Aaron Erlich is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Political Science and an affiliate of the Center for Statistics and the Social Sciences at the University of Washington. As of August of 2016, he will be an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at McGill University in Canada.

His research addresses core theoretical, empirical, methodological, and policy questions related to increasing both public confidence in and procedural integrity of democratic processes and institutions in developing countries. The substantive questions his work addresses include how uncertainty about election outcomes shapes citizens’ attitudes and behaviors, how provision of political information impacts citizens’ perceptions of regimes’ legitimacy, which strategies politicians use to manipulate information, and what the interplay is between increased transparency and political competition. Erlich investigates these critical questions in the context of developing and fragile democracies in the Caucasus, sub-Saharan Africa, and México. Methodologically, his work utilizes lab-in-the-field experiments, household surveys and survey experiments, machine-learning, development engineering, and ethnography.

Erlich’s emergent book project explores how citizens and elites use and strategically employ information about politics, specifically public opinion polls and pre-election forecasts, in uncertain electoral environments. He tackles other elements of his research agenda in published or forthcoming work in the *American Political Science Review* and *Comparative Political Studies*.

Prior to beginning his Ph.D., Erlich was the Deputy Director of the Caucasus Research Resource Centers and a Program Officer for the National Democratic Institute in Kenya.