

Aaron R. King

POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE · GEOGRAPHY, ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES
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Current Appointment

University of Florida

POSTDOCTORAL ASSOCIATE, LIFE THROUGH WILDLIFE LAB, CENTER FOR AFRICAN STUDIES

Gainesville, FL

Fall 2026 – Present

Education

Ph.D. Geography

UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

Gainesville, FL

2026

- Dissertation: *Institutions, Authority, and Governance: Understanding the Performance of Community-Based Natural Resource Management in Southern Africa*
- Committee: Brian Child (chair), Jane Southworth, David Keellings, Sebastian Elischer
- Graduate Certificate: Digital Geography and GIS

M.A. Political Science, *with distinction*

VILLANOVA UNIVERSITY

Villanova, PA

2012

B.A. Journalism, *cum laude*

ITHACA COLLEGE

Ithaca, NY

2009

Teaching

Department of Geography, University of Florida

GRADUATE TEACHING ASSISTANT / INSTRUCTOR OF RECORD

Gainesville, FL

Fall 2021 – Summer 2026

- GEO 2500: Global and Regional Economies (offered 2 times)
Online (Summer 2026)
- GEO 3502: Economic Geography (offered 8 times)
Classroom (Fall 2025); Online (Fall 2023–Summer 2025, Spring 2026)
- GEO 2410: Social Geography
Online (Summer A 2023)
- GEO 3430: Population Geography (offered 3 times)
Classroom (Fall 2022); Online (Spring 2022); HyFlex (Fall 2021)

COURSE AND PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT

- Professional Certificate in Wildlife Economy and CBNRM Governance
 - GEO 6325: Wildlife Economy & Policy: Governance and Economics of Wildlife on Working Landscapes
 - GEO 6374: Community Conservation Governance: Theory and Practice
 - *Non-credit* Field Training at Anchor Sites (Botswana, Namibia, Kenya, Mozambique)
- GEA 1050: Prisoners of Geography
Development Term (Spring 2023)

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

collaborative governance of conservation, community-based natural resource management (CBNRM), environmental justice, social-ecological systems, political ecology, economic geography, GIS, spatial statistics, Southern Africa

Publications

- Child, B., King, A.R., Chidakel, A., & Shimansky, T. (2027). What is CBNRM and has it been tried? Past, present, and future in Africa. In M. Bollig, R. D. Kiaka, R. V. Nghitevelekwa, E. Rothfuss, & C. Samimi (Eds.), *Community-based natural resource management in Southern and Eastern Africa: Past, present, and futures*. James Currey.
- 2027
- 2013 King, A.R. (2013). [Review of the book *Nigeria: After the nightmare*, by I. Hagher]. *African Studies Quarterly*, 13(4), 109-110.

WORK IN PROGRESS

- Under Review Shimansky, T.*, King, A.R.*, Merz, L., Muyengwa, S., & Child, B. The effects of governance structure and scale on community conservation in Southern Africa.
- In prep King, A.R. Drivers of communal conservancy governance participation in Namibia. *targeted publication: Ecology & Society*
- In prep King, A.R., Chidakel, A., & Child, B. Representation and proprietorship in African community-based natural resource management: A comparison across 20 communities. *targeted publication: Stacks Journal*
- In prep King, A.R. & Child, B. Pathways into aborted devolution of community-based natural resource management. *targeted publication: Society & Natural Resources*
- In prep Child, B., Chidakel, A., & King, A.R. Can foraging societies compete in a modern economy? An economic and institutional analysis of land use in Sankuyo community, Botswana. *targeted publication: Conservation Science and Practice*

Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

- 2025-2026 Graduate Student Teaching Award, *University of Florida Graduate School*
- 2024-2026 Research Fellow, Global Environment Facility Fonseca Leadership Program, *Life Through Wildlife Fonseca Fellowships* (\$550,000, PI: Brian Child)
- 2023-2025 Research Fellow, Science for Nature and People Partnership (SNAPP), *CBNRM Governance & Economics Working Group* (\$231,700, PI: Brian Child)
- 2025 Graduate Student Council Travel Grant, University of Florida (\$400)
- 2025 Graduate Student Travel Award, UF College of Liberal Arts & Sciences (\$400)
- 2012-2021 McKnight Foundation Doctoral Fellowship, Florida Education Fund
- 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
- 2012 Honorable Mention, Ford Foundation Predoctoral Fellowship, The National Academies
- 2011-2012 Graduate Fellow, M.J. Ryan Center for the Study of Free Institutions and the Public Good, Villanova University
- 2011 Graduate Student Research Travel Grant, Villanova University (\$500)
- 2010-2012 University Presidential Fellowship for Underrepresented Students, Villanova University
- 2009 Peggy R. Williams Award for Academic and Community Leadership, Ithaca College
- 2008 Research Travel Award, Ithaca College
- 2007 First Prize, Perialas Prize in Persuasive Oratory, Ithaca College

