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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Comparative politics of the Middle East; non-state military actors; mass violence and civilian protection; new media, propaganda, and political mobilization; gender and militant group recruitment.

CURRENT BOOK PROJECT

*We are the Resistance: Resources, Relationships, and the Politics of
Survival in the Middle East*

The book examines, compares, and explains the widely varying performances of the various militant groups in the conflict ecosystem defined by Israel's conflict its nonstate adversaries. It focuses on the strategies they use to acquire resources (whether political or military) through their relationships with state sponsors and local civilian constituents. Because of the ways that these strategies shape the organizations that employ them (sometimes in unexpected ways), they have a profound impact on the organizations' ability to resist counterinsurgent efforts by their adversaries. Comparing the PLO, Amal, Hizbullah, and Hamas, the book traces the evolution of armed resistance and insurgency against Israel from the early days of the PLO in Jordan in the late 1960s, through the lessons produced by the chaos of the Lebanese Civil War, to Hizbullah's self-described victory in the 2006 July War and the expansion of Hamas' influence in Gaza.

EDUCATION

- 2011 McGill University, PhD, Political Science
Dissertation: Send Lawyers, Guns and Money: The Politics of Militia Survival in the Middle East.
- 2004 University of Chicago, MA, Social Sciences
- 1999 Cornell University, BA, *Cum Laude*, History and Religious Studies (independent major).

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed articles

“Doing Well by Doing Good: Charity as Political Advertising in the Palestinian Territories”, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 2015

“A Friend in Need: The Impact of the Syrian Civil War on Syria’s Clients” *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 2014.

“Gender Ideology and Forms of Contentious Mobilization in the Middle East” (with Victor Asal, Richard Legault and Jonathan Wilkenfeld) *Journal of Peace Research*, July 2013, 50 (4)

“Hezbollah’s Survival: Resources and Relationships.” *Middle East Policy*, Vol. XIX, No. 4, Winter 2012.

“Welcome to Tahrir Square: A simulation of the Egyptian revolution.” *Simulation and Gaming* (forthcoming)

Book chapters

“Lessons from Lebanon: The Costs of Avoiding Transitional Justice” *Transitional Justice and the Arab Spring*, Robert Stewart and Kirsten Fisher, eds. (Routledge, 2013)

“Understanding Insurgent Failure: Resources and Relationships during Black September.” In *Understanding Order, Cooperation, and Variance among Non-State Armed Groups*, Andrew Grant, ed. (Palgrave, forthcoming)

Book reviews

Sara Roy, *Hamas and Civil Society in Gaza*, in *Perspectives on Politics*. Vol 11, no. 4. (2013)

Naim Stifan Ateek, *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation*, in *Journal for Peace and Justice Studies*, vol. 20, no. 1 (2010).

Cheryl Rubenberg, *The Palestinians: In Search of a Just Peace*, in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*. vol. 38 (2006).

WORK IN PROGRESS

“Why support violent nonstate actors (VNSAs)? Exploring the reasons why states support some violent nonstate actors but not others.” with Victor Asal (*in progress*)

“The Politics of the Memorial in South Lebanon” (*in progress*)

“From Moscow To Jerusalem: Comparing the choice of protest as a strategy by ethnopolitical organizations in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.” With Victor Asal, Richard Legault and Jonathan Wilkenfeld (*in progress*)

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Why support violent nonstate actors (VNSAs)? Exploring the reasons why states support some violent nonstate actors but not others.” International Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, March 26th-29th, 2014

“The Politics of the Memorial in South Lebanon” International Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, March 26th-29th, 2014

“States without a State: Protostate Actor Realignment and the Arab Spring.” Workshop on the Origins and Effects of the (Post-) Arab Spring on The Middle East and North Africa. Istanbul Sehir University, Istanbul, Turkey. January 4th-7th, 2014.

“Civil-military Relations and the Timing of Israeli Military Campaigns: From Lebanon to Gaza (and back again?)” Peace Science Society-International Studies Association Joint Meeting, Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary. June 27th-29th 2013.

“From Moscow To Jerusalem: Comparing the choice of protest as a strategy by ethnopolitical organizations in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.” (With Victor Asal, Richard Legault and Jonathan Wilkenfeld.) International Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 3rd-6th, 2013.

“Social Services as Advertising for Nonstate Military Actors: The Case of Hamas.” International Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, April 1st-4th, 2012

“The Impact of Syrian Sponsorship on its Nonstate Clients: A principal-agent approach.” International Studies Association Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, March 16th-19th, 2011.

“Resources, Relationships and Militia Survival in the Modern Middle East” International Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, February 17th-21st, 2010.

“Send Lawyers, Guns and Money: Resources, Relationships and Relative Militia Effectiveness.” Workshop on Understanding Order, Cooperation and Variance among Non-State Armed Groups.” Queens University. September 19th, 2009. Kingston, Ontario.

“Critical Minorities: The impact of non-dominant ethnic groups on foreign policy.” International Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, February, 2008.

“Blogging, Civil Society and Political Mobilization in the Arab Middle East.” Middle East Studies Association Annual Meeting, November 17th – 20th, 2007, Montreal, Quebec.

“Tilting at Windmills: Counterinsurgency in Historical Perspective.” With Virginia DiGaetano. ISSS/ISAC Annual Meeting, October 18th-19th, 2007, Montreal, Quebec.

FIELD RESEARCH

- 2012 Field research in Lebanon, the West Bank and Egypt.
2009 Field research in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Israel and the West Bank.
2006 IDRC internship, United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Beirut, Lebanon.

FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS

- 2013 Project on Middle East Political Science, junior scholars book workshop
November 2013, Yale University
2011 START Conference, “Catastrophe and Catalyst: 10 Years Since 9/11.” Poster
competition, runner up
2010-2011 START Terrorism Research Award, University of Maryland
2009-2010 Voted TA of the Year by the McGill Political Science Student Association
2008-2010 Nathan Steinberg Fellowship in Political Science, McGill University
2007-2008 Max E. Binz Fellowship, McGill University
2005-2006 McGill University Graduate Recruitment Fellowship

TEACHING

Clark University: Introduction to Comparative Politics
The Politics of the Middle East
The Arab Israeli Conflict
Capstone Seminar on Civil War
The Politics of Ethnicity and Identity

McGill University: Introduction to International Relations
Peacebuilding and Post-conflict Reconstruction

SERVICE

- 2013-present Core faculty, Peace Studies Program
2013-present CGRAS Steering committee
2012-present Institutional Review Board, Clark University
2011-2012 Steering Committee, Race and Ethnic Studies Program, Clark University

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Arabic: Colloquial fluency
German: Intermediate comprehension
French: Intermediate comprehension
Hebrew: Beginning comprehension

SELECTED OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2005 Lead instructional designer, English as a Second Language curriculum. Rubicon
(multimedia software company), Amman, Jordan.
2004–2005 Program Coordinator for Jordan and Palestine programs, Relief International-
Schools Online, Middle East Headquarters, Amman, Jordan.
1999-2001 Peace Corps Volunteer, Secondary Education. ‘Allan Secondary School for Girls,
Balqa Governorate, Jordan.