

CONTACT INFORMATION	Department of Political Science Stanford University	maemac@stanford.edu www.maemacdonald.com
EDUCATION	Stanford University Stanford, CA 2021–2027 (expected) Ph.D., Department of Political Science - Committee: Jeremy Weinstein (co-chair), James D. Fearon (co-chair), Jens Hainmueller, Michael Allen, and Judith Goldstein - Knight-Hennessy Scholar University of Oxford Oxford, UK 2015–2018 B.A., Philosophy, Politics, and Economics (<i>Double First Class</i>)	
RESEARCH INTERESTS	Forced displacement and migration; foreign aid and development; international organizations; African politics; causal inference; survey and field experiments; archival and qualitative methods.	
PUBLICATIONS	Lisa Blaydes, James D. Fearon, and Mae MacDonald . 2025. “ Understanding Intimate Partner Violence .” <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 28:351–374.	
WORKING PAPERS	Mae MacDonald . “Push, Not Peace: Reconsidering the Drivers of Refugee Return.” Mae MacDonald . “Aid Cuts and the Politics of Refugee Hosting.” <i>Under review</i> . Sigrid Weber, Mae MacDonald , Adam Lichtenheld, Jessica Wolff, Alex Wendo, Annet Adong, Clare Clingain, David Musiime, Andrew Zeitlin, and Jens Hainmueller. “Does Building Business Networks Strengthen Refugee Economic and Social Integration?” Mae MacDonald . “Losing Hearts and Minds? Misattribution of U.S. Foreign Policy in the Global South.” Mae MacDonald and Adam Lichtenheld. “Support for Refugee Integration in a Major Refugee-Hosting Country: Evidence from Kenya.” <i>Immigration Policy Lab Working Paper Series</i> . <i>Under review</i> .	
WORKS IN PROGRESS	Mae MacDonald . “How Refugee Crises End.” <i>Book project</i> . Mae MacDonald . ““Better to Die by Bullet Than Hunger”: Aid Withdrawal and Forced Refugee Return.” Mae MacDonald . “Trump’s Foreign Policy Shocks and Attitudes Towards the US and China.” Mae MacDonald . “Why Refugees Reject Economic Integration.” Mae MacDonald . “The Evolution of Public Support for Refugee Integration: Policy Implementation and Media Narratives in Kenya.”	

POLICY AND PUBLIC WRITING	Mae MacDonald , Adam Lichtenheld, and Tolossa Asrat. 2025. “Kenya Embraces Refugee Integration – and Citizens Are on Board.” <i>The New Humanitarian</i> . Reprinted in <i>The EastAfrican</i> , a Kenyan newspaper.	
	Mae MacDonald . 2025. “Rapid Response Evidence: Tracking the Impact of US Aid Cuts in Kakuma Refugee Camp.” Policy Brief for UN Refugee Agency.	
	Mae MacDonald . 2024. “Tackling Small Boats and Building Global Resilience: A Twofold Policy Plan on Refugees.” Policy Brief commissioned by the UK Cabinet Office, King’s College London Centre for Grand Strategy.	
AWARDS AND HONORS	Centennial Teaching Assistant Award , Stanford University Award recognizing outstanding teaching assistants at Stanford.	2026
	Diversifying Academia, Recruiting Excellence (DARE) Fellow , Stanford University Competitive (1 year) full-tuition graduate fellowship for students who will diversify the professoriate.	2025
	Ric Weiland Graduate Fellow , Stanford University Award to 20 exceptional Ph.D. students across the Humanities & Sciences.	2024
	Carnegie International Policy Fellow , Johns Hopkins University Fellowship and network for scholars at the intersection of policy and research.	2024
	Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Fellow , Stanford University Competitive graduate fellowship for early-stage students from underrepresented backgrounds.	2021
	Knight-Hennessy Scholar , Stanford University Competitive (3 year) full-tuition graduate fellowship (similar to the Rhodes Scholarship in the UK).	2021
	YouGov Fellowship , University of Oxford Award for graduate and undergraduate students to conduct their dissertation research through YouGov’s survey platform.	2018
	E.T. Warner Prize for Excellence in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics , University of Oxford Award for academic excellence in P.P.E. at Christ Church college.	2018
	Academic Scholar , University of Oxford Award for academic merit following first-year examinations.	2016
GRANTS	Crankstart Scholar , University of Oxford Award for undergraduate students from lower-income households.	2015
	Stanford School of Humanities & Sciences GRO (\$5,495)	2026
	J-PAL/IPA Displaced Livelihoods Initiative (\$60,000) with Jeremy Weinstein and Adam Lichtenheld	2024
	Stanford Institute for Economics Policy Research (\$5,200)	2024
	Ric Weiland Graduate Fellowship (\$4,000)	2024

