

Aaron R. King

PHD STUDENT · GEOGRAPHY

University of Florida, Dept. of Geography, 3131 Turlington Hall, Gainesville, FL 32611

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Education

University of Florida

Gainesville, FL

PH.D. GEOGRAPHY

2021 – Present

- Committee: Brian Child (chair), Jane Southworth, David Keellings, Sebastian Elischer
- Dissertation: Authority, Institutions, and Governance: Understanding CBNRM Performance in Southern Africa

Villanova University

Villanova, PA

M.A. POLITICAL SCIENCE

2010 – 2012

- Graduated with distinction
- Thesis: State and Regime in Post-Colonial Africa

Ithaca College

Ithaca, NY

B.A. JOURNALISM

2005 – 2009

- Minors: Philosophy, Politics
- *Cum laude*

FIELDS OF INTEREST

collaborative governance of natural resources, community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), social-ecological systems, wildlife economics, political ecology, spatial statistics, sub-Saharan Africa

Teaching Experience

Department of Geography, University of Florida

Gainesville, FL

INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Fall 2021 – Present

- GEO 3502: Economic Geography
Online (Fall 2023–Fall 2025)
- GEO 2410: Social Geography
Online (Summer A 2023)
- GEO 3430: Population Geography
Classroom (Fall 2022)
Online (Spring 2022)
Hybrid (Fall 2021)

COURSE AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- LifeThroughWildlife, Professional Certificate in Wildlife Economy and CBNRM Governance
 - Supported by the Global Environment Facility with PI Brian Child and partnership with the Community Leaders Network
 - *Course 1* Wildlife Economy & Policy: Governance and Economics of Wildlife on Working Landscapes (online)
 - *Course 2* Community Conservation Governance: Theory and Practice (online)
 - *Course 3* Field Training at Anchor Sites (Namibia, Kenya, Mozambique)
- GEA 1050: Prisoners of Geography
Development Term (Spring 2023)

The Nature Conservancy

Gainesville, FL

RESEARCH FELLOW / PROJECT ASSISTANT

Jan 2024 – Present

- Supported under Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP) project: CBNRM Governance and Economics (\$40,000)
- Facilitated working group focused on building a community of practice in southern and east Africa, development of common governance survey tools

- Public Education in Camden, NJ Lecture Series
- Assisted in program development, communications, and community outreach. Developed a community service program for Villanova students focusing on nutrition and urban gardening in Camden, NJ.

Research

PUBLICATIONS

2013 King, A.R. [Review of the book *Nigeria: After the nightmare*, by I. Hagher]. *African Studies Quarterly*, 13(4), 109-110.

WORKS IN REVIEW

Child, B., King, A.R., Chidakel, A., and Shimansky, T. What is CBNRM and has it been tried? Past, present, and future in Africa. In C. Samimi (Ed.), *Forthcoming CBNRM book*. James Currey.

Shimansky, T., Merz, L., and King, A.R.. The effects of governance structure and scale on community conservation in Southern Africa.

IN PROGRESS

King, A.R. Shared landscape, divergent outcomes: The social and spatial correlates of participation in CBNRM governance in Kunene, Namibia.

King, A.R. Pathways into and out of aborted devolution.

King, A.R., Shimansky, T., and Child, B. The impact of participatory governance on social capital in Namibian communal conservancies.

Child, B., Chidakel, A., and King, A.R. Can foraging societies compete in a modern economy? An economic and institutional analysis of land use in Sankuyo community, Botswana.

PRESENTATIONS

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|------|---|-------------------|
| 2025 | American Association of Geographers (AAG) Annual Meeting, "Gender differences in governance participation and engagement in Namibian conservancies" | Detroit, MI |
| 2025 | Annual Meeting of the Florida Society of Geographers, "Shared landscape, divergent outcomes: Comparing communal conservancy governance participation in Kunene, Namibia" | Gainesville, FL |
| 2023 | Southeastern Division of the American Association of Geographers (SEDAAG) Meeting, "Measuring participatory governance in community-based natural resource management" | Norfolk, VA |
| 2020 | Florida Distance Learning Association Annual Conference, "Online education and the new language of skills: Data-driven strategies to meet the workforce needs of lifelong learners" | Virtual |
| 2020 | Emsi Webinar (Invited), "Addressing education deserts" | Virtual |
| 2019 | Emsi Conference (Invited), "Engaging industry near and far: Using labor market data and online delivery to meet employer needs" | Coeur d'Alene, ID |
| 2019 | Online Learning 2019, "Data-driven program development: Adding value while expanding access to a university's online portfolio" (invited) | Toronto, ON |
| 2019 | U.S. Distance Learning Association Annual Conference, "Consultative program reviews: Using data to identify opportunities" | Nashville, TN |
| 2013 | Political Science Graduate Research Conference, "Explaining international law compliance: The case of Nigeria in the Bakassi Peninsula dispute" | Atlanta, GA |
| 2012 | International Studies Association-South Annual Conference, "Three components of state fragility: Foundations of conflict and development in Africa" | Atlanta, GA |
| 2011 | Northeastern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, "The end of the Cold War and interstate cooperation in Africa" | Philadelphia, PA |
| 2011 | Human Development Conference, "Partners in development: Accountability and feedback at the local level in international aid organizations" | South Bend, IN |

