

# Miranda Soledad Simon

*UK Right to work: Permanent Resident*

<b>Contact</b>	Department of Government University of Essex Wivenhoe Park, Colchester, CO4 3SQ	Email: miranda.simon@essex.ac.uk Web: www.mirandasimon.net
<b>Academic Positions</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY OF ESSEX</b> Senior Lecturer (Associate Professor), Department of Government  Lecturer (Assistant Professor), Department of Government	2021 -  2019 - 2021
<b>Education</b>	<b>UNIVERSITY COLLEGE LONDON (UCL)</b> Ph.D, Political Science Thesis: “The Effects of Immigration Policy on Migration Systems” Fields: International Relations, Security  MRes. Security and Crime Science <i>Distinction</i> <sup>1</sup>  MSc. International Public Policy ( <i>Distinction</i> <sup>1</sup> )  <b>STANFORD UNIVERSITY, PALO ALTO, CA</b> M.A. Journalism  <b>UNIVERSIDAD IBEROAMERICANA, MEXICO CITY</b> B.A. Communication ( <i>9.5/10</i> )	2019    2013  2012  2010  2009
<b>Selected Publications</b>	“Refugee Resettlement and Preferences.” <i>Political Studies</i> (2025). With Mollie Gerver and Faten Ghosn.  “Can Foreign Aid Reduce the Desire to Emigrate? Evidence from a Randomized Controlled Trial.” <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> (2024). With Cassilde Schwartz and David Hudson.  “How Governance Under the ‘Grand Compromise’ Affects Refugee Preferences for Relocation: Evidence from Syrian Refugees in Lebanon.” <i>Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies</i> (2024). With Alex Braithwaite, Michael Frith and Faten Ghosn.  “Using Aid to Control Migration.” <i>Political Studies</i> (2023), with James Christensen.  “Covid-19 Insecurities and Migration Aspirations.” <i>International Interactions</i> (2022). With Cassilde Schwartz and David Hudson.  “The Journey Home: Violence, Anchoring, and Refugee Decisions to Return.” <i>Amer-</i>	

---

<sup>1</sup>Top classification in UK system.

*ican Political Science Review* (2021). With Faten Ghosn, Tiffany Chu, Alex Braithwaite, Michael Frith and Joanna Jandali.

“Law Breaking and Law Bending: How International Migrants Negotiate with State Borders.” *International Studies Quarterly* (2020). With Cassilde Schwartz, David Hudson and Shane D. Johnson.

“A Populist Paradox? How Brexit Softened Anti-Immigrant Attitudes.” *British Journal of Political Science* (2020). With Cassilde Schwartz, David Hudson and Jennifer Van-Heerde Hudson.

“Path Dependency and Adaptation: The Effects of Policy on Migration Corridors.” *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation* (2019).

“A Data-driven Computational Model on the Effects of Immigration Policies.” *Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America (PNAS)* (2018). With Cassilde Schwartz, David Hudson and Shane D. Johnson.

“Inter-rater Reliability in Systematic Review Methodology: Acknowledging the Role of Discretion.” *Sociological Methods & Research* (2018). With Jyoti Belur, Lisa Thompson and Amy Thornton.

#### Book chapters

“Do Arguments about Immigration Ethics Change Minds?” (2026) In: Why Political Theory Needs Social Science. Editors: Miller, D. and Baderin, A., Oxford University Press, with Mollie Gerver, Dominik Duell, and Patrick Lown

#### Working papers

“Returnee Acceptance: Experimental Evidence from South Central Somalia” (Under review at *British Journal of Political Science*), with Prabin Khadka

“What Drives Attitudes Toward Deportation in Transit Countries?” (Under review at *International Studies Quarterly*), with Sergio Ascencio

“Foreign Aid and Motivational Crowding Out in Refugee Hosting” (Under review at *American Journal of Political Science*), with Mollie Gerver, Dominik Duell, and Patrick Lown

“A Nation of Laws? How Americans Perceive Agency in Unauthorized Immigration”, with Cassilde Schwartz (presented at *American Political Science Association, European Political Science Association and Southern Political Science Association Annual Conferences 2025/2026*)

“Limiting Discretion in Border Enforcement: A Regression Discontinuity Analysis of How a ‘Use of Force’ Policy Affected Migrant Treatment and Re-Migration Intentions”

