Stanford

David D. Laitin

Emeritus Faculty, Academic Council, Political Science

Curriculum Vitae available Online

Bio

BIO

David D. Laitin is the James T. Watkins IV and Elise V. Watkins Professor of Political Science at Stanford University. He received his BA from Swarthmore College, and then served as a Peace Corps Volunteer in Somalia and Grenada, where he became national tennis champion in 1970. Back in the US, he received his Ph.D. in political science from UC Berkeley, working under the direction of Ernst Haas and Hanna Pitkin.

He has taught at three great universities: UCSD (1975-87), the University of Chicago (1987-1999) and now at Stanford. Over his career, as a student of comparative politics, he has conducted field research in Somalia, Yorubaland (Nigeria), Catalonia (Spain), Estonia, and France, all the time focusing on issues of language and religion, and how these cultural phenomena link nation to state. His books include Politics, Language and Thought: The Somali Experience (1977), Hegemony and Culture: Politics and Religious Change among the Yoruba (1986), Language Repertoires and State Construction in Africa (1992), Identity in Formation: The Russian-Speaking Populations in the Near Abroad (1998); Nations, States and Violence (2007); Why Muslim Integration Fails in Christian-Heritage Societies (2016); and African Politics Since Independence (2019).

In collaboration with James Fearon, he has published several papers on ethnicity, ethnic cooperation, the sources of civil war, and on policies that work to settle civil wars. Laitin has also collaborated with Alan Krueger on international terrorism and with Eli Berman on suicide terrorism.

In 2008-2009, with support from the National Science Foundation, and with a visiting appointment at Sciences-Po Paris, Laitin conducted ethnographic, survey and experimental research on Muslim integration into France, seeking to assess the magnitude of religious discrimination and isolate the mechanisms that sustain it. In collaboration with Claire Adida and Marie-Anne Valfort, they published the results in Why Muslim Integration Fails in Christian Heritage Societies (Harvard Press, 2016).

In 2016, Laitin became co-director of Stanford's Immigration Policy Lab, and has co-authored several papers published in "Science", "Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences" and "Nature Human Behavior" that estimate the effects of policy on immigrant integration.

Laitin has been a recipient of fellowships from the Howard Foundation, the Rockefeller Foundation, the Guggenheim Foundation, and the Russell Sage Foundation. He is an elected member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences and the National Academy of Sciences. In 2021 Laitin was the recipient of the John Skytte Prize in Political Science from the Johan Skytte Foundation in Uppsala University, Sweden.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Political Science

- Member, Maternal & Child Health Research Institute (MCHRI)

LINKS

- Department of Political Science: https://politicalscience.stanford.edu/people/david-d-laitin
- My Website: http://laitinresearch.stanford.edu/

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- Workshop in Comparative Politics: POLISCI 440D (Spr)

2024-25

- The Science of Politics: POLISCI 1 (Aut)
- Theories in Comparative Politics: POLISCI 440A (Aut)
- Workshop in Comparative Politics: POLISCI 440D (Spr)

2023-24

- Political Culture: POLISCI 244U, POLISCI 344U (Spr)
- The Science of Politics: POLISCI 1 (Aut)
- Theories in Comparative Politics: POLISCI 440A (Aut)
- Workshop in Comparative Politics: POLISCI 440D (Aut, Win)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Advisor (AC)

Naiyu Jiang

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Ameze Belo-Osagie

Doctoral (Program)

Ameze Belo-Osagie, Natalie Chaudhuri, Naiyu Jiang, Xinru Pan, Eli Scott

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **Emigration and radical right populism** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
  Dancygier, R., Dehdari, S. H., Laitin, D. D., Marbach, M., Vernby, K.
  2024
- **Children in Immigrant Families Deserve Health Care.** *Pediatrics*
  Mendoza, F. S., Sanders, L., Laitin, D. D.
  2022
- **Linguistic diversity, official language choice and human capital** *JOURNAL OF DEVELOPMENT ECONOMICS*
  Laitin, D. D., Ramachandran, R.
  2022; 156
- **Learning from Null Effects: A Bottom-Up Approach** *POLITICAL ANALYSIS*
  Alrababa'h, A., Williamson, S., Dillon, A., Hainmueller, J., Hangartner, D., Hotard, M., Laitin, D. D., Lawrence, D., Weinstein, J.

