

Dr. Mara Redlich Revkin

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Academic Appointments

Georgetown University Law Center National Security Law Fellow	2020–2022
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” Committee: Elisabeth Wood (chair), Robert Blair, Oona Hathaway, Ellen Lust, Jason Lyall, Elizabeth Nugent	2019
Yale University , M.A. & M.Phil. in Political Science	2016, 2017
Yale Law School , J.D. Porter Prize for Best Paper on Taxation (2016), 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

Primary: Criminal Law & Procedure, Property, National Security Law, International Law, International Humanitarian Law, Islamic Law, Human Rights

Additional: Empirical Legal Studies, Military Justice, Immigration, Comparative Law

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Kristen Kao & **Mara R. Revkin**, *Retribution or Reconciliation? Post-Conflict Attitudes Toward Enemy Collaborators*, THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (conditionally accepted, 2021). [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, *Competitive Governance and Displacement Decisions Under Rebel Rule: Evidence from the Islamic State in Iraq*, THE JOURNAL OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION (2021). [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. Ahrām, *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, *Deprivatizing Islamic Law: An Argument for Judicial Interpretation of Shari'a in American Courts*, 47 THE JOURNAL OF LEGAL PLURALISM AND UNOFFICIAL LAW 246–266 (2015). [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

Mara R. Revkin & Kristen Kao, *How Does Punishment Affect Reintegration of Former Offenders? Evidence from Islamic State "Collaborators" in Iraq* (revise & resubmit at THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF COMPARATIVE LAW). [PDF](#).

Mara R. Revkin, *Insurgent Legality* (job talk paper).

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

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

Works in Progress

Mara R. Revkin, *INSURGENT LEGALITY: STATE-BUILDING AND FAILURE OF THE ISLAMIC STATE* (book project).

Janina Dill & **Mara R. Revkin**, *The Construction of Liability: How Civilians' Involvement in War Affects their Victimization*.

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).

Policy Reports (Selected)

Mara R. Revkin, *Pathways to Reintegration: Iraq Families Formerly Associated with ISIL*, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM (Mar. 2021). [PDF](#).

Jeni Klugman, Robert Nagel, **Mara R. Revkin** & Orly Stern, *Can the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and International Humanitarian Law Join Forces?*, GEORGETOWN INSTITUTE FOR WOMEN, PEACE, AND SECURITY (Jan. 2021). [PDF](#).

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 2018). [PDF](#).

Tal D. Eisenzweig, Peter Posada & **Mara R. Revkin**, *A "Most Serious Crime": Pakistan's Unlawful Use of the Death Penalty*, JUSTICE PROJECT PAKISTAN AND THE ALLARD K. LOWENSTEIN INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS CLINIC AT YALE LAW SCHOOL (Sept. 2016). [PDF](#).

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

- Included in *Foreign Affairs'* “Best of 2015” anthology.

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)

King's College London, “The Islamic State's Pattern of Sexual Violence”	May. 2021
American Society of International Law, “New Voices in International Law”	Mar. 2021
Cornell Political Science Workshop, “Attitudes Toward Rebel Collaborators in Iraq”	Mar. 2021
UCLA Political Science Workshop, “Attitudes Toward Rebel Collaborators in Iraq”	Mar. 2021
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 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, “Islamic Political Thought” for Benjamin Petersen, Texas A&M University	Nov. 2020
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 & Policy Events

UN Office of the International Impartial and Independent Mechanism on Syria	Mar. 2021
Panelist on “The Future of ISIS,” the Atlantic Council	Mar. 2021
Pro bono terrorism expert for CLEAR (legal aid for Muslims targeted by law enforcement)	2020–current
UN Investigative Team for ISIL Accountability, “Islamic State’s Pattern of Sexual Violence”	Nov. 2020
Committee for UN Joint Approach on Reintegration of Families Associated with ISIL	Oct. 2020
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, “Police Reform in Iraq”	Jul. 2020
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, “Islamic State Governance”	Feb. 2020
International Organization for Migration–Iraq, “Transitional Justice After the Islamic State”	Jan. 2019
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
U.S. Department of Defense, Special Operations Command Central, “Military Justice in ISIL”	Apr. 2015

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, experiments, interviews, impact evaluation)	16 months between 2015–current
Turkey (interviews)	14 months between 2014–2018
Egypt & North Sinai (interviews, Arabic language training)	10 months between 2007–2013
Jordan (Arabic language training)	2 months, 2009
Oman (interviews, 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
Security Sector Reform Advisory Network to the United Nations	2021–current
Working Group on Police & Accountability, The Century Foundation	2021–current
Research Advisory Board, Active Bystandership for Law Enforcement (ABLE) Project	2020–current
Folke Bernadotte Academy Research Working Group on Security Sector Reform	2019–current
Junior Fellow, Association for the Analytic Learning of Islamic Societies	2018–current
American Political Science Association	2016–current
Coordinator, Yale Comparative Politics Workshop	2015–16

Relevant Professional Experience

Consultant, UN Investigative Team for ISIL Accountability, Report on ISIL Financing	2021
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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