#### Grants, Fellowships & Awards

Research grant (£115,000) 2025

“North African Migration And Development Project Evaluation”  
*International Organisation for Migration, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office* – Primary-Investigator

Impact Leave Award (£12,929.90) 2024

Semester secondment at the International Organisation for Migration  
*University of Essex* – Primary-Investigator

---

PSF impact grant (£2,250) “Community of Practice (CoP) on the spillovers of migration interventions” <i>University of Essex</i> – Primary-Investigator	2024
Impact grant (£11,762) “The spillovers of aid and refugee returns” <i>University of Essex</i> – Primary-Investigator	2023
Rapid Response Fund (£1,000) “Skills-sharing among Somali returnees” <i>University of Essex</i> – Primary-Investigator	2023
Research Grant (£142,800, ~ US\$ 190,000) “The Diffusion of Development: Extending RCTS with Agent-Based Modelling to Understand Spillovers of Development Interventions.” <i>ESRC Research Methods Development Grants</i> – Co-Investigator.	2021
Research Grant (£1.6m., ~US\$2m.) “Testing the impact of interventions on migration decision-making.” <i>International Organisation for Migration, Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office</i> – Work Package Lead.	2019-2021
Research Project Grant (£205,365, ~US\$260,000) “Migrant Decisions, Networks and Immigration Policy.” <i>The Leverhulme Trust</i> – Technical lead.	2014-2016
Research Degree Scholarship <i>The Leverhulme Trust</i>	2014-2016
Studentship <i>Engineering and Physical Sciences Research Council</i>	2013, 2017-2018

## Service

### Departmental

Research Division Head, Department of Government, University of Essex (2025–present)  
 REF 2029 Impact Case Study Lead, Department of Government, University of Essex (2024–present)  
 Director of Diversity and Inclusion, Department of Government, University of Essex (2022–2025)  
 PGR Professionalisation Seminar Series, Department of Government, University of Essex (2023–2025)  
 PGR Conference Funding Committee, Department of Government, University of Essex (2023)  
 Recruitment Committee, Department of Government, University of Essex (2019–2021)  
 PhD Progress Board, Department of Government, University of Essex (2020)

### Professional

Co-convenor, Conference on Borders and Migration, Southern Political Science Association (2024–present)

Peer reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Proceed-*

*ings of the National Academy of Sciences, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies, International Migration, International Interactions, Research and Politics, Journal of Immigrant and Refugee Studies*

**Invited Talks**

International Organisation for Migration (IOM), London (January 2026; March 2026). International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Egypt (2025). International Organisation for Migration (IOM), Algeria (2025). University College London, London (2025). University of East Anglia, Norwich (2023). International Organisation for Migration (IOM), London (April 2019). Home Office, London. Presentation to migration research team (March 2016, May 2017, August 2017). UK Behavioural Insights Team, London (March 2016).

**Teaching**

University of Essex 2019 – current.

Global Politics and Economic Policies (Lecturer).

Development, Foreign Aid & N.G.Os (Lecturer).

Migration, Politics & International Development (Lecturer)

University College London (UCL)

2013-2015

Introduction to Quantitative Methods. Dr. James Melton and Dr. Lucas Leeman. Department of Political Science (Teaching Fellow).

Introduction to Quantitative Methods. Prof. Jennifer Van Heerde-Hudson. Department of Political Science (Teaching Assistant).

**Graduate Student Advising**

Geraldine Bustos-Zamora, Ph.D. 2025, University of Essex (supervisor) Eden Anin-Adjei, Ph.D. expected 2026, University of Essex (advisory committee)

**Research Positions**

University College London (UCL)

Department of Security and Crime Science June 2018 – Aug. 2019 (with Department of Political Science, University of Arizona).  
Project: Refugee Flows and Instability (Research Assistant)

Department of Security and Crime Science 2014  
Project: What Works Centre for Crime Prevention (Research Assistant)

**Other Skills**

**Software/Programming:** R, Matlab, Unix Shell Scripting, NetLogo, Stata, SPSS.

**Languages:** Spanish (native), English (fluent), German (intermediate), French (beginner), Italian (beginner), Danish (beginner).