Historical Perspectives in IR

Spring 2026

Instructor:	Joowon Yi	**Time:**	Tue 2:55–5:35
Email:	joowon.yi@uga.edu	**Place:**	IA Building 117

1. Class Guidelines

Course Pages:

- https://uga.view.usg.edu/d2l/home/3788801

Office Hours: Room 303, 202 Herty Dr. Thursdays 11:30–13:30, or by appointment. Virtual office hours: https://zoom.us/j/3990837355.

Objectives: By the end of the course, students will be able to:

- Understand recent trends, data, and methods used in historical IR;
- Identify historical IR works covering diverse temporal and spatial ranges;
- Understand the merits and challenges in using historical methods and approaches;
- Find their own areas of interest in historical IR;
- Develop innovative research ideas grounded in the literature of historical IR.

Required Software & Replication Workflow:

- You may use **R or Stata**. You are responsible for installing the software by Week 2.
- All replication submissions must include: (i) code (do-file or R script), (ii) outputs (tables/figures), and (iii) explanations of what replicated figures/tables aim to demonstrate in the article.

Course Learning Environment: Every student should feel comfortable speaking in this class. We will value colleagues' opinions and foster an environment that respects cultural, experiential, and intellectual diversity.

Grading Policy:

- **Inference Memos (30%):** Weekly (max 4 pages).
  - What is the research question?
  - What is the answer?
  - How did the authors test their answer?
  - Following is for when applicable —
    - What is the key identification strategy to test the answer and its main assumptions?

    * What is the major threat to inference?
    * What is one feasible extension (conceptual or empirical)?

  Due by **12:00 PM Monday** (day before class).

- **Replications (40%):** 4 short labs across the semester.
  - Reproduce one main table/figure;
  - Write a short explanation of the table/figure
  - If you want, write a short extension based on your replication

  Replications are due **one week after the assigned week** (details announced in class).

- **Final Paper and Presentations (40%):** Final paper (approx. 10–15 pages) plus four structured project check-ins designed to keep progress steady.
  - Meeting 1 (Week 4): Topic & Research Question Pitch (in class). Students bring (i) a clearly defined area of interest and (ii) five potential research questions. We will discuss scope, feasibility, and what types of identification strategies would be plausible in each case.
  - Meeting 2 (Week 8): Literature & Design Framing (in class). Students present (i) a short map of the key prior research in the area and (ii) a preliminary design plan (what is the outcome, what is the treatment/variation, what is the comparison).
  - Meeting 3 (Week 11): Data & Empirical Plan Check (remote submission). Since the instructor is not physically in class, students submit (i) their current dataset(s) or a data construction plan (if data are not yet finalized) and (ii) a 1–2 page note describing how they plan to estimate their main relationship (baseline specification).
  - Meeting 4 (Week 15): Full Draft Presentation & Revision Workshop (in class). Students present a full draft (or near-full draft) of the final paper for structured feedback.

  Final paper due: May 5 (11:59 PM).

Grade Scale:

- A $\geq$ 94; A- $\geq$ 90 and $<$ 94
- B+ $\geq$ 87 and $<$ 90; B $\geq$ 84 and $<$ 87; B- $\geq$ 80 and $<$ 84
- C+ $\geq$ 77 and $<$ 80; C $\geq$ 74 and $<$ 77; C- $\geq$ 70 and $<$ 74
- D $\geq$ 60 and $<$ 70; F $<$ 60

Grading Disputes: If you wish to dispute a grade, send the instructor a one-page memo within one week of receiving the graded assignment.

Late Work Policy: A 10% deduction will be applied to late work unless prior arrangements are made for excused reasons.

Attendance Policy: Students are expected to attend class and complete all assignments. Notify the instructor in writing before the day of absence when possible.

AI Policy: Students may use generative AI tools in limited, transparent ways that support learning and reproducibility. Permitted uses include: (i) examining and understanding replication code (e.g., explaining what a code block does, suggesting debugging steps, clarifying error

messages), and (ii) proofreading and improving clarity/grammar in weekly memos and the final paper.
The following uses are **not permitted**: (i) submitting AI-generated text as your own analytical writing (e.g., memos or paper sections that replace your argument with AI-written reasoning), (ii) using AI to fabricate results.

