

Dr. Mara Redlich Revkin

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Academic Appointments

Georgetown University Law Center National Security Law Fellow	2020–
Yale Law School Robina Foundation Fellow in International Human Rights	2019

Education

Yale University , Ph.D. in Political Science Dissertation: “Three Essays on the Microfoundations of Rebel Governance: Theory and Evidence from the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria”	2019
Yale University , M.A. & M.Phil. in Political Science	2016, 2017
Yale Law School , J.D. Porter Prize Best Paper on Taxation, Lowenstein Human Rights Law Clinic, Transnational Development Clinic	2016
Swarthmore College , B.A. with High Honors Major: Political Science, Minors: Arabic & Anthropology	2009

Research & Teaching Interests

Law: Criminal Law and Procedure, Policing, Empirical Legal Studies, National Security Law, International Law, Comparative Law (Iraq, Egypt, Islamic Law), Human Rights, Military Justice, Arbitration

Political Science: Comparative Politics, Political Violence, Rebel Governance, State Formation

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Mara R. Revkin, *Competitive Governance and Displacement Decisions Under Rebel Rule: Evidence from the Islamic State in Iraq*, THE JOURNAL OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION (2020). [PDF](#).

Mara R. Revkin, *What Explains Taxation by Resource-Rich Rebels? New Data from the Islamic State in Syria*, 82 THE JOURNAL OF POLITICS 757-764 (2020). [PDF](#).

- Awarded Yale Law School’s 2016 Clifford Porter Prize for Best Paper on Taxation.

Mara R. Revkin & Elisabeth J. Wood, *The Islamic State’s Pattern of Sexual Violence: Ideology and Institutions, Policies and Practices*, THE JOURNAL OF GLOBAL SECURITY STUDIES (2020). [PDF](#).

Mara R. Revkin & Ariel I. Ahram, *Perspectives on the Rebel Social Contract: Exit, Voice, and Loyalty in the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria*, 132 *WORLD DEVELOPMENT* 1-9 (2020). [PDF](#).

Mara R. Revkin, *Egypt's Constitution in Question*, 5 *MIDDLE EAST LAW AND GOVERNANCE* 331-343 (2013). [PDF](#).

Chibli Mallat & Mara R. Revkin, *Middle Eastern Law*, 9 *ANNUAL REVIEW OF LAW AND SOCIAL SCIENCE* 405-433 (2013). [PDF](#).

Law Journal Publications

Mara R. Revkin, *When Terrorists Govern: Protecting Civilians in Conflicts with State-Building Armed Groups*, 9 *HARVARD NATIONAL SECURITY JOURNAL* 100-144 (2018). [PDF](#).

Mara R. Revkin, *Triadic Legal Pluralism in North Sinai: A Case Study of State, Shari'a, and 'Urf Courts in Conflict and Cooperation*, 13 *UCLA JOURNAL OF ISLAMIC AND NEAR EASTERN LAW* 21-59 (2014). [PDF](#).

Book Chapters

Florian Kohstall, Sarah E. Parkinson & Mara R. Revkin, *After the Field*, in *SAFER FIELD RESEARCH IN THE SOCIAL SCIENCES: A GUIDE TO HUMAN AND DIGITAL SECURITY IN HOSTILE ENVIRONMENTS* 69-88 (Jannis Grimm et al. eds., 2020). [PDF](#).

Mara R. Revkin, *"I Am Nothing Without a Weapon": Understanding Child Recruitment and Use by Armed Groups in Syria and Iraq*, in *CRADLED BY CONFLICT: CHILD INVOLVEMENT WITH ARMED GROUPS IN CONTEMPORARY CONFLICT* 104-139 (Siobhan O'Neil & Kato van Broeckhoven eds., 2018). [PDF](#).

Nathan J. Brown & Mara R. Revkin, *Islamic Law and Constitutions*, in *THE OXFORD HANDBOOK OF ISLAMIC LAW* 1-27 (2018). [PDF](#).

Working Papers

Kristen Kao & Mara R. Revkin, *Retribution or Reconciliation? Attitudes Toward Rebel Collaborators in Iraq* (under revision at *THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*). [PDF](#).

- Awarded the American Political Science Association's 2020 Franklin L. Burdette Pi Sigma Alpha Award for best paper presented at the previous annual meeting.

Mara R. Revkin, *Explaining Subnational Variation in Police Violence: Evidence from Iraq* (under review).

Mara R. Revkin & Kristen Kao, *How Does Punishment Affect Reintegration of Former Offenders? Evidence from Iraq* (under review). [PDF](#).

Works in Progress

Travis Curtice, Jason Lyall, Hilary Matfess & Mara R. Revkin, *Bias and Policing in Afghanistan, Iraq, Liberia, Uganda, and the United States* (funded by the Folke Bernadotte Academy).

Jeni Klugman, Robert Nagel, **Mara R. Revkin** & Orly Stern, *The Women, Peace and Security Agenda and International Humanitarian Law* (funded by Liechtenstein's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture).

Kristen Kao & **Mara R. Revkin**, *Legal Pluralism in Iraq*.