2022

- **Linguistic diversity, official language choice and human capital** *Journal of Development Economics*
  Laitin, D. D., Ramachandran, R.
  2022

- **Reporting all results efficiently: A RARE proposal to open up the file drawer.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*
  Laitin, D. D., Miguel, E., Alrababa'h, A., Bogdanoski, A., Grant, S., Hoeberling, K., Hyunjung Mo, C., Moore, D. A., Vazire, S., Weinstein, J., Williamson, S.
  1800; 118 (52)

- **The Legacy of Colonial Language Policies and Their Impact on Student Learning: Evidence from an Experimental Program in Cameroon** *ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND CULTURAL CHANGE*
  Laitin, D. D., Ramachandran, R., Walter, S. L.
  2019; 68 (1): 239–72

- **Standardizing the fee-waiver application increased naturalization rates of low-income immigrants.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*
  Yasenov, V., Hotard, M., Lawrence, D., Hainmueller, J., Laitin, D. D.
  2019

- **A low-cost information nudge increases citizenship application rates among low-income immigrants** *NATURE HUMAN BEHAVIOUR*
  Hotard, M., Lawrence, D., Laitin, D. D., Hainmueller, J.
  2019; 3 (7): 678–83

- **A low-cost information nudge increases citizenship application rates among low-income immigrants.** *Nature human behaviour*
  Hotard, M., Lawrence, D., Laitin, D. D., Hainmueller, J.
  2019

- **Multidimensional measure of immigrant integration** *PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*
  Harder, N., Figueroa, L., Gillum, R. M., Hangartner, D., Laitin, D. D., Hainmueller, J.
  2018; 115 (45): 11483-11488

- **Multidimensional measure of immigrant integration.** *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America*
  Harder, N., Figueroa, L., Gillum, R. M., Hangartner, D., Laitin, D. D., Hainmueller, J.
  2018

- **"Sons of the soil': A model of assimilation and population control** *JOURNAL OF THEORETICAL POLITICS*
  Acharya, A., Laitin, D. D., Zhang, A.
  2018; 30 (2): 184–223

- **A randomized controlled design reveals barriers to citizenship for low-income immigrants** *PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*
  Hainmueller, J., Lawrence, D., Gest, J., Hotard, M., Koslowski, R., Laitin, D. D.
  2018; 115 (5): 939–44

- **Introducing the AMAR (All Minorities at Risk) Data** *JOURNAL OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION*
  Birnir, J. K., Laitin, D. D., Wilkenfeld, J., Waguespack, D. M., Hultquist, A. S., Gurr, T. R.
  2018; 62 (1): 203–26

- **Protecting unauthorized immigrant mothers improves their children's mental health.** *Science (New York, N.Y.)*
  Hainmueller, J., Lawrence, D., Martén, L., Black, B., Figueroa, L., Hotard, M., Jiménez, T. R., Mendoza, F., Rodriguez, M. I., Swartz, J. J., Laitin, D. D.
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- **Trust, Transparency, and Replication in Political Science** *PS-POLITICAL SCIENCE & POLITICS*
  Laitin, D. D., Reich, R.
  2017; 50 (1): 172-175

- **Protecting unauthorized immigrant mothers improves their children's mental health** *Science*
  Hainmueller, J., Lawrence, D., Martén, L., Black, B., Figueroa, L., Hotard, M., Jiménez, T., Mendoza, F., Rodriguez, M., Swartz, J., Laitin, D.
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- **Language Policy and Human Development** *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
  Laitin, D. D., Ramachandran, R.
  2016; 110 (3): 457-480
- **The Social Effects of Ethnic Diversity at the Local Level: A Natural Experiment with Exogenous Residential Allocation** *JOURNAL OF POLITICAL ECONOMY*
  Algan, Y., Hemet, C., Laitin, D. D.
  2016; 124 (3): 696-733
- **A Tale of Two Eras: The Caucus and Perestroika** *PERSPECTIVES ON POLITICS*
  Laitin, D. D.
  2015; 13 (2): 420-422
- **RELIGIOUS HOMOPHILY IN A SECULAR COUNTRY: EVIDENCE FROM A VOTING GAME IN FRANCE** *ECONOMIC INQUIRY*
  Adida, C. L., Laitin, D. D., Valfort, M.
  2015; 53 (2): 1187-1206
- **Socially relevant ethnic groups, ethnic structure, and AMAR** *JOURNAL OF PEACE RESEARCH*
  Birnir, J. K., Wilkenfeld, J., Fearon, J. D., Laitin, D. D., Gurr, T. R., Brancati, D., Saideman, S. M., Pate, A., Hultquist, A. S.
  2015; 52 (1): 110-115
- **Muslims in France: identifying a discriminatory equilibrium** *JOURNAL OF POPULATION ECONOMICS*
  Adida, C. L., Laitin, D. D., Valfort, M.
  2014; 27 (4): 1039-1086
- **WOMEN, MUSLIM IMMIGRANTS, AND ECONOMIC INTEGRATION IN FRANCE** *ECONOMICS & POLITICS*
  Adida, C. L., Laitin, D. D., Valfort, M.
  2014; 26 (1): 79-95
- **Immigration into Europe: Economic Discrimination, Violence, and Public Policy** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, VOL 17*
  Dancygier, R. M., Laitin, D. D.
  2014; 17: 43-64
- **Fisheries Management** *POLITICAL ANALYSIS*
  Laitin, D. D.
  2013; 21 (1): 42-47
- **Political Remedies to Economic Inequality** *OCCUPY THE FUTURE*
  Laitin, D. D.
  edited by Grusky, D. B., McAdam, D., Reich, R., Satz, D.
  2013: 137-152
- **Geographic axes and the persistence of cultural diversity** *PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA*
  Laitin, D. D., Moortgat, J., Robinson, A. L.
  2012; 109 (26): 10263-10268
- **A Political Philosophy in Public Life: Civic Republicanism in Zapatero's Spain (Book Review)** *POLITICAL THEORY*
  Book Review Authored by: Laitin, D. D.
  2012; 40 (3): 387-394
- **Sons of the Soil, Migrants, and Civil War** *WORLD DEVELOPMENT*
  Fearon, J. D., Laitin, D. D.
  2011; 39 (2): 199-211
- **Rational Islamophobia in Europe** *ARCHIVES EUROPEENNES DE SOCIOLOGIE*

