley <i>Rocca Dissertation Fellowship</i>	2015 - 2016 \$6,000
Institute of International Studies, University of California, Berkeley <i>John L. Simpson Research Fellowship</i>	2014 - 2015 \$5,000

TEACHING

Thesis Lab <i>Instructor, Institute of Security and Global Affairs, Leiden University</i>	2025 - 2026 <i>The Hague, NL</i>
Qualitative Research Methods <i>Instructor, Institute of Security and Global Affairs, Leiden University</i>	2025 <i>The Hague, NL</i>
Security and Irregular Migration <i>Instructor, Institute for Security Governance, U.S. Naval Postgraduate School</i>	2022 - 2023 <i>Monterrey, CA</i>
The Politics of Forced Migration and Population Displacement <i>Lecturer, Yale University</i>	2019 <i>New Haven, CT</i>
Introduction to Comparative Politics <i>Graduate Student Instructor (with M. Steven Fish), University of California, Berkeley</i>	2015 <i>Berkeley, CA</i>
Ethics and Justice in International Affairs <i>Graduate Student Instructor (with Amy Gurowitz), University of California, Berkeley</i>	2014 <i>Berkeley, CA</i>
WAR! <i>Graduate Student Instructor (with Ron Hassner), University of California, Berkeley</i>	2014 <i>Berkeley, CA</i>
Introduction to International Relations <i>Graduate Student Instructor (with Amy Gurowitz), University of California, Berkeley</i>	2013 <i>Berkeley, CA</i>

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Mercy Corps Washington, DC
Senior Researcher 2020 - 2022

- Planned, coordinated, and implemented research studies and program evaluations related to democracy and governance, conflict, and violence prevention in Afghanistan, Iraq, Kenya, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, and Uganda.

UNHCR New York, NY
Consultant 2020

- Wrote a research paper on weaponized displacement and its implications for policymakers.

The World Bank Washington, DC
Senior Conflict Analyst 2020

- Provided subject matter and analytical expertise for an evaluation of World Bank engagement in fragile and conflict-affected states, including technical guidance and consultation on conflict prevention and stabilization.

Mixed Migration Centre Tunis, Tunisia
Research Analyst 2019

- Conducted an analysis of the determinants of refugee and migrant detention in Libya using quantitative survey data from 5,000 refugees and migrants gathered over a two-year period.

Causal Design Jordan, Lebanon, Syria
Evaluation Team Leader 2018-2019

- Led an evaluation of a UK-funded humanitarian program managed by Mercy Corps in Syria, including the research design; fieldwork in Lebanon, Jordan, and Syria; and data analysis.

USAID Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation Berlin, Germany
Consultant 2018

- Reviewed research on conflict and state fragility and wrote a report on key conceptual, theoretical, and empirical debates, and recommendations for enhancing USAID's early warning efforts

U.S. State Department, USAID Istanbul, Turkey
Monitoring & Evaluation Trainer 2016 - 2017

- Led training of program staff on research design, measurement, data collection techniques, remote research management, and analysis of qualitative and quantitative data.

Dexis Consulting Group (USAID) Istanbul, Turkey
Senior Research Analyst, USAID 2016 - 2017

- Monitored and analyzed political, military, and social dynamics in Aleppo, Idlib, and Homs, and conducted oral and written briefings for USAID/OTI, the U.S. State Department, and other donors.

Chemonics International Washington, DC
Program Manager 2010 - 2012

- Helped develop and implement USAID programs in Afghanistan, Libya, Sudan, and Pakistan

National Geographic Glimpse Amman, Jordan
Contributing Editor 2008 - 2009

- Reported and wrote narrative articles on gender, forced migration, and economic issues in Jordan.

INVITED TALKS, CONFERENCES, AND WORKSHOPS

Uppsala University Peace & Conflict Speaker Series (Uppsala, Sweden)	2026
APSA Annual Meeting (Los Angeles, CA)	2023
Evidence 2 Action: Confronting Displacement in a Changed World (Berkeley, CA)	2022
Cambridge University Forced Displacement Workshop (Cambridge, UK)	2020
McGill University Peace and Security Studies Speaker Series (Montreal, CN)	2020
Tufts University Human Security Lecture Series (Medford, MA)	2019
Columbia University International Politics Seminar Series (New York, NY)	2019
APSA Annual Meeting (Washington, DC)	2019
ISA Annual Convention (Toronto, CN)	2019
Peace Science Society International Meeting (Austin, TX)	2018
IDMC Conference “Forced Displacement and Development” (Geneva, CH)	2018
SOAS Refugee Law Initiative Annual Conference (University of London, UK)	2018
“Violence and Refugees in the Arab Spring” workshop (Hamburg, DE)	2018
Yale Program on Order, Conflict and Violence Speaker Series (New Haven, CT)	2018
Conflict, Security and Peacebuilding Speaker Series (University of Amsterdam, NL)	2018
Olympia Summer Academy on Conflict and Political Violence (Nafplio, GR)	2017
RSC Oxford Conference “Beyond Crisis: Rethinking Refugee Studies” (Oxford, UK)	2017
“Hosting Migrants and Refugees” workshop, Bahcesehir University (Istanbul, TR)	2017
Association for the Study of Forced Migration (IASFM) Convention (Poznan, PL)	2016
APSA Annual Meeting (San Francisco, CA)	2015
ISA Annual Convention (New Orleans, LA)	2015
Bridging the Gap: New Era Foreign Policy Conference (Washington, DC)	2014

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Institute on Qualitative and Multi-Method Research <i>Syracuse University</i>	2015 <i>Syracuse, NY</i>
Consortium for Political and Social Research (ISPSR) <i>University of Michigan</i>	2015 <i>Ann Arbor, MI</i>

SKILLS

Languages	English (native), Arabic (conversational)
Fieldwork	Afghanistan, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Lebanon, Kenya, Niger, Nigeria, Syria, Turkey, Uganda
Software	Stata, R, Python, Dedoose, Adobe, Microsoft Office, Qualtrics, SurveyCTO
Methods	RCTs, quasi-experimental methods (matching, RDD, etc.), statistical analysis, qualitative research (interviews, focus groups, ethnography), context assessments, conflict analysis, case studies