Policy Reports (Selected)

Mara R. Revkin & Olga Aymerich, *Perceptions of Police, Security, and Governance in Iraq*, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (May 2020). [PDF](#).

Mara R. Revkin & Delair Jabari, *West Mosul: Perceptions on Return and Reintegration Among Stayees, IDPs, and Returnees*, INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION FOR MIGRATION (Jun. 2019). [PDF](#).

Mara R. Revkin, *After the Islamic State: Balancing Accountability and Reconciliation in Iraq*, UNITED NATIONS UNIVERSITY CENTRE FOR POLICY RESEARCH (May 31, 2018). [PDF](#).

Mara R. Revkin, *The Legal Foundations of the Islamic State*, 21 THE BROOKINGS PROJECT ON U.S. RELATIONS WITH THE ISLAMIC WORLD (2016). [PDF](#).

Media & Other Publications (Selected)

Mara R. Revkin, *Police Decentralization, Fragmentation, and Implications for Patterns of Violence: Insights from Iraq*, APSA COMPARATIVE POLITICS NEWSLETTER (Dec. 7, 2020). [PDF](#).

Mara R. Revkin, *Jihad as a Universalist Project in Comparative Perspective: A Review of Darryl Li's The Universal Enemy*, LAWFARE (May 28, 2020).

Kristen Kao & **Mara R. Revkin**, *How the Iraqi crackdown on the Islamic State may actually increase support for the Islamic State*, WASHINGTON POST (Jan. 7, 2019).

Mara R. Revkin, *Iraq's Harsh Approach to Punishing Islamic State "Collaborators" Stands to Have Counterproductive Consequences*, LAWFARE (Jun. 11, 2018).

Mara R. Revkin, *How Militants in Iraq Recruit and Use Children*, WASHINGTON POST (Feb. 14, 2018).

Mara R. Revkin, *Law and Lawfare in the Islamic State*, LAWFARE (Aug. 5, 2016).

Mara R. Revkin, *Does ISIS Need Territory to Survive?*, NEW YORK TIMES (Oct. 20, 2016).

Mara R. Revkin, *ISIS' Social Contract*, FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Jan. 10, 2016).

Andrew F. March & **Mara R. Revkin**, *Caliphate of Law*, FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Apr. 15, 2015).

Mara R. Revkin, *Egypt's New Constitution and the Police State*, FOREIGN AFFAIRS (Feb. 11, 2014).

Mara R. Revkin, *Sharia Courts of the Sinai*, FOREIGN POLICY (Sept. 20, 2013).

Mara R. Revkin, *Egypt's Power Vacuum is Radicalizing the Sinai Peninsula*, WASHINGTON POST (Aug. 29, 2013).

Mara R. Revkin & Yussef Auf, *Egypt's Fallen Police State Gives Way to Vigilante Justice*, THE ATLANTIC (Apr. 3, 2013).

Mara R. Revkin, *Immigration Issues: City on a Hill* 18 THE AMERICAN PROSPECT 31–33 (2007).

Fellowships & Awards

APSA Franklin L. Burdette Pi Sigma Alpha Award (with Kristen Kao)	2020
Yale MacMillan Center International Dissertation Research Fellowship	2017-18
Yale Fox Fellow at Boğaziçi University in Istanbul, Turkey	2017-18
Scholarship, Zurich Summer School for Women in Political Methodology	2018
Islamic Law and Civilization Research Fellow, Yale Law School	2016-17
Clifford L. Porter Prize for Best Paper on Taxation, Yale Law School	2016
Associate World Fellow, Yale University	2014-15
Junior Fellow (Middle East), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace	2010–11
Fulbright Fellowship (Research) in Oman, U.S. Department of State	2009–10
Critical Language Scholarship for Arabic study in Jordan, U.S. Department of State	2009

External Grants

Liechtenstein's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture (with Jeni Klugman, Robert Nagel, and Orly Stern) (CHF 100,000)	2020–21
Folke Bernadotte Academy (with Travis Curtice, Jason Lyall, Hilary Matfess) (\$42,232)	2020–21
Innovations for Poverty Action Peace & Recovery Fund (\$4,064)	2020
Project on Middle East Political Science Research Grant (\$3,000)	2020
APSA Second Century Fund Grant (\$2,428)	2019
P.E.O. Scholar Award (\$15,000—declined)	2019
Project on Middle East Political Science Research Grant (\$3,000)	2018
Program on Governance and Local Development Research Grant (\$3,000)	2017
Jennings Randolph Peace Doctoral Fellowship, U.S. Institute of Peace (\$20,000)	2017–18
Graduate Student Fellow in National Security, Tobin Project (\$2,000)	2015–16
Program on Governance and Local Development Research Grant (\$3,000)	2015
U.S. Dept. of Education Foreign Language Fellowship for Arabic (\$33,000)	2013–14
Program on Governance and Local Development Research Grant (\$3,000)	2013

Invited Academic Presentations (Selected)