2. University Policies

These policy statements are provided by the Center for Teaching and Learning at the University of Georgia and may be adapted by the instructor as appropriate.

Academic Honesty: Please see the UGA Honor Code and procedures at www.uga.edu/ovpi.

Disclaimer: The syllabus is a general plan. Deviations may be necessary and will be announced.

Accommodations due to Disability: http://drc.uga.edu.

Mental Health and Wellness Resources:

- Student Care and Outreach: https://sco.uga.edu/
- BeWellUGA: https://www.uhs.uga.edu/bewelluga/bewelluga
- Emergencies: https://www.uhs.uga.edu/info/emergencies

FERPA Notice: https://reg.uga.edu/general-information/ferpa.

3. Course Outline

Most required readings are available via Google Scholar or the University Library website. The instructor will share links and replication materials. Each week includes an in-class lab component.

Week 1 (1/13): Introduction & Replication Workflow

- No readings. Course introduction.

Week 2 (1/20): Persistence Literature and Replication Primer

- Acemoglu, Daron, Simon Johnson, and James A. Robinson. 2001. "The Colonial Origins of Comparative Development." *American Economic Review* 91(5): 1369–1401.
- Dippel, Christian, and Bryan Leonard. 2021. "Not-so-Natural Experiments in History." *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 1(1): 1–30.
- Abad, Leticia Arroyo, and Noel Maurer. 2021. "History Never Really Says Goodbye." *Journal of Historical Political Economy* 1(1): 31–68.
- *Replication exercise (one only):* Acemoglu, Johnson & Robinson (2001) – reproduce Tables 1, 2, and 4 + a short "audit memo" (identification assumptions; first diagnostic checks).
- *Replication resources:*

  - Acemoglu, Johnson & Robinson (2001): MIT Data Archive ("Colonial Origins of Comparative Development"): https://economics.mit.edu/people/faculty/daron-acemoglu/data-archive.

Week 3 (1/27): State-building in Europe

- *Background:* Tilly, Charles. 2017. "War Making and State Making as Organized Crime." In *Collective Violence, Contentious Politics, and Social Change*, Routledge, 121–139.
- Abramson, Scott F. 2017. "The Economic Origins of the Territorial State." *International Organization* 71(1): 97–130.
- Cederman, Lars-Erik, Paola Galano Toro, Luc Girardin, and Guy Schvitz. 2023. "War Did Make States: Revisiting the Bellicist Paradigm in Early Modern Europe." *International Organization* 77(2): 324–362.
- Blaydes, Lisa, and Eric Chaney. 2013. "The Feudal Revolution and Europe's Rise: Political Divergence of the Christian West and the Muslim World before 1500 CE." *American Political Science Review* 107(1): 16–34.

Week 4 (2/3): State-building in Asia (Final Paper Meeting I)

- *Background:* Blaydes, Lisa, and Anna Grzymala-Busse. 2025. "Historical State Formation within and beyond Europe." *World Politics* 77(1, suppl.): 205–222.
- Wang, Yuhua. 2022. "Blood Is Thicker Than Water: Elite Kinship Networks and State Building in Imperial China." *American Political Science Review* 116(3): 896–910.
- Huang, Chin-hao, and David Kang. 2021. "State Formation in Korea and Japan, 400–800 CE: Emulation and Learning, Not Bellicist Competition." *International Organization*, forthcoming.
- Zaw, Htet Thiha. 2024. "The Pre-Colonial Roots of Colonial Coercion: Evidence From British Burma." *Comparative Political Studies* 57(12): 1939–1977.