Research Experience

Field Research - CBNRM Governance Surveys and Training in Zambezi, Namibia

Namibia

FUNDING: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (SNAPP)

February 2024

- Facilitator for governance and wildlife economy workshop (26 participants)
- Comprehensive survey of livelihoods, household consumption, institutional participation, social capital, and wildlife tolerance
- Administered approximately 250 surveys in Wuparo, Mashi, and Kwandu conservancies
- Co-led and participated in community workshop presentations of data findings in Kwandu

Field Research - CBNRM Governance Surveys in Kunene, Namibia

Namibia

FUNDING: JAMMA INTERNATIONAL, NAMIBIA CHAMBER OF ENVIRONMENT

Summer 2023

- Research supervised by Dr. Brian Child and Dr. Christopher Brown (Namibia Chamber of Environment)
- Comprehensive survey of livelihoods, household consumption, institutional participation, social capital, and wildlife tolerance
- Led conversion of paper surveys to digital using Kobo software
- Administered approximately 350 household-level surveys in three conservancies in Kunene Region, Namibia (Ehi Rovipuka, *Khoadi-//Hôas, and Doro Inawas)
- Co-led and participated in community workshop presentations of data findings in each community

Field Research - Development Needs Assessment Project, Cross River State, Nigeria

Nigeria

FUNDING: RESEARCH TRAVEL GRANT, PARK SCHOOL OF COMMUNICATIONS, ITHACA COLLEGE

Summer 2008

- Monitored and assisted in impact assessments for education and health projects conducted by local development organization, Children of Rural Africa.
- Conducted 60 semi-structured interviews and two focus groups in rural Cross River State to assess local education and health service needs and gauge aid accountability to intended beneficiaries.

Department of Political Science, Villanova University

Villanova, PA

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, DR. DAVID M. BARRETT

Fall 2010 - Spring 2012

- Primary source document analysis
- Editorial and indexing assistance for publication: D.M. Barrett and M. Holland, *Blind Over Cuba* (Texas A&M Press, 2012).

Professional Experience

University of Virginia

Charlottesville, VA

DIRECTOR OF ONLINE LEARNING STRATEGY

Oct. 2021 - June 2023

- Responsible for collaborating with faculty and key University stakeholders to develop a comprehensive strategy guiding the development of online programs across UVA's schools. Guided schools in new online program development with market research and data analytics support, alignment of start-up resources, strategic sourcing of services, and other launch support. Provided guidance on Provost policy areas related to online and professional education.

University of Florida

Gainesville, FL

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, ACADEMIC SUPPORT SERVICES, OFFICE OF DISTANCE LEARNING

July 2016 - Oct. 2021

- Managed new program development and approval process for distance graduate programs. Supported faculty in program proposal and business plan development. Directed ODL's Skills Architecture project. Developed and managed market alignment consultation and program review service. Provided business intelligence and data analytics support to ODL business units.
- 42 new online graduate program approvals.
- Planned Florida Workforce Collaboration Summit, hosted at UF in Sept. 2019. Aimed to build working relationships among approximately 100 leaders in higher education, industry, and economic development.
- Collaborated to launch marketing and recruitment service for online graduate programs.
- Led development projects on four UF websites, including rebuild of analytics and user behavior tracking systems. Served as webmaster.

NURU Agency

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

CONSULTANT

May 2018 - Feb. 2019

- Contributed to development of communications plan and collateral for Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority's (TAWA) campaign to increase tourism and investment in Selous and Kijiresi game reserves. Consulted on grant applications for local governance of wildlife and natural resources capacity building initiatives.

Children of Rural Africa, 501(c)3

Evans City, PA & Ogoja, Nigeria

U.S. COUNTRY DIRECTOR

June 2014 – June 2016

- Responsible for fundraising, communications, and project evaluation for an international development non-profit. Aided in management of administrative staff.
- CorAfrica manages two schools and orphanages in rural Nigeria focused on health, sanitation, and agricultural and job training programs.

Honors & Awards

GRANTS & AWARDS

2024	Fonseca Youth Conservation Fellowship Program (\$550,000, PI: Brian Child)	Global Environment Facility
2013	Pre-Dissertation Travel Award, Center for Africa Studies	University of Florida
2012	Social, Behavioral, and Economic Science First-Year Ph.D. Student Award	University of Florida
2011	Graduate Student Research Travel Grant	Villanova University
2008	Research Travel Award	Ithaca College
2007	First Prize, Perialas Prize in Persuasive Oratory	Ithaca College

FELLOWSHIPS

2012	McKnight Foundation Doctoral Fellowship	University of Florida
2012	Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, Honorable Mention	University of Florida
2011	M.J. Ryan Center for the Study of Free Institutions and the Public Good	Villanova University
2010	University Presidential Fellowship for Underrepresented Students	Villanova University
2009	Peggy R. Williams Award for Academic and Community Leadership	Ithaca College

Skills

Programming	HTML5/CSS, JavaScript, R, Python, L ^A T _E X
Software	ArcGIS, Earth Engine, ENVI, SPSS, Stata, ODK/Kobo, Adobe CC (Premier Pro, Audition, Photoshop, Illustrator)