Princeton University, Empirical Studies of Conflict Project Lab, “Police Reform in Iraq”	Jun. 2020
New York University-FBA, “Can Community Policing Increase State Legitimacy?”	Sept. 2019
Brandeis University, “Rebel Governance and Relative Legitimacy: Evidence from Iraq”	Apr. 2019
Fordham University School of Law, “Protecting Children in Armed Conflict”	Oct. 2018
University of California, Santa Barbara, “Migration Decisions Under the Islamic State”	Feb. 2018
Oxford University, “ISIS State-Building and State Failure”	Apr. 2017
American University in Beirut, “Migration Decisions in Islamic State-Controlled Mosul”	Mar. 2017
Peace Research Institute in Oslo, “IS State-Building in Iraq and Syria”	Dec. 2016
Afro-Middle East Center in Johannesburg, “The ISIS Taxation System”	May 2016
American University in Cairo, “ISIS Governance in Iraq and Syria”	Dec. 2016
Harvard Political Violence Workshop, “The Non-Economic Functions of Rebel Taxation”	Apr. 2016
Yale University Anthropology Colloquium, “The Non-Economic Functions of Rebel Taxation”	Apr. 2016
Harvard Political Violence Workshop, “The Non-Economic Functions of Rebel Taxation”	Apr. 2016

Teaching

Guest lecturer, “Politics of the Middle East” for Francesco Cavatorta, Université Laval	Mar. 2021
Guest lecturer, “Terrorism” for Laia Balcells, Georgetown University	Nov. 2020
Guest lecturer, “Global Political Thought” for Benjamin Petersen, Texas A&M University	Nov. 2020
Guest lecturer for students at the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani	Nov. 2019
Training in survey methodology for field researchers in Erbil, Iraq	Oct. 2019
Training in survey methodology for field researchers in Erbil, Iraq	Dec. 2019
Guest lecturer, “Advanced Property” for Claire Priest, Yale Law School	Nov. 2018
Guest lecturer, “U.S. & the Middle East” course for K-12 teachers, New York University	Jul. 2016
Guest lecturer, “International Humanitarian Law” for Eyal Benvenisti, Yale Law School	May 2017

Expert Testimony & Briefings

UN Investigative Team for ISIL Accountability, “Islamic State’s Pattern of Sexual Violence”	Nov. 2020
Expert Declaration on ISIL for Creating Law Enforcement Accountability & Responsibility	Nov. 2020
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, “Police Reform in Iraq”	Jul. 2020
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, “IS Governance”	Feb. 2020
United Nations University, “Legal Obstacles to Reintegration of Children Recruited by IS”	Aug. 2017
World Bank, MENA Chief Economist Seminar, “The ISIS Social Contract”	Mar. 2017
United Nations University, “An Introduction to ISIS Recruitment”	Jan. 2017
Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, “Child Soldiers in the Islamic State”	Dec. 2016

Academic Conference Presentations (Selected)

Peace Science Workshop on International Security Sector Assistance and Reform (2020); Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (2018); Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (2019, 2018, 2017); Annual World Justice Project Scholars Conference (2018); Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (2018); Association for Analytical Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (2018); Empirical Studies of Conflict Annual Meeting (2018); European Consortium for Political Research Annual Meeting (2018); Harvard Experiments Conference (Harvard University, March 2018); Middle East Legal Studies Seminar (2020, 2019, 2018, 2016, 2015, 2014); Mid-Year Meeting of the American Society of International Law (2017, 2020); Program on Governance and Local Development Annual Conference (2018); Project on Middle East Political Science Annual Conference (2020, 2018)

Languages & Programs

Languages: Modern Standard Arabic (professional proficiency) & French (advanced reading)

Programs: R & L^AT_EX

Field Research

Iraq (surveys, interviews, impact evaluation)	16 months between 2015–Current
Turkey (interviews)	14 months between 2014–2018
Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula (interviews)	10 months between 2007–2013
Jordan (Arabic language training)	2 months, 2009
Oman (interviews and Arabic language training)	10 months, 2009–10

Service & Associations

Referee: *American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, International Studies Quarterly, International Security, Journal of Conflict Management and Peace Science, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding, Comparative Political Studies*

New York State Bar, Third Department	2017-Current
Research Advisory Board, Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project	2020–present
Folke Bernadotte Academy Research Working Group on Security Sector Reform	2019–present
Junior Fellow, Association for the Analytic Learning of Islamic Societies	2018–present
American Political Science Association	2016–present
Coordinator, Yale Comparative Politics Workshop	2015–16

Relevant Professional Experience

Consultant, United Nations Development Programme’s Iraq Mission, Social Cohesion Project	2020
Consultant, United Nations Migration Agency’s Iraq Mission, Community Stabilization Unit	2019
Lead Researcher on Iraq, Transitional Justice Project, United Nations University	2017–18
Lead Researcher on Iraq & Syria, Children in Violence Project, United Nations University	2016–17
Research Consultant on Bahrain, Oman, and Saudi Arabia, Freedom House	2011–13
Summer Associate, Shearman & Sterling LLP in Paris, France	2014
Summer Legal Intern, Human Rights Watch in Cairo, Egypt	2013
Assistant Director, Middle East Center at the Atlantic Council	2011–12

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