Week 5 (2/10): State-building in Africa

- Müller-Crepon, Carl. 2020. "Continuity or Change? (In)Direct Rule in British and French Colonial Africa." *International Organization* 74(4): 707–741.
- Paine, Jack, Xiaoyan Qiu, and Joan Ricart-Huguet. 2024. "Endogenous Colonial Borders: Precolonial States and Geography in the Partition of Africa." *American Political Science Review*: 1–20.
- Wucherpfennig, Julian, Philipp Hunziker, and Lars-Erik Cederman. 2016. "Who Inherits the State? Colonial Rule and Postcolonial Conflict." *American Journal of Political Science* 60(4): 882–898.
- *Replication exercise (one only):* Wucherpfennig, Hunziker & Cederman (2016) – reproduce Figure 3 (interaction/marginal-effects visualization) and verify the paper's substantive interpretation.
- *Replication resources:*
  - Wucherpfennig, Hunziker & Cederman (2016): Harvard Dataverse replication package: https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/GKASQ5.

Week 6 (2/17): Borders I: Sub-national boundaries

- Müller-Crepon, Carl. 2024. "Building Tribes: How Administrative Units Shaped Ethnic Groups in Africa." *American Journal of Political Science.*
- Paine, Jack. 2019. "Ethnic Violence in Africa: Destructive Legacies of Pre-Colonial States." *International Organization* 73(3): 645–683.
- Griffiths, Ryan D. 2015. "Between Dissolution and Blood: How Administrative Lines and Categories Shape Secessionist Outcomes." *International Organization* 69(3): 731–751.
- Robinson, Amanda Lea. 2014. "National versus Ethnic Identification in Africa: Modernization, Colonial Legacy, and the Origins of Territorial Nationalism." *World Politics* 66(4): 709–746.

Week 7 (2/24): Borders II: Geographic RD + Border Logic

- *Methods primer:* Lee, David S., and Thomas Lemieux. 2010. "Regression Discontinuity Designs in Economics." *Journal of Economic Literature* 48(2): 281–355.
  - Suggested focus (not math-heavy): Sections 1–3.
- *Political science primer:* Keele, Luke J., and Rocío Titiunik. 2015. "Geographic Boundaries as Regression Discontinuities." *Political Analysis* 23(1): 127–155.
  - Suggested focus: Introduction + design/assumptions sections.
- Posner, Daniel N. 2004. "The Political Salience of Cultural Difference: Why Chewas and Tumbukas Are Allies in Zambia and Adversaries in Malawi." *American Political Science Review* 98(4): 529–545.
- McNamee, Lachlan. 2018. "Mass Resettlement and Political Violence: Evidence from Rwanda." *World Politics* 70(4): 595–644.
- *Replication exercise (one only):* McNamee (2018) – reproduce Figure 3 and explain what the figure is intended to demonstrate about the design/identification.
- *Replication resources:*
  - McNamee (2018): Harvard Dataverse replication package: https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/VYBJRM.

Week 8 (3/3): Natural Experiments (Final Paper Meeting II)

- Wasow, Omar. 2020. "Agenda Seeding: How 1960s Black Protests Moved Elites, Public Opinion and Voting." *American Political Science Review* 114(3): 638–659.
- Erikson, Robert S., and Laura Stoker. 2011. "Caught in the Draft: The Effects of Vietnam Draft Lottery Status on Political Attitudes." *American Political Science Review* 105(2): 221–237.
- Malis, Matt. 2021. "Conflict, Cooperation, and Delegated Diplomacy." *International Organization* 75(4): 1018–1057.
- Jares, Jake Alton, and Neil Malhotra. 2024. "Policy Impact and Voter Mobilization: Evidence from Farmers' Trade War Experiences." *American Political Science Review*: 1–23. doi:10.1017/S0003055424000571.

