

Mara Redlich Revkin

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Georgetown University Law Center

Research Fellow, Center on National Security and the Law 2020-2022
(Currently on public service leave with the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq as Senior Advisor on “All-of-UN” Support for Iraqi Nationals Returned from Syria in the Office of the Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General)

Yale Law School

Robina Foundation Post-Graduate Fellow in International Human Rights 2019-2020

EDUCATION

Yale Graduate School of Arts & Sciences, Ph.D. in Political Science 2019

M.Phil. (2018), M.A. (2017)

Dissertation: “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

Yale Law School, J.D. 2016

Clifford L. Porter Prize for Best Paper on Taxation (2016), “What Explains Taxation by Resource-Rich Rebels? Evidence from the Islamic State in Syria”

Lowenstein Human Rights Law Clinic, Transnational Development Clinic

Yale Journal of International Law, Vol. 138

Summer Legal Intern, Human Rights Watch in Cairo, Egypt (2013)

Swarthmore College, B.A. with High Honors 2009

Major: Political Science, Minors: Arabic & Anthropology

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Primary: Criminal Law & Procedure, Property, National Security Law, Empirical Legal Studies, International, Humanitarian, and Human Rights Law

Additional: Comparative Law, Islamic Law (Arabic professional proficiency), Military Justice, Immigration

ARTICLES

Kristen Kao & **Mara R. Revkin**, *Retribution or Reconciliation? Post-Conflict Attitudes Toward Enemy Collaborators*, THE AMERICAN JOURNAL OF POLITICAL SCIENCE (forthcoming, 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*, 65 THE JOURNAL OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION 46-80 (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*, 6 THE JOURNAL OF GLOBAL SECURITY STUDIES 1-20 (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, *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](#).

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](#).

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 (DRAFTS AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST)

Job Talk Paper

Mara R. Revkin, *Insurgent Legality: State-Building and Failure of the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria*.

Criminal Law and Procedure

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

Mara R. Revkin, *How Does Subnational Variation in Repression Affect Attitudes Toward Police? Evidence from a Natural Experiment in Iraq* (under review).

Comparative and International Law

Mara R. Revkin & Orly Stern, *The Blind Spots of International Humanitarian Law*.

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

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Book Manuscript

Mara R. Revkin, INSURGENT LEGALITY: STATE-BUILDING AND FAILURE OF THE ISLAMIC STATE IN IRAQ AND SYRIA.

Criminal Law and Procedure

Mara R. Revkin, “*War Is a School of Violence and Crime*”: *How the Civil War Shaped American Policing*.

Mara R. Revkin, *Can Attitudes on the Death Penalty Be Changed? A Survey Experiment in the United States*.

Lauren Pinson & **Mara R. Revkin**, *How Does Trust in Government Affect Views on Guns? A Survey Experiment in the United States* (funded by the American Political Science Association).

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

International Humanitarian Law

Janina Dill & **Mara R. Revkin**, *The Construction of Liability: How Civilians’ Involvement in War Affects their Victimization* (funded by Folke Bernadotte Academy, the Swedish Peacebuilding Agency).

Kyleanne Hunter, Amira Jadoon, Robert Nagel & **Mara R. Revkin**, *Does Gender Affect Lethal Targeting Decisions? Evidence from Surveys of U.S. Military Cadets* (funded by Liechtenstein’s Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture).

REPORTS FOR UNITED NATIONS ORGANIZATIONS (SELECTED)

Mara R. Revkin, *Pathways to Reintegration: Iraq Families Formerly Associated with ISIL*, UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME (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 AND YALE LAW SCHOOL’S CENTER FOR GLOBAL LEGAL CHALLENGES (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](#).

POLICY & HUMAN RIGHTS REPORTS (SELECTED)

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](#).

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 & Ahmad Mhidi, *Quitting ISIS: Why Syrians are Abandoning the Group*, FOREIGN AFFAIRS (May 1, 2016).