Professional Development

Center for Integration of Research, Teaching, and Learning (CIRTL) Associate Certificate

CENTER FOR TEACHING EXCELLENCE, UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA

2025-2026

Selected Presentations and Conferences

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

Research Experience

Field Research - CBNRM Governance Surveys in Zambezi, Namibia

Namibia

FUNDING: THE NATURE CONSERVANCY (SNAPP)

February 2024

- Administered approximately 250 household surveys in Wuparo, Mashi, and Kwandu conservancies
- Co-facilitated community workshop presentations of data findings in Kwandu Conservancy

Field Research - CBNRM Governance Surveys in Kunene, Namibia

Namibia

FUNDING: JAMMA INTERNATIONAL, NAMIBIA CHAMBER OF ENVIRONMENT

Summer 2023

- Administered approximately 350 household-level surveys in three conservancies in Kunene Region, Namibia (Ehi Rovipuka, #Khoadi-Hôas, and Doro !nawas); covering livelihoods, household consumption, governance participation, social capital, and wildlife tolerance
- Co-facilitated enumerator training and community feedback presentations of data in each community

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

Nigeria

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

Summer 2008

- Conducted 60 semi-structured interviews and two focus groups in rural villages near Obudu, CRS to assess local education and health service needs and gauge aid accountability to intended beneficiaries; impact assessments

Archival Document Analysis & Editorial and Indexing Support, Villanova University

Villanova, PA

RESEARCH ASSISTANT, DR. DAVID M. BARRETT, DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Fall 2010 - Spring 2012

- Resulting publication: D.M. Barrett and M. Holland, *Blind Over Cuba* (Texas A&M Press, 2012).

International Workshops & Training Facilitation

CBNRM Governance Manuals Development Workshop

Stellenbosch, South Africa

SCIENCE FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP (SNAPP), CBNRM GOVERNANCE & ECONOMICS

September 2025

- Co-organizer and co-facilitator for 5-day workshop for CBNRM community managers (35 participants from 8 countries)
- Sessions focus on co-developing training materials staff/community capacity building; using data for governance reform and adaptive management; participatory budgeting; financial management; and managing governance devolution

Life Through Wildlife Anchor Site and Governance Dashboard Survey Workshop

Cape Town, South Africa

GEF FONSECA LEADERSHIP PROGRAM, UNIVERSITY OF STELLENBOSCH

June 2025

- Co-organizer and co-facilitator for 5-day workshop providing technical training on conducting household governance surveys and managing anchor sites for master's and certificate students at Stellenbosch University supported by the Fonseca Fellowship program
- Modules on KPI tracking, survey design, use of Kobo Toolbox/ODK for survey management, and wildlife monitoring

CBNRM Governance Dashboard and Wildlife Economics Training

Zambezi, Namibia

SCIENCE FOR NATURE AND PEOPLE PARTNERSHIP (SNAPP), CBNRM GOVERNANCE & ECONOMICS

February 2024

- Co-organizer and co-facilitator for 5-day field training and workshop on governance and wildlife economics for CBNRM community managers (26 participants from 8 countries)
- Modules on designing and conducting household surveys for research and adaptive management, sampling, and data interpretation

Professional Service

Member, Core Team, Community-Led Conservation Learning Group (Honeyguide Foundation)

2026 - Present

Keynote Speaker, GradStart (Graduate Student Orientation), University of Florida

August 2026

Editorial Committee, *African Studies Quarterly*

2012 - 2014

African Politics Search Committee, Dept. of Political Science, Villanova University

Fall 2011

Selected Professional Experience

University of Virginia

Charlottesville, VA

DIRECTOR OF ONLINE LEARNING STRATEGY

Oct. 2021 - June 2023

- Responsible for collaborating with faculty and key personnel to develop a comprehensive strategy guiding the development of online programs across UVA's schools.

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. Provided business intelligence and data analytics support to ODL business units. Supported 42 new online graduate program approvals.

NURU Agency

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

CONSULTANT

May 2018 - Feb. 2019

- Contributed to development of communications plan/collateral and grant applications for Tanzania Wildlife Management Authority's (TAWA) campaign to increase tourism and investment in Selous and Kijireshi game reserves.

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 overseeing two schools, an orphanage, and community development programs in rural Cross River State, Nigeria.

Skills

Programming R, HTML5/CSS, JavaScript, L^AT_EX, Python (moderate)

Software ArcGIS Pro, ArcGIS Online, ENVI, Google Earth Engine, ODK/Kobo, SPSS, Stata, Adobe CC

References for Aaron R. King

Brian Child

Professor, Department of Geography & Center for African Studies, University of Florida

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Jane Southworth

Professor, Department of Geography, University of Florida

email: jsouthwo@ufl.edu

David Keellings

Associate Professor, Department of Geography, University of Florida

email: djkeellings@ufl.edu