Week 9 (3/10): Spring Break (No Classes)

Week 10 (3/17): Historical Persistence and Post-treatment Problem

- *Background:* Pearl, Judea. 2016. *Causal Inference in Statistics: A Primer* (with Madelyn Glymour and Nicholas P. Jewell). Chapter 2.
- Cirone, Alexandra, and Thomas B. Pepinsky. 2022. "Historical Persistence." *Annual Review of Political Science* 25(1): 241–259.
- Homola, Jonathan, Miguel M. Pereira, and Margit Tavits. 2020. "Legacies of the Third Reich: Concentration Camps and Out-Group Intolerance." *American Political Science Review* 114(2): 573–590.
- Pepinsky, Thomas B., Sara Wallace Goodman, and Conrad Ziller. 2024. "Modeling Spatial Heterogeneity and Historical Persistence: Nazi Concentration Camps and Contemporary Intolerance." *American Political Science Review* 118(1): 519–528.
- Homola, Jonathan, Miguel M. Pereira, and Margit Tavits. 2024. "Fixed Effects and Post-Treatment Bias in Legacy Studies." *American Political Science Review* 118(1): 537–544.

Week 11 (3/24): Instructor at ISA (Final Paper Meeting III)

- Scheduling note: class plan TBA.

Week 12 (3/31): Estimating Historical Effects with Differences-in-Differences

- Guardado, Jenny. 2018. "Office-Selling, Corruption, and Long-Term Development in Peru." *American Political Science Review* 112(4): 971–995.
- Gulzar, Saad, Apoorva Lal, and Benjamin Pasquale. 2024. "Representation and Forest Conservation: Evidence from India's Scheduled Areas." *American Political Science Review* 118(2): 764–783.
- Fernandes, Jorge M., Mariana Lopes da Fonseca, and Miguel Won. 2024. "Political Competition and the Effectiveness of Gender Quotas: Evidence from Portugal." *The Journal of Politics* 86(1): 183–198.
- *Replication exercise (one only):* Guardado (2018) – reproduce Figure 3 and explain what the figure is intended to demonstrate about trends/identification.
- *Replication resources:*
  - Guardado (2018): Harvard Dataverse replication package: https://doi.org/10.7910/DVN/TI5BPV.

Week 13 (4/7): Ethnic Integration in the Military (Diversity in Research Design)

- Samii, Cyrus. 2013. "Perils or Promise of Ethnic Integration? Evidence from a Hard Case in Burundi." *American Political Science Review* 107(3): 558–573.
- Harkness, Kristen A. 2016. "The Ethnic Army and the State: Explaining Coup Traps and the Difficulties of Democratization in Africa." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 60(4): 587–616.
- Huff, Connor, and Robert Schub. 2021. "Segregation, Integration, and Death: Evidence from the Korean War." *International Organization* 75(3): 858–879.

- Lyall, Jason. 2020. *Divided Armies: Inequality and Battlefield Performance in Modern War*. Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1.

Week 14 (4/14): Slavery and the Slave Trade (IV Logic)

- Nunn, Nathan. 2008. "The Long-Term Effects of Africa's Slave Trades." *The Quarterly Journal of Economics* 123(1): 139–176.
- Nunn, Nathan, and Leonard Wantchekon. 2011. "The Slave Trade and the Origins of Mistrust in Africa." *American Economic Review* 101(7): 3221–3252.
- Acharya, Avidit, Matthew Blackwell, and Maya Sen. 2016. "The Political Legacy of American Slavery." *The Journal of Politics* 78(3): 621–641.
- Sharman, J. C., and Ayşe Zarakol. 2024. "Global Slavery in the Making of States and International Orders." *American Political Science Review* 118(2): 802–814.

Week 15 (4/21): Development and Trade (Final Paper Meeting IV)

- Dell, Melissa, Nathan Lane, and Pablo Querubin. 2018. "The Historical State, Local Collective Action, and Economic Development in Vietnam." *Econometrica* 86(6): 2083–2121.
- Bao, Lam Ho. 2024. "Historical State and Its Legacy: Another Perspective on Dai Viet–Khmer Economic Division in Vietnam." *Empirical Economics* 67(6): 2933–2970.
- Head, Keith, Thierry Mayer, and John Ries. 2010. "The Erosion of Colonial Trade Linkages after Independence." *Journal of International Economics* 81(1): 1–14.
- Cansunar, Asli. 2022. "Distributional Consequences of Philanthropic Contributions to Public Goods: Self-Serving Elite in Ottoman Istanbul." *The Journal of Politics* 84(2): 889–907.