

Luke Williams

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Education:

Oxford University,

Oxford, UK

M.Phil, pursuing two-year masters degree in Politics at Merton College

Field of Focus: The History of American Conservatism: Philosophical and Political Transformations

Expected Graduation Date: June 30, 2025

Harvard University,

Cambridge, MA

B.L.A. in Social Studies, secondary degree in English; GPA: 3.89. Degree received in May 2023.

Honors: Graduated cum laude, received summa cum laude in primary field (among top 5% of Social Studies students),

Received the Alexis de Tocqueville Research Fellowship for students in the social sciences.

Fields of Focus: The American Social Welfare State; Economic Inequality & American Conservatism

Relevant Coursework: Political Science, Statistics, Economics, 20th-Century American Political History & Thought

Work Experience:

Global True North

Oklahoma City, OK/Washington, D.C.

Research Director

August 2023 — Present

GTN is a boutique human services management consulting firm invested in creating better welfare systems at the state and federal level. At GTN, I work on consulting projects as a junior consultant and with the subsidiary group "The Center for Public Sector A.I." as a researcher. In the former capacity, I facilitate GTN's consultation practice as it works with state-level government agencies to build more efficient, human-centered, trauma-responsive, and outcome-focused social welfare systems. In the latter capacity, I help with day-to-day operations of the CPSAI, developing background briefings and coordinating meetings with government leaders and private sector developers to address information asymmetries in the development of A.I. technology for use in government.

The Office of Governor Kevin Stitt

Oklahoma City, OK

Assistant to the Special Counsel on Native American Affairs

November 2020 — August 2021

Following the Supreme Court's decision in 'McGirt v. Oklahoma' — recognizing the eastern half of Oklahoma as five Native American reservations governed by distinct sovereign nations — the governor's office hired a special counsel to manage negotiations between Oklahoma's 'Five Civilized Tribes,' the state government, and Federal regulatory committees as Oklahoma entered new legal territory concerning disputes around criminal and civil legal jurisdiction, taxation and zoning rights, Federal and tribal court burdens, and environmental regulations. My duties to the Special Counsel were numerous, ranging from econometric research and data analysis to administering interviews with tribal members and officials, as well as policy writing, presentation, and ambassadorship in meetings with tribal and state leaders.

Public Strategies

Oklahoma City, OK

Project Coordinator

August 2020 — May 2021

Public Strategies is a 'testing ground' for innovations in social welfare policy and a federal/state-level public policy research and consulting firm. As a project coordinator, I worked in a team of Ph.D. researchers to develop and administer quantitative and qualitative evaluations of state-level social welfare programs. In turn, we used these evaluations to publish policy recommendations outlining the most efficient and beneficent implementation strategies for state-level social welfare programs. Beyond statistical research and policy proposal writing, my work involved research trial organization, survey writing and administration, and mentorship and education of benefit recipients.

Oklahoma Department of Human Services

Oklahoma City, OK

Economic and Social Policy Intern under Dir. Justin Brown

January 2020, May 2020 — August 2020

I served OKDHS for three weeks in January conducting research, interviews, data collection, and analysis surrounding the ‘benefit cliff.’ Following my research, I wrote and presented a 54-page policy proposal to OKDHS senior staff that outlined how benefit payouts might be restructured to alleviate recipients’ ‘negative incentives’ to increase income. In May 2020 I was hired once again after DHS shifted its 7,000 employees out of its offices, launching the first fully ‘digital welfare state’ in the nation. I was tasked with administering interviews to 70 OKDHS teleworking employees and benefit recipients to identify obstacles to the digital shift and develop mitigation strategies.

Court Service Center Associate

Boston Municipal Court, Central Division, Boston, MA

Intern Assistant to Self-Litigants

August 2019—May 2020

As a volunteer paralegal in the Boston Municipal court, I offered one-on-one assistance to English- and Spanish-speaking self-litigants who didn’t have access to legal services within the Suffolk County civil court system. I worked to identify their legal needs and provide community-based legal solutions, addressing cases such as divorce, domestic abuse, eviction claims and counterclaims, citizenship requests, and other family and probate cases. I further assisted self-litigants in filling out all legal and financial forms and provided them with the best legal steps and research specific to their cases.

Professional Research Experience:

Research Assistant for the *Global Party Survey* at the Harvard Kennedy School

December 2021 — May 2022

Launched by Prof. Pippa Norris, the GPS is an independent academic research project that uses expert surveys to document how political parties across the globe differ in their ideological values, policy positions, and rhetoric. The project generates a core party-level dataset which measures key variables like parties’ level of populism and respect for democratic values. The GPS contains data for over 1,000 political parties across 163 countries and has been downloaded more than 18,000 times, proving a critical resource for understanding our internationally tumultuous political moment. Along with one other RA, I helped develop the core database and expert survey questions for the second round of the GPS.

Research Assistant at Harvard Law School

April 2021 — December 2021

I worked as a research assistant under Professor Chris Lewis at Harvard Law School and Professor Adaner Usmani in the Harvard Sociology Department helping them develop their upcoming book *What’s Wrong with Mass Incarceration?*, interrogating America’s prison industrial complex from sociological and philosophical perspectives. My research dealt specifically with bringing diverse philosophical schools of thought to bear on statistical, historical, and economic data.

Leadership and Volunteering:

Supervisor at Y2Y Harvard Square Youth Homelessness Shelter

August 2021 — January 2023

Student Volunteer at Harvard Square Homeless Shelter

January 2019 — May 2021

Y2Y began as a project of student volunteers from the student-run Harvard Square Homeless Shelter (HSHS). At Y2Y Harvard Square, the nation’s first youth-led youth homeless shelter, homeless guests collaborate with service providers, other youth experiencing homelessness, and student volunteer supervisors to create sustainable pathways out of homelessness and develop skills for long-term success. At both Y2Y and HSHS, I served as a mentor and caretaker for nightly residents, cooking dinner, hosting game nights, assisting residents with work and housing applications, and so on.

Harvard Interfaith Forum Executive Board Member

September 2018 — May 2020

I was the event coordinator for the Harvard Interfaith Forum, organizing and leading bi-monthly multi-faith dinners that invited people of all different faiths to break bread and meditate over difficult questions in communion and learning.

Skills and Interests:

Languages: English, Spanish (limited professional proficiency)

Misc: Microsoft Office Suite Proficiency • Stata, R, R Markdown, R Studio Cloud, and SPSS Proficiency • Public Speaking • Creative/Academic/Professional Writing