

Score for Wilson, Matthew

Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit

Excellent

Explanation to Applicant

This proposal is superb. The applicant is well-experienced and well-schooled to conduct the project, based on prior military service, prior research teamwork, and ongoing graduate coursework in conflict processes and regime type. The theoretical framework is both basic and instrumental to making real explanatory goals. The dataset construction-and-use plan is strong - with particular emphasis on the critical need for event data on conflict behavior that get at interactions of domestic actors. The plan for communication and outreach is clearly expressed and compelling.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts

Excellent

Explanation to Applicant

This proposal is for a project that has at least three broader impacts. One is infrastructure improvement in terms of the construction of a much-needed measure/variable for use in modeling and analyzing conflict processes. A second is the applicant's participation in and ability to perpetuate an integrative approach to education and research with very strong potential to benefit others in both graduate and undergraduate settings. The third is the ability of the research proposed here to contribute to the development of reliable computerized systems for analyzing conflict data of interest to practitioners policymakers alike.

Score for Wilson, Matthew

Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit

Very Good

Explanation to Applicant

The research proposal is well organized, feasible, and well put-together, if it seems a little bit method-driven at times. The researcher is clearly well-qualified to do the research, and is, by most accounts and my own reading, likely to be very successful in graduate school. The concern with doing policy-relevant research is this proposal is (perhaps uniquely) backed up by an understanding of the challenges of such a research process and the differences in research norms in the academic and policy worlds.

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts

Excellent

Explanation to Applicant

The applicant is clearly committed not only to contributing to scientific and technical knowledge, but to serving a broader community. A compelling part of this application is the applicant's commitment to Clemson University (the applicant's undergraduate institution), but the applicant also evinces a clear commitment to a number of other community service goals, including most notably to the LGBTQ community. The applicant is clearly driven by a desire to and a sense of responsibility to help others, and to encourage diversity, particularly on the axis of sexual orientation.

Score for Wilson, Matthew

Intellectual Merit Criterion

Overall Assessment of Intellectual Merit

Very Good

Explanation to Applicant

The applicant has a strong record of research. He has presented at major conferences and is working on a submission to a solid journal. He is involved in several reserach projects at Penn State, and has an interesting idea for a dissertation.

The proposed reserach is less theoretically motivated than many in the applicant pool. The focus is on the data (developing a more nuanced measure of the types of authoritarian regimes) than it is on the expectations for how these types of regimes will matter.

I am less concerned about this given his location. Penn State is the ideal place to be doing this research and the faculty there will push him in the appropriate ways

Broader Impacts Criterion

Overall Assessment of Broader Impacts

Excellent

Explanation to Applicant

This is the type of intellectual and community leader the GRF is looking for. The applicant served his country in the Air Force, has worked to develop organizations to support traditionally underrepresented groups, and has a clear interest in teaching. The research is on the causes of war, probably the most important topic Political Science addresses. There isn't anything else we could ask of him in terms of broader impacts.