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

Mara R. Revkin, *The Construction and Failure of Islamic Laws of Evidence in ISIS's State-Building Project*, SHARIASOURCE, HARVARD LAW SCHOOL (September 21, 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 (SELECTED)

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 (one of two Yale graduate students selected)	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 (SELECTED)

Folke Bernadotte Academy (with Janina Dill)	(\$42,232)	2021–22
Liechtenstein's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Justice and Culture (with Jeni Klugman, Robert Nagel, and Orly Stern)	(\$109,380)	2021
Folke Bernadotte Academy (with Travis Curtice, Jason Lyall, Hilary Matfess)	(\$42,232)	2020–21
Innovations for Poverty Action Peace & Recovery Fund	(\$4,064)	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 Grants	(\$10,000)	2015, 2017, 2019
Program on Governance and Local Development Research Grants	(\$12,000)	2013, 2015, 2017

Jennings Randolph Peace Doctoral Fellowship, U.S. Institute of Peace	(\$20,000)	2017-18
FLAS Fellowship (Arabic), U.S Department of Education	(\$33,000)	2013-14

INVITED ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

U.S. Institute of Peace, Expert Workshop on Violent Extremist Disengagement	Aug. 2021
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 Empirical Studies of Conflict Lab, “Attitudes Toward Rebel Collaborators 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 Islamic State’s 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 lecture, “Middle East Politics” for Scott Williamson, Bocconi University	Nov. 2021
Guest lecture, “Advanced Property” for Claire Priest, Yale Law School	Aug. 2021
Guest lecture, “Islamic Political Thought” for Benjamin Petersen, Texas A&M University	Mar. 2021
Guest lecture, “Politics of the Middle East” for Francesco Cavatorta, Laval University	Mar. 2021
Guest lecture, “Terrorism” for Laia Balcells, Georgetown University	Nov. 2020
Guest lecture, “Global Political Thought” for Benjamin Petersen, Texas A&M University	Oct. 2020
Led training in survey methodology for United Nations Development Programme, Iraq	Sept. 2020
Guest lecture for students at the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani	Nov. 2019
Co-led training in survey methodology for International Organization for Migration, Iraq	Oct. 2019
Co-led training in survey methodology for International Organization for Migration, Iraq	Jul. 2019
Guest lecture, “Advanced Property” for Claire Priest, Yale Law School	Nov. 2018
Guest lecture, “U.S. & the Middle East” course for K-12 teachers, New York University	Jul. 2016
Guest lecture, “International Humanitarian Law” for Eyal Benvenisti, Yale Law School	Apr. 2015

EXPERT TESTIMONY, BRIEFINGS & POLICY EVENTS

UN Office of the International Impartial and Independent Mechanism on Syria, “The Islamic State’s Pattern of Sexual Violence” (with Elisabeth Wood)	Mar. 2021
Panelist on “The Future of ISIS,” the Atlantic Council	Mar. 2021
Pro bono expert witness for CLEAR (legal aid for Muslims targeted by law enforcement)	2020-current
UN Investigative Team for ISIL Accountability, “The Islamic State’s Pattern of Sexual Violence” (with Elisabeth Wood)	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, “The Islamic State’s Military Justice System”	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); American Society of International Law Mid-Year Meeting (2017, 2020, 2021); American Society of International Law (2021); Law & Society (2021).

LANGUAGES & PROGRAMS

Foreign Languages: Modern Standard Arabic (professional proficiency) & French (advanced reading)
Programs: R, LaTeX

FIELD RESEARCH

Iraq (surveys, experiments, interviews, impact evaluation)	18 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, 2009-2010

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, THIRD WORLD QUARTERLY

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

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE (SELECTED)

United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq, Senior Advisor to the Deputy Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Iraq on Support for Iraqi Nationals	2021-current
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Returned from Syria

UN Investigative Team for ISIL Accountability, Expert Reviewer for Report on ISIL Financing	2021
United Nations Development Programme (Iraq), Consultant on Reintegration of ISIL Affiliates	2020
International Organization for Migration (Iraq), Led Yale-IOM study on community police	2019-2020
International Organization for Migration (Iraq), Consultant on Reintegration of ISIL Affiliates	2019
United Nations University, Lead Researcher on Iraq for “Limits of Punishment” Project	2017-2018
United Nations University, Lead Researcher on Iraq/Syria, “Children and Extreme Violence”	2016
Shearman & Sterling LLP (Paris, France), Summer Associate in International Arbitration	2014
Human Rights Watch, (Cairo, Egypt), Summer Legal Intern	2013
The Atlantic Council, Washington, D.C., Assistant Director of the Middle East Center	2011-2012
The Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D.C., Junior Fellow	2010-2011