	King Center on Global Development (\$25,000) with Jeremy Weinstein and Adam Lichtenheld	2023
	J-PAL/IPA Displaced Livelihoods Initiative (\$10,000)	2023
	Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (\$9,000)	2023
	Stanford Europe Center (\$1,000)	2023
	King Center on Global Development (\$5,000)	2023
	Sohaib and Sara Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies (\$3,000)	2023
	Stanford Impact Labs (\$4,000) with Jens Hainmueller	2022
	King Center on Global Development (\$8,000)	2022
	Stanford Institute for Research in the Social Sciences (\$1,500)	2022
	Stanford EDGE (\$6,000)	2021
	YouGov Fellowship (\$12,000)	2018
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE	YouGov , Graduate Researcher (Public Sector), UK	2018–2019
	Movement on the Ground , Refugee Camp Volunteer, Greece	2021
	CalAid , Refugee Camp Volunteer, Greece	2017
	The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network , Intern, UK	2017
	Global Policy Institute , Research Intern, UK	2017
	Political Party , Intern, UK	2015
	House of Commons , Intern, UK	2014
TEACHING	Teaching Assistant , Stanford University	
	• Introduction to International Relations (James D. Fearon), Fall 2024	
	• War and Peace in American Foreign Policy (Kenneth Schultz), Spring 2024	
	• Introduction to International Relations (James D. Fearon), Fall 2022	
	Class Co-Coordinator , Stanford University	
	• Climate Displacement, Migration, and Mobility (Chris Field), Spring 2025	
	Research Assistant (RA) Supervision	
	• Policy Research Internship Supervisor (34 RAs), University of California Washington Program with the Political Violence Lab, 2025–2026	
	• Undergraduate Research Supervisor (3 RAs), Stanford IRiSS Research Assistant Internship Program, 2023–2025	
	• Undergraduate Research Supervisor (2 RAs), Stanford University, 2023–present	
DATASETS	Global Refugee Return (GRR) Dataset. Original dataset of all protracted refugee situations (293 origin–asylum dyads; 1980–2023) that corrects errors in UNHCR stock and repatriation figures, and introduces new indicators of <i>de facto</i> asylum conditions and forced return practices. <i>Forthcoming</i> .	
	UNHCR Funding Dataset. Donor-level contributions to the UN Refugee	

Agency and country-level allocation of expenditures within recipient countries.
Forthcoming.

TALKS AND CONFERENCES

Scheduled: American Political Science Association (APSA); APSA Dissertation Workshop Series (Citizenship and Migration); Peace Science Society (International) Annual Meeting.

2026: Online Peace Science Colloquium; Berlin Meeting on the Political Economy of Development (MoPED); World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement Research Conference; Yale Research Initiative on Innovation & Scale (Y-RISE) International Conference on Migration and Development; Berkeley-Stanford IPE Colloquium; Immigration Policy Lab Workshop; Stanford International Affairs Society.

2025: American Political Science Association (APSA); World Bank-UNHCR Joint Data Center on Forced Displacement Research Conference; Forced Displacement Working Group (FDWG), Penn Development Research Initiative; Immigration Policy Lab Workshop.

2024: American Political Science Association (APSA); International Studies Association (ISA); APSA Migration & Citizenship Section Dissertation Workshop; UNHCR-IPA Evidence in Action: Displaced Livelihoods Initiative in Africa; Immigration Policy Lab Workshop.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Immigration Policy Lab, Stanford University

Forced Displacement Working Group, Penn Development Research Initiative (PDRI-DevLab), University of Pennsylvania

Centre for Grand Strategy, War Studies Department, King's College London

Carnegie International Policy Scholars Consortium and Network (IPSCON), Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs, Johns Hopkins University

Political Violence Lab, University of California Merced

SERVICE

Reviewer

Journal of Conflict Resolution, *Journal of Immigrant & Refugee Studies*

Mentorship

- Refugee-Led Research Hub (East Africa), 2023
- Young African Research Network (YARN), 2024
- Stanford Political Science Pathways to PhD, 2023
- Stanford IRISS Research Assistant Internship Program, 2023-2024
- Stanford First Year Graduate Student Mentor, 2023

SKILLS AND FIELDWORK

Computing: R, L^AT_EX, Python, QGIS, Google Earth Engine (GEE)

Fieldwork: Kenya (2022, 2023, 2024, 2025); Uganda (2022, 2023); Thailand (2022); Greece (2016, 2021); UK (2017)

Additional training: Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University (2023)

Languages: English (native); French (intermediate)

Archives: UNHCR (2023)