

Johan Ahlbäck

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

PERSONAL DETAILS

<i>Name</i>	Johan Mikael Ahlbäck
<i>Nationality</i>	Finnish
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EDUCATION

PhD in Political Science

2020

London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of Government

Dissertation: Electoral Integrity in Unconsolidated Democracies: Challenges and Potential Remedies

Master of European Affairs

2010

Lund University, Faculty of Social Sciences

Politics and Governance of the European Union; EU Policies on Irregular Immigration (with Distinction)

Master of Social Sciences (incl. Bachelor of Social Science)

2008

Helsinki University, Faculty of Social Sciences (partly in Åbo Akademi University)

Major: World Politics; Minor: History; Dissertation: News Media and Voter Turnout (Eximia Cum Laude Approbatur)

General Certificate of Education

1999

Pargas Svenska Gymnasium

Matriculation exam: Cum Laude Approbatur

LANGUAGE SKILLS

<i>Languages</i>	Swedish (Native)
	English (Professional level)
	Finnish (Professional level)
	Spanish (Beginner)

CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

Research Fellow

2025-present

Stanford University, School of Medicine

As a research fellow at the School of Medicine, I am part of the Geldsetzer Lab. I contribute to the lab by examining off-target effects of vaccination campaigns and running causal analyses of electronic health records.

PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

Post-doctoral Fellow in Research Methods

2022-present

London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of Methodology

As a post-doctoral fellow I delivered post-graduate level lectures and small-group teaching in research design and research methods. My responsibilities include teaching, marking, supervision of graduate dissertations, as well as administrative responsibilities.

Post-doctoral Fellow in International Development Management

2021-2022

London School of Economics and Political Science, Department of International Development

As a post-doctoral fellow I delivered post-graduate level small-group teaching for a cohort in international development management. Responsibilities included teaching, marking, mentoring, supervision of graduate dissertations, as well as administrative responsibilities.

Teaching Fellow in Politics and Research Methods

2019-2021

Royal Holloway, University of London, Department of Politics and International Relations

As a teaching fellow I convened undergraduate courses in politics, international relations and research design. Responsibilities included creating new curricula and course materials, lecturing, seminar teaching both in person and online, preparing assessments and marking, supervision of undergraduate dissertations, pastoral care, as well as administrative responsibilities.

Graduate Teaching Assistant

2015-2016

London School of Economics and Political Science

Delivered seminar teaching in politics and quantitative analysis.

UNV Climate Change Research Assistant

2010-2012

International Labour Organisation (ILO), Beirut, Lebanon

As a UNV at ILO I worked in connection with the UN Green Jobs programme. My responsibilities included working together with stakeholders to prepare project interventions in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan, and the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT), conduct background research, and prepare thematic and project-related research reports.

UNV Project Management Specialist

2009-2010

Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO), Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

As a UNV at FAO, I worked in connection with a donor-funded project on fish-farming in the Issyk-Kul lake. My responsibilities included overseeing project budget and financial transactions, supporting project interventions, and preparing reports on project outputs.

Technical Officer**2008-2009***EU Central Baltic INTERREG Programme, Mariehamn, Finland*

Provided technical support for project applicants, assessed project proposals and oversaw the approval and funding of projects.

Junior EU Expert**2005-2006***Helsinki Regional Representation to the European Union, Brussels, Belgium*

Facilitated cooperation between EU regional offices on thematic areas, prepared project reports and upheld information services to stakeholders on long-term and day-to-day developments in relevant EU policy areas.

RESEARCH PROJECTS

Building voter confidence in election results**2024***Principal investigator*

In charge of LSE RISF-funded research project (£20,000) on voter confidence in Malawi. My responsibilities included designing project interventions and survey-experiment; overseeing implementation on the ground both remotely and in the field; training of enumerators; as well as analysis and reporting of results.

Identifying and preventing drug theft in Malawi**2019***Research Support and Analyst*

Provided research support and analysis on this research project funded by the LSE and the Department of International Development (DFID) on drug theft in developing countries. My responsibilities included project management in Malawi, training of research assistants on conducting surveys in the field, overseeing project budget and financial transactions, and preparation and analysis of research data.

Strategies of Election Fraud across the Electoral Cycle**2018-2021***Co-Principal Investigator*

Worked as co-principal investigator on this small-scale field experiment funded by The Suntory and Toyota International Centres for Economics and Related Disciplines (STICERD) on electoral fraud (£5,000). Responsibilities included project planning, research design, liaison with project partners, analysis of data, and drafting of project reports.