Laitin, D.
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  Adida, C. L., Laitin, D. D., Valfort, M.
  2010; 107 (52): 22384-22390
- **Fifth Nations and Nationalism debate on David Laitin's Nations, States, and Violence** *NATIONS AND NATIONALISM*
  Green, E. D., Banton, M., Guibernau, M., Laitin, D.
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- **Immigrant Communities and Civil War** *Annual Meeting of the American-Political-Science-Association*
  Laitin, D. D.
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- **Religion, terrorism and public goods: Testing the club model** *JOURNAL OF PUBLIC ECONOMICS*
  Berman, E., Laitin, D. D.
  2008; 92 (10-11): 1942-1967
- **American Immigration through Comparativists' Eyes** *COMPARATIVE POLITICS*
  Laitin, D. D.
  2008; 41 (1): 103-?
- **The political science of Peter J. Katzenstein** *PS-POLITICAL SCIENCE & POLITICS*
  Gourevitch, P. A., Keohane, R. O., Krasner, S. D., Laitin, D., Pempel, T. J., Streeck, W., Tarrow, S.
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- **The Political, Economic, and Organizational Sources of Terrorism** *TERRORISM, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND POLITICAL OPENNESS*
  Laitin, D. D., Shapiro, J. N.
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  2008: 209-232
- **Kto Kogo?: A Cross-country Study of the Origins and Targets of Terrorism** *TERRORISM, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND POLITICAL OPENNESS*
  Krueger, A. B., Laitin, D. D.
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  Fearon, J. D., Kasara, K., Laitin, D. D.
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- **A theory of endogenous institutional change** *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
  Greif, A., Laitin, D. D.
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- **Whither political science? Reflections on Professor Sartori's claim that that "American-type political science ... is going nowhere. It is an ever growing giant with feet of clay** *PS-POLITICAL SCIENCE & POLITICS*
  Laitin, D. D.
  2004; 37 (4): 789-791
- **"Misunderestimating" terrorism - The state departments big mistake** *FOREIGN AFFAIRS*
  Krueger, A. B., Laitin, D. D.
  2004; 83 (5): 8-13
- **Ethnic unmixing and civil war** *SECURITY STUDIES*
  Laitin, D. D.
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- **Neotrusteeship and the problem of weak states** *INTERNATIONAL SECURITY*
  Fearon, J. D., Laitin, D. D.
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  Laitin, D. D.
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- **The political science discipline** *97th Annual Meeting of the American-Political-Science-Association*
  Laitin, D. D.
  OHIO STATE UNIV PRESS.2004: 11–59
- **Whither political science? - Thoughts on an afirmation by Sartori that American political science is headed nowhere** *POLITICA Y GOBIERNO*
  Laitin, D. D.
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- **Three models of integration and the Estonian/Russian reality** *Conference on Multicultural Estonia*
  Laitin, D. D.
  ASSOC ADVANCEMENT BALTIC STUDIES INC.2003: 197–222
- **The Perestroikan challenge to social science** *POLITICS & SOCIETY*
  Laitin, D. D.
  2003; 31 (1): 163-184
- **Ethnicity, insurgency, and civil war** *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
  Fearon, J. D., Laitin, D. D.
  2003; 97 (1): 75-90
- **The political science discipline** *97th Annual Meeting of the American-Political-Science-Association*
  Laitin, D. D.
  OHIO STATE UNIV PRESS.2003: 11–59
- **Culture and national identity: 'The east' and european integration** *WEST EUROPEAN POLITICS*
  Laitin, D. D.
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- **Secessionist rebellion in the former Soviet Union** *Conference on Beyond State Crisis - The Quest for the Efficacious State in Africa and Eurasia*
  Laitin, D. D.
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- **Are ethnic groups biological "species" to the human brain? Essentialism in our cognition of some social categories** *Meeting of the Human-Behavior-and-Evolution-Society*
  Gil-White, F. J.
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- **Russian-speakers in Ukraine and Kazakhstan: "Nationality," "population," or neither? Comment** *POST-SOVIET AFFAIRS*
  Laitin, D. D.
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- **Post-Soviet politics** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
  Laitin, D. D.
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- **What is a language community?** *AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
  Laitin, D. D.
  2000; 44 (1): 142-155
- **Language conflict and violence: the straw that strengthens the camel's back** *ARCHIVES EUROPEENNES DE SOCIOLOGIE*
  Laitin, D. D.

