

Toye Afolabi, MA, ABD.

Department of Political Science, 1155 Union Circle #305340, Denton, Texas 76203
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EDUCATION

2026 expected **Ph.D., Political Science**, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas.

Dissertation: “Does Familiarity Breed Contempt or Agreement? How Shared Experiences of Leaders Influence Civil Wars.”

Committee members: Dr. Marijke Breuning (Chair); Dr. Idean Salehyan (member);
Dr. John Ishiyama (member); Dr. Michael Greig (member)

Fields: International Relations and Comparative Politics

2020 **M.A., International Studies**, Chapman University, Orange, California.
2014 **M.A., International Relations**, International Black Sea University, Tbilisi, Georgia.
2010 **BSc**, Urban and Regional Planning, Obafemi Awolowo University, Ile-Ife, Nigeria.

RESEARCH INTEREST

Inter- and intra-state Conflict, Foreign Policy Analysis, Regime Dynamics, Ethnic Politics, African Politics, and the Influence of Leader Backgrounds on Political Behavior.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Toye A. “Leader Similarity and Civil War Onset” (Under review)

Toye A. “From Onset to Escalation: How Leader Similarity Shapes the Intensity and Outcome of Civil Wars”

Toye A. “Repression and Reform: The Conditional Effects of Western Education on Governance.”
(Under review)

Toye A. “African Leaders and Conflict Initiation: The Impact of Western Education and Specialization?”

Toye A. “Co-ethnic Preference” in the Inner-Circle Cabinet: Does Leaders' Education Matter?”

Toye A. “Women in Cabinet Positions: Do Western Educated Leaders Move Toward Gender Parity?”

Breuning M. and **Toye A.** “The Small State in International Relations: An Empirical Assessment of a Concept.”

Toye A., Esparza D., & Yun S.M. “How Military Academy Structures Shape Mutiny Dynamics”

PUBLICATION: POLICY PAPER

Hamza A. & Tøye, A. (2025). *The Secret Peace in Turkey: How Aging Leaders are Ending a War*. War on the Rocks. <https://warontherocks.com/2025/07/the-secret-peace-in-turkey-how-aging-leaders-are-ending-a-war/>

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor, University of North Texas
Fall 2025 PSCI 3810 International Relations

Guest Lectures, University of North Texas
Spring 2025 PSCI 2306 U.S. and Texas Government –
“The Texas Executive Branch” (March 21, 2025) –
“The Presidency: Federal Executive Branch”(March 5, 2025)
Fall 2022 PSCI 2306 U.S. and Texas Constitutions and Institutions –
“System of Government”(November 27, 2022)

Teaching Assistant, University of North Texas
2021-2025 PSCI 2305 US Political Behavior and Policy
PSCI 2306 US and Texas Constitutions and Institutions
PSCI 2306 American Government: Structure and Institutions
PSCI 3810 Introduction to International Relations

Teacher, Gorette Girls’ Secondary Commercial, Ikot Ekpene, Nigeria
2010-2011 Scope and Concept of Government
Political Ideologies
Organs of Government
Structure & System of Government
Constitution and Citizenship

TEACHING AREAS

International Relations, Comparative Politics, Civil War, Conflict Management, Foreign Policy, Peace Studies, Politics of Autocracy, African Politics, U.S. Government and Institutions.

RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Jan.-May 2025 University of North Texas (Dr. Sanghoon Kim)
Jan.-May 2023 University of North Texas (Dr. Marijke Breuning)
Jan.-June 2020 Chapman University, California (Dr. Crystal Murphy)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Toye, Afolabi (2025, April). Leader Similarity and Civil War Onset Timelines. Presented at the 82nd Annual Convention of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, United States.

Toye, Afolabi (2025, March). Leader Similarity and Civil War Onset Timelines. Presented at the 66th Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, Chicago, Illinois, United States.

Toye, Afolabi (2024, November). Repression and Reform: The Conditional Effect of Western Education on Governance. Presented at the Annual Conference of the International Studies Association-Midwest, St Louis, Missouri, United States.

Toye, Afolabi (2024, April). African Leaders and Dispute Initiation: The Impact of Western Education and Specialization? Presented at the 81st Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, Illinois, United States.

Toye, Afolabi (2023, March). Militarized Behavior: Does Western Education Matter? Presented at the 102nd Annual Conference of the Southwestern Social Science Association, Fort Worth, Texas, United States.

Toye, Afolabi (2014, May). Globalization and Challenges of International Security. Presented at the 9th Silk Road International Conference, Tbilisi, Georgia.

INVITED TALK

Dec. 8, 2023 **Our voices on Voice of America (VOA)**

Invited to discuss the impact of Chinese textile imports on African domestic manufacturers, based on my M.A. thesis, China-Africa Relations: The Northern Nigeria Textile Industry (open access).

GRANT AND SCHOLARSHIP

Conferences Travel Grants

2025 Travel Grants (International Studies Association)

2025 Travel Grants (Toulouse Graduate School, University of North Texas)

2025 Travel Grants (Department of Political Science, University of North Texas)

2025 Travel Grants (The College of Liberal Arts and Social Sciences, University of North Texas)

2024 Travel Grants (International Studies Association-Midwest)

2024 Travel Grants (Department of Political Science, University of North Texas)

2024 Travel Grants (Department of Political Science, University of North Texas)

2024 Travel Grants (The College of Liberal Arts and Social Science, University of North Texas)

2023 Travel Grants (Department of Political Science, University of North Texas)

Awards

2025-2026 C. Neal and Carol Tate Fund (University of North Texas)

2022-2023 McAlister Society Award (University of North Texas)

2019-2020 Merit-Based Scholarship (Chapman University)

Scholarship

2022-2026 Tuition Benefit Program (Toulouse Graduate School, University of North Texas)

SERVICE EXPERIENCES

2025-present **Mentorship**

I am a mentor in the American Political Science Association Mentorship Program, which supports and guides aspiring political scientists on their path to graduate programs.

Case Worker

2020-2021 Services to the Armed Forces Department, American Red Cross Regional Office, Orange, CA.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

2025-present	American Political Science Association
2024-present	International Studies Association
2024-present	International Studies Association-Midwest
2024-present	Midwest Political Science Association
2015-present	Nigeria Institute of International Affairs

SKILLS AND LANGUAGES

Programming: R, STATA, SPSS, Qualtrics

Languages: Yoruba (native), English (fluent), Georgian (basic)

REFERENCES

Dr. Marijke Breuning

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University of North Texas
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Dr. John Ishiyama

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University of North Texas
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Dr. Idean Salehyan

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Dr. Michael Greig

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