# Jay Ulfelder, Ph.D.

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## Employment History

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**Program Manager, Nonviolent Action Lab, 2022–2025**
Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA

- Led work of RAs and staff on Crowd Counting Consortium project, making open data on U.S. protest events.
- Authored analytical pieces for project blog and Ash Center website on U.S. protest activity.
- Started and hosted Lab's podcast.
- Supported Prof. Chenoweth's work on various research projects as needed.

**Carr Center Fellow, 2020–2022**
Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA

- Working at the Nonviolent Action Lab led by Prof. Erica Chenoweth.

**Quantitative Geopolitical Analyst, 2017–2019**
Kensho Technologies, Tysons, VA

- Collaborated on the design, prototyping, testing, and refinement of new software tools for political and financial analysts at a startup that was acquired by S&P Global in late 2018.
- Emphasis on the development of new data streams using natural language processing and classification and prediction via machine learning and statistical modeling.

**Freelance Data Scientist, 2011–2017**
Key projects included:

- Led the initial design and implementation of the Early Warning Project for the U.S. Holocaust Memorial Museum's Simon-Skjodt Center for the Prevention of Genocide.
- Developed forecasting questions and contributed predictions as a superforecaster for Good Judgment, Inc.
- Authored Dart-Throwing Chimp, an award-winning blog on international affairs with an emphasis on statistical analysis and forecasting.

**Research Director, Political Instability Task Force (PITF), 2001–2010**
Science Applications International Corp. (SAIC), Vienna, VA

- Led U.S. government–funded research program in the design, execution, and presentation of quantitative and qualitative analysis to help forecast and explain civil war, democratization, mass atrocities, and other forms of

political violence and change in countries worldwide.
- Designed, conducted, and reported findings from research projects using methods such as parametric and semiparametric regression, multilevel modeling, Bayesian model averaging, and process-tracing case studies.
- Helped program's sponsors interpret and report PITF findings and forecasts.
- Provided strategic guidance for the research program as a whole and daily guidance to SAIC staff working on Task Force projects.

**Senior Research Analyst, Telecommunications Research Group, 2000–2001**
Warren Communications News, Washington, DC
- Researched and wrote book-length reports on telecommunications companies and industry sectors for a trade audience.

**Program Manager, International Studies Division, 1998–2000**
Evidence Based Research (EBR), Vienna, VA
- Conducted research and managed teams of researchers engaged in projects for U.S. government clients on topics in international affairs.

**Senior Risk Analyst, Europe and the Former Soviet Union, 1997–1998**
Kroll Information Services, Vienna, VA
- Wrote daily articles and occasional papers on events or trends affecting political risks confronting multinational firms in Eurasia.

## Education

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Ph.D., Stanford University, Political Science, 1997
Major Field: Comparative Politics
Minor Fields: International Relations, Organizations Theory
Dissertation: "Ethnic and Nationalist Protest in the Baltic Republics, 1987–1991: Causes, Dynamics, and Consequences"
Committee: David Holloway (advisor), Susan Olzak, Philippe C. Schmitter

A.B., Duke University, Comparative Area Studies–USSR and Eastern Europe, 1991
Honors: magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa
Russian language study at Leningrad State University, 1989 and 1990

Phillips Academy (Andover, MA), 1987

## Publications

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*Book:*

*Dilemmas of Democratic Consolidation: A Game-Theory Approach* (Lynne Rienner, 2010)

*Journal Articles and Book Chapters:*

"Protests in the United States on Palestine and Israel, 2023–2024", co-authored with Erica Chenoweth, Soha Hammam, and Jeremy Pressman. *Social Movement Studies* (18 October 2024).

"Protests Under Trump, 2017–2021", co-authored with Jeremy Pressman, Erica Chenoweth, Tommy Leung, and L. Nathan Perkins. *Mobilization*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (March 2022): 13–26.