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- **Armenia and Azerbaijan: Thinking a way out of Karabakh** *MIDDLE EAST POLICY*
  Laitin, D. D., Suny, R. G.
  1999; 7 (1): 145-176
- **Toward a political science discipline - Authority patterns revisited** *COMPARATIVE POLITICAL STUDIES*
  Laitin, D. D.
  1998; 31 (4): 423-443
- **The cultural identities of a European state** *Quo Vadis Europa, 2000 Conference*
  Laitin, D. D.
  SAGE PUBLICATIONS INC.1997: 277–302
- **Explaining interethnic cooperation** *91st Annual Meeting of the American-Political-Science-Association*
  Fearon, J. D., Laitin, D. D.
  CAMBRIDGE UNIV PRESS.1996: 715–35
- **THE QUALITATIVE-QUANTITATIVE DISPUTATION - KING,GARY KEOHANE,ROBERT,O., AND VERBA,SIDNEY DESIGNING SOCIAL INQUIRY - SCIENTIFIC INFERENCE IN QUALITATIVE RESEARCH** *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
  Anonymous
  1995; 89 (2): 454-454
- **NATIONAL REVIVALS AND VIOLENCE** *ARCHIVES EUROPEENNES DE SOCIOLOGIE*
  Laitin, D. D.
  1995; 36 (1): 3-43
- **MARGINALITY - A MICROPERSPECTIVE** *RATIONALITY AND SOCIETY*
  Laitin, D. D.
  1995; 7 (1): 31-57
- **THE TOWER-OF-BABEL AS A COORDINATION GAME - POLITICAL LINGUISTICS IN GHANA** *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
  Laitin, D. D.
  1994; 88 (3): 622-634
- **LANGUAGE AND THE CONSTRUCTION OF STATES - THE CASE OF CATALONIA IN SPAIN** *POLITICS & SOCIETY*
  Laitin, D. D., SOLE, C., Kalyvas, S. N.
  1994; 22 (1): 5-29
- **THE GAME-THEORY OF LANGUAGE REGIMES** *INTERNATIONAL POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
  Laitin, D. D.
  1993; 14 (3): 227-239
- **MIGRATION AND LANGUAGE SHIFT IN URBAN INDIA** *1989 SPRING SEMINAR OF THE UNIV WASHINGTONS PROGRAM ON THE COMPARATIVE STUDY OF ETHNICITY AND NATIONALITY : LANGUAGE IN POWER*
  Laitin, D. D.
  MOUTON DE GRUYTER.1993: 57–72
- **LANGUAGE NORMALIZATION IN ESTONIA AND CATALONIA** *JOURNAL OF BALTIC STUDIES*
  Laitin, D. D.
  1992; 23 (2): 149-166
- **LANGUAGE, IDEOLOGY, AND THE PRESS IN CATALONIA** *AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST*
  Laitin, D. D., Gomez, G. R.
  1992; 94 (1): 9-30
- **STRUCTURE AND IRONY IN SOCIAL REVOLUTIONS** *POLITICAL THEORY*
  Laitin, D. D., Warner, C. M.
  1992; 20 (1): 147-151