Spatial Inequalities in African Political Economy**2018***Research Support and Analysis*

Provided research support on this research project funded by the Economic and Research Council on spatial inequalities in developing countries. My responsibilities included collecting and organising sub-national data on economic and development indicators for several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Foreign Aid Allocation in Malawi**2016-2017***Field Research Manager*

Provided field support and management on this field experiment funded by the London School of Economics and Political Science and AidData on how foreign aid is allocated within developing countries (£80,000.00). My responsibilities included management and training of research assistants in the field in Malawi, data collection, survey design, overseeing experimental treatment interventions, project budgeting and financial transactions, and preparation and analysis of research data.

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Published

- *How information about foreign aid affects public spending decisions: Evidence from a field experiment in Malawi*, with Brigitte Seim and Ryan Jablonski, *Journal of Development Economics*, September 2020
- *How to distinguish human error from election fraud: Evidence from the 2019 Malawi election*, with Ryan Jablonski, *British Journal of Political Science* (forthcoming)

Work in Progress

- *What drives public trust in elections? Experimental evidence from Malawi*, with Alex Yeandle
- *Foreign aid is neither a curse nor a blessing: Explaining the mixed effects of foreign aid on elections*; with Ryan Jablonski and Brigitte Seim
- *Projecting politics: How voters infer community support in low-information environments*; with Alex Yeandle

RESEARCH SUPERVISION

Supervision of postgraduate dissertations

2021-present

Post-doctoral Fellow, LSE

As a post-doctoral fellow at the Departments of International Development and Methodology, I supervise up to three Master's dissertations per year

Supervision of undergraduate dissertations

2019-2021

Teaching Fellow, Royal Holloway

As a teaching fellow at Royal Holloway I supervised up to five undergraduate dissertations per year

ACADEMIC TEACHING

Applied Regression Analysis (PG) LSE, Department of Methodology (Co-convenor: Lecturing and Seminar Teaching)	2023-2025
Fundamentals of Research Design (PG) LSE, Department of Methodology (Seminar Teaching)	2022-2024
Fundamentals of Research Design for International Development (PG) LSE, Department of Methodology (Seminar Teaching)	2022-2023
International Development Management (PG) LSE, Department of International Development (Seminar Teaching)	2021-2022
Voting and Elections in Developing Democracies (UG) LSE, Department of Government (Guest Lecturer)	2021
Introduction to Comparative Politics (UG) Royal Holloway, Department of Politics and IR (Co-convenor: Lecturing and Seminar Teaching)	2019-2021
Research Methods in Politics and IR (UG) Royal Holloway, Department of Politics and IR (Co-convenor: Lecturing and Seminar Teaching)	2019-2021
Researching Politics and IR: analysis and practice (UG) Royal Holloway, Department of Politics and IR (Co-convenor: Lecturing and Seminar Teaching)	2019-2021
Advanced Quantitative Methods (PG) Royal Holloway, Department of Politics and IR (Seminar Teaching)	2019-2021
Democracy and Democratization (UG) LSE, Department of Government (Seminar Teaching)	2015-2016
Intermediate Quantitative Analysis (PG) LSE, Department of Methodology (Seminar Teaching)	2015-2016
Introduction to Quantitative Analysis (PG) LSE, Department of Methodology (Seminar Teaching)	2016-2017

AWARDS

Excellence in Education Award LSE, Department of Methodology	2024
Excellence in Education Award LSE, Department of Methodology	2023
Class Teacher Award LSE, Department of Methodology	2016

OTHER ACADEMIC MERITS

LSE Public Lecture

2016

"Fraud at Polls: Can Journalists and Statisticians Check? (Mozambique)"

LSE, Department of Methodology and Department of International Development

Peer Reviews

2023-2025

Comparative Political Studies; British Journal of Political Science; Electoral Studies

Conference Presentations

2020-2025

American Political Science Association - Annual Conference 2020 and 2024; European Political Science Association - Annual Conference 2024; Politics in the Global South 2024

OTHER RELEVANT SKILLS AND MERITS

Software

Statistics (R, STATA), GIS (ArcGIS, QGIS)
Survey design (QUALTRICS, ODK, SURVEYCTO)

Military Service

Nylands Brigad, Finland (Medical Sergeant)