"Can Structural Conditions Explain the Onset of Nonviolent Uprisings?" co-authored with Erica Chenoweth. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 61, No. 2 (February 2017): 298–324.

"Mining Texts to Efficiently Generate Global Data on Political Regime Types," co-authored with Shahryar Minhas and Michael D. Ward. *Research & Politics*, Vol. 2, No. 3 (July 2015)

"Democratic Transitions," in Jeffrey Haynes, ed. *The Routledge Handbook of Democratization* (London and New York: Routledge, 2012)

"A Global Model for Forecasting Political Instability," co-authored with Robert H. Bates, David L. Epstein, Jack A. Goldstone, Ted Robert Gurr, Michael Lustik, Monty M. Marshall, and Mark R. Woodward, *American Journal of Political Science* Vol. 54, No. 1 (January 2010): 190–208

"International Integration and Democratization: An Event History Analysis," *Democratization* Vol. 15, No. 2 (April 2008): 272–296.

"Natural-Resource Wealth and the Survival of Autocracy," *Comparative Political Studies*, Vol. 140, No. 6 (August 2007), pp. 995–1018.

"Modeling Transitions to and from Democracy," co-authored with Michael Lustik, *Democratization*,Vol. 14, No. 3 (May/June 2007), pp. 351–387.

"Contentious Collective Action and the Breakdown of Authoritarian Regimes," *International Political Science Review*, Vol. 26, No. 3 (July 2005), pp. 311–34.

"How to Construct Stable Democracies," co-authored with Jack A. Goldstone, *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (Winter 2004–05), pp. 9–20.

"It's All about State Structure: New Findings on Revolutionary Origins from Global Data," with Jack A. Goldstone, Ted Robert Gurr, and Monty G. Marshall, *Homo Oeconomicus*, Vol. 21, No. 2 (2004), pp. 429–55.

"Baltic Protest in the Gorbachev Era: Movement Content and Dynamics," *Global Review of Ethnopolitics*, Vol. 3, Nos. 3–4 (March/June 2004), pp. 23–43.

*Selected Conference Papers:*

"The Impacts of the 2020 Antiracism Uprising on the 2020 Presidential Election," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (April 2023)

"Promising Initial Results from a New Mass-Atrocities Early Warning System," presented at the Annual Conference of the International Studies Association, New Orleans, LA (February 2015)

"Mining Texts to Efficiently Generate Global Data on Political Regime Types," co-authored with Shahryar Minhas and Michael D. Ward, presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC (September 2014)

"Using the 'Wisdom of (Expert) Crowds' to Forecast Mass Atrocities," presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Toronto, ON (March 2014)

"A Multimodel Ensemble for Forecasting Onsets of State-Led Mass Killing," presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (September 2013)

"Economic Growth and Political Instability," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC (September 2010)

"Pathways to Political Liberalization in Dictatorships," paper presented at the National Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (April 2009)

"Why Is Democracy So Fragile? Implications of a Formal Model," paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA (August 2008); earlier version presented at the National Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (April 2008)

"Gambling on Reform," paper presented at the National Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL (April 2007)

"Forecasting in Political Science," roundtable at Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA (September 2006)

"Modeling Transitions to and from Democracy," paper co-authored with Mike Lustik and presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC (September 2005)

"A Global Forecasting Model of Political Instability," paper co-authored with Jack A. Goldstone, David L. Epstein, Ted Robert Gurr, Mike Lustik, and Monty G. Marshall and presented at the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC (September 2005)

## Other Professional Skills

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Software: highly skilled in R, beginner in Python

Languages: Russian, Spanish (both fluent in the past, now rusty)

Winner, Best Blog (Individual), Online Achievement in International Studies Awards, 2014, 2015, and 2016 for Dart-Throwing Chimp

Freelance feature journalism published in various outlets, including FiveThirtyEight, Foreign Policy, Baltimore City Paper, and Running Times Magazine

Good Judgment Project superforecaster