

# Mae MacDonald

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<b>CONTACT INFORMATION</b>	Department of Political Science Stanford University	maemac@stanford.edu www.maemacdonald.com
<b>EDUCATION</b>	<b>Stanford University</b> Stanford, CA Ph.D., Department of Political Science <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Committee: Jeremy Weinstein (co-chair), James D. Fearon (co-chair), Jens Hainmueller, Judith Goldstein</li><li>Knight-Hennessy Scholar</li></ul> <b>University of Oxford</b> Oxford, UK B.A., Philosophy, Politics, and Economics ( <i>Double First Class</i> )	2021–2027 (expected) 2015–2018
<b>RESEARCH INTERESTS</b>	Forced displacement and migration; political economy of development and foreign aid; international organizations and cooperation; public opinion; Africa; gender.	
<b>PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS</b>	Lisa Blaydes, James D. Fearon, and <b>Mae MacDonald</b> . 2025. “Understanding Intimate Partner Violence.” <i>Annual Review of Political Science</i> 28:351–374.	
<b>WORKING PAPERS</b>	<b>Mae MacDonald</b> . “Push, Not Peace: Reconsidering the Drivers of Refugee Return.” <i>Job market paper</i> . <b>Mae MacDonald</b> and Adam Lichtenheld. “Support for Refugee Integration in a Major Refugee-Hosting Country: Evidence from Kenya.” <i>Under review</i> . Sigrid Weber, <b>Mae MacDonald</b> , Adam Lichtenheld, Jessica Wolff, Alex Wendo, Annet Adong, Clare Clingain, David Musiime, Andrew Zeitlin, and Jens Hainmueller. “Building Business Networks to Strengthen Refugee Economic and Social Integration.” <b>Mae MacDonald</b> . “Does US Retrenchment Open the Door for China? Evidence from Trump’s Foreign Policy Shocks.” <b>Mae MacDonald</b> . “Can Hearts and Minds Be Lost? Aid Withdrawal, Attribution, and Public Opinion.” <b>Mae MacDonald</b> . “Examining the Link between Aid and Support for Refugees: U.S. Aid Cuts and Kakuma Camp, Kenya.”	
<b>WORKS IN PROGRESS</b>	<b>Mae MacDonald</b> . “How Refugee Crises End.” <i>Book project</i> .	
<b>POLICY COMMENTARY</b>	<b>Mae MacDonald</b> , Adam Lichtenheld, and Tolossa Asrat. 2025. “Kenya Embraces Refugee Integration – and Citizens Are on Board.” <i>The New Humanitarian</i> . <b>Mae MacDonald</b> . 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 Center for Grand Strategy.

## **AWARDS AND HONORS**

**Diversifying Academia, Recruiting Excellence (DARE) Fellow**, Stanford University, 2025. Competitive full-merit graduate fellowship.

**Ric Weiland Graduate Fellow**, Stanford University, 2024. Award to 20 top Ph.D. students across the Humanities & Sciences.

**Carnegie International Policy Scholars Consortium and Network Fellow**, Johns Hopkins University, 2024.

**Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE) Fellow**, Stanford University, 2021.

**Knight-Hennessy Scholar**, Stanford University, 2021. Competitive full-merit graduate fellowship.

**YouGov Fellowship**, University of Oxford, 2018.

**E.T. Warner Prize for Excellence in Philosophy, Politics, and Economics**, University of Oxford, 2018.

**Academic Scholar**, University of Oxford, 2016.

**Crankstart Scholar**, University of Oxford, 2015.

## **GRANTS**

**J-PAL/IPA Displaced Livelihoods Initiative**, Public Goods Award (\$60,000, with Jeremy Weinstein and Adam Lichtenheld), 2024.

**Stanford Institute for Economics Policy Research**, Dissertation Fellowship (\$5,200), 2024.

**Ric Weiland Graduate Fellowship**, Fellow Research Grant (\$4,000), 2024.

**King Center on Global Development**, Global Development Research Funding (\$25,000, with Jeremy Weinstein and Adam Lichtenheld), 2023.

**J-PAL/IPA Displaced Livelihoods Initiative**, Exploratory Award (\$10,000), 2023.

**Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies**, Research Grant (\$9,000), 2023.

**Stanford Europe Center**, Graduate Student Research Grant (\$1,000), 2023.

**Stanford King Center on Global Development**, Research Grant (\$5,000), 2023.

**Sohaib and Sara Abbasi Program in Islamic Studies**, Research Grant (\$3,000), 2023.

**Stanford Impact Labs**, Summer Collaborative Research Fellowship (\$4,000, with Jens Hainmueller), 2022.

**King Center on Global Development**, Exploratory Research Grant (\$8,000), 2022.

**Stanford Institute for Research in the Social Sciences**, Data Grant (\$1,500), 2022.

**Enhancing Diversity in Graduate Education (EDGE)**, Research Grant

(\$6,000), 2021.

**YouGov Fellowship**, Undergraduate Thesis Grant, University of Oxford (\$12,000), 2018.

<b>PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE</b>	<b>YouGov</b> , Graduate Researcher (Public Sector)	2018–2019
	<b>Movement on the Ground</b> , Refugee Camp Volunteer	2021
	<b>CalAid</b> , Refugee Camp Volunteer	2017
	<b>The Entrepreneurial Refugee Network</b> , Intern	2017
	<b>Global Policy Institute</b> , Research Intern	2017
	<b>UK Political Party</b> , Intern	2015
	<b>UK House of Commons</b> , Intern	2014

<b>TEACHING</b>	<b>Teaching Assistant</b> , Stanford University	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Introduction to International Relations (James D. Fearon), Fall 2024</li><li>• War and Peace in American Foreign Policy (Kenneth Schultz), Spring 2024</li><li>• Introduction to International Relations (James D. Fearon), Fall 2022</li></ul>	
	<b>Class Co-Coordinator</b> , Stanford University	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Climate Displacement, Migration, and Mobility (Chris Field), Spring 2025</li></ul>	

**DATASETS**      **Global Refugee Return (GRR) Dataset.** Original origin–asylum dyad-year dataset (1980–2023) that corrects errors in UNHCR stock and repatriation figures, and introduces new indicators of *de facto* forced return practices. *Forthcoming.*

**UNHCR Funding Dataset.** Donor-level contributions to the UN Refugee Agency and country-level allocation of expenditures within recipient countries. *Forthcoming.*

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

**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, Graduate Fellow  
**Political Violence Lab**, University of California Merced, Affiliated Scholar

**Center for Grand Strategy**, King's College London, Affiliated Scholar  
**Carnegie International Policy Scholars Consortium and Network**,  
Johns Hopkins University, Fellow

**SERVICE**

**Reviewer**

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

**Mentorship**

- Refugee-Led Research Hub (East Africa)
- Stanford Political Science Pathways to PhD
- Young African Research Network (YARN)
- Stanford IRiSS Research Assistant Internship Program

**SKILLS AND  
FIELDWORK**

**Computing:** R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Python, QGIS, Google Earth Engine (GEE)

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

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

**Archives:** UNHCR (2023)

*Updated April 2026*