

# MORGAN L. KAPLAN

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## EMPLOYMENT

Executive Editor, *International Security* May 2019-Present  
Series Editor, Belfer Center Studies in International Security Cambridge, MA  
Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs  
Harvard Kennedy School

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Postdoctoral Fellow, Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University, 2017-2019.

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, International Security Program, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University, 2016-2017.

Predocotrual Fellow, Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University, 2015-2016.

## EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Chicago, 2016  
Committee: John Mearsheimer (chair), Paul Staniland, Dan Slater  
Subfields: International Relations (honors), Comparative Politics

M.A. in Political Science, University of Chicago, 2012

B.A. in International Affairs, George Washington University, 2010  
Honors: *Summa Cum Laude*, Departmental Honors

## PUBLICATIONS AND WORKING PAPERS

“Foreign Support, Miscalculation, and Conflict Escalation: Iraqi Kurdish Self-Determination in Perspective.” *Ethnopolitics* Vol. 18, No. 1 (2019): 29-45

“Strategies of Rebel Diplomacy: Evidence from the Iraqi Kurdish Liberation Movement.” (Revise & Resubmit)

“How Civilian Perceptions Affect Patterns of Violence and Competition in Multi-Party Insurgencies.”

“Rethinking Transnational Insurgency.” With Paul Staniland. (Working Paper)

“The Geography of Separatist Violence.” With David Carter and Kenneth Schultz. (Working Paper)

“The Strategic Use of Self-Rule Referenda.” With Laia Balcells and Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham (In Preparation)

“Rebel Public Diplomacy and the Search for Foreign Support.” (Working Paper)

“A Rural Economic Development Plan to Help the USA Win its War on Cocaine.” *Development in Practice*, Vol. 20, No. 6 (2010): 690-705. Second author with Jason Spellberg.

## **BOOK PROJECT**

“Persuading Power: Rebel Diplomacy and the Pursuit of Intervention in Civil Wars.” (In Progress)  
- Presented at the Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Junior Scholars Book Development Workshop at Princeton University on October 19-20, 2017.

## **PUBLIC ANALYSIS AND COMMENTARY**

“Thinking Critically About ‘By, With, Through,’ in Syria, Iraq, and Beyond,” *Lawfare*, 20 January 2019.

“Why the 2018 Election Season Isn’t Over for the Kurds.” *Lawfare*, 13 May 2018.

“What the Kurdish Independence Referendum Means for the Middle East.” Global Dispatches Podcast, *UN Dispatch*, 5 October 2017.

“5 Things to Know About the Referendum in Iraqi Kurdistan.” The Monkey Cage Blog, *The Washington Post*, 19 September 2017.

“The Kurdistan Region of Iraq is Going to Vote on Independence. Here’s What You Need to Know.” The Monkey Cage Blog, *The Washington Post*, 21 June 2017.

“For Iraqi Kurds, Trump Brings Hope for Independence.” *Foreign Affairs*, 13 April 2017.

“Why Are Syrian Kurds Pivoting Toward Moscow?” The Monkey Cage Blog, *The Washington Post*, 12 February 2016.

“Why the U.S. Backed the Kurds.” The Monkey Cage Blog, *The Washington Post*, 9 September 2014.

“Why Syria Could Turn into 1990s Algeria.” *The Monkey Cage Blog*, 3 July 2012.

“Arab Spring Brings Nice Weather for Al Qaeda.” *New York Daily News*, 31 March 2011.

## **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

Undergraduate Research Assistant Program Grant, Northwestern University (x3), 2017-2019.

Buffett Institute for Global Studies Postdoctoral Fellowship, Northwestern University, 2017-2019.

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Postdoctoral Fellowship, Harvard University, 2016-2017.

Dickey Center for International Understanding Postdoctoral Fellowship, Dartmouth University, 2016-2017 (Declined).

Social Science Tuition Scholarship, Division of Social Sciences, University of Chicago, 2015-2016.

Center for International Security and Cooperation Predoctoral Fellowship, Stanford University, 2015-2016.

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs Predoctoral Fellowship, Harvard University, 2015-2016 (Declined).

Institute for Security and Conflict Studies Predoctoral Fellowship, The George Washington University 2015-2016 (Declined).

World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship, The Smith Richardson Foundation, 2015-2016.

Nicholson Fellowship for Research in the British Isles, Nicholson Center for British Studies, University of Chicago, 2015.

Summer Research Grant, Division of Social Sciences, University of Chicago, 2014.

Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) Travel-Research-Engagement Grant, George Washington University, 2014.

Overseas Dissertation Research Grant, Division of Social Sciences, University of Chicago, 2013.

Dissertation Research Grant, Henry Bienen Research Fund in Political Science, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago, 2012.

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, United States Department of Education, Arabic language training in Amman, Jordan. 2012.

William J. and Myrtle N. Hawley Graduate Scholarship, University of Chicago, 2010-2012.

Distinguished Scholar Award, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University, 2010.

Outstanding Academic Achievement Award, George Washington University, 2008 & 2009.

Phi Beta Kappa, 2009.

### **INVITED TALKS**

Interdisciplinary Conference on Kurdish Politics and Societies, Yale University, April 6-8, 2018.

International Relations Colloquium, University of Wisconsin–Madison, March 20, 2018.

Middle East and North African Studies Program, Northwestern University, February 26, 2018.

Protestant Academy Loccum (Germany), November 15-17, 2017.

Department of Political Science, Middlebury College, October 27, 2017.

Junior Scholars Book Development Workshop, Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS), Princeton University, October 19-20, 2017.

Middle East Initiative, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, October 17, 2017.

Rebel Diplomacy Workshop, University of California–Santa Barbara, September 29-October 1, 2016.

Security Studies Program (SSP) Seminar Series, MIT, September 21, 2016.

New Faces Conference, Triangle Institute for Security Studies (TISS), September 16-17, 2016.

Emerging Scholars in Grand Strategy Conference Speaker, Notre Dame International Security Center, University of Notre Dame, June 1-3, 2016.

Order, Conflict, and Violence (OCV) Workshop, Yale University, November 30, 2015.

Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS) “New Political Science Research on Syria’s War” Workshop, George Washington University, September 18, 2015.

Strategic Use of Force Working Group (SFWG), MIT, March 4, 2014.

### **CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS**

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, August 31 – September 3, 2017.

Annual Meeting of the Association for the Study of Nationalities, Columbia University, May 4-6, 2017.

Harvard-Yale-MIT-Tufts Political Violence Conference, Yale University, April 22, 2017.

International Security Program Seminar, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, February 23, 2017.

Peace Science Society Conference, University of Notre Dame, October 20, 2016.

Middle East and North Africa Politics Workshop, Harvard University, October 12, 2016.

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA, September 4, 2016.

Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA, March 16 & 17, 2016.

Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University, February 25, 2016.

Program on International Security Policy (PISP), University of Chicago, January 19, 2016.

Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, February 19 & 20, 2015.

Program on International Politics, Economics, and Security (PIPES), University of Chicago, May 29, 2014.

International Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, March 29, 2014.

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 31, 2013.

International Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 4 & 5, 2013.

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 12, 2013.

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, April 12, 2012.

Program on International Politics, Economics, and Security (PIPES), University of Chicago, March 29, 2012.

Program on International Security Policy (PISP), University of Chicago, October 11, 2011.

## **FIELD RESEARCH**

*Iraq* (June–August 2014; June 2015; March 2017; September–October 2018)

*Jordan* (June–August 2012)

*Israel/Palestinian Territories* (August–September 2012; April–May 2014; May–June 2015)

*United Kingdom* (June–July 2015)

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

*Arabic* (advanced proficiency)

*Sorani Kurdish* (beginner)

## **TRAINING WORKSHOPS**

New Era Foreign Policy Conference, Bridging the Gap, School of International Service, American University, March 8-10, 2015.

Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS), Arnold A. Saltzman Institute for War and Peace Studies, Columbia University, Summer 2013.

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Consortium of Qualitative Research Methods, Syracuse University, Summer 2013.

## **RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE**

Research Assistant to Prof. Paul Staniland, University of Chicago, 2011.

Research Assistant to Prof. Betsy Sinclair, University of Chicago, 2011.

Research Intern for Middle East Studies, Council on Foreign Relations, Washington, D.C., 2009-2010.

Research Assistant to Prof. Holger Schmidt, George Washington University, 2008-2010.

## **PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Coordinator, Research in Conflict Zones Graduate Student Workshop, Harvard University, 2017.

International Relations Hiring Search Committee, University of Chicago, 2014-2015.

Student Coordinator, Program on International Security Policy (PISP) workshop, University of Chicago, 2012-2014.

Student Representative, Political Science Association, University of Chicago, 2011-2013.

Reviewer for: *Comparative Political Studies*, *Ethnopolitics*, *International Security*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Security Studies*.

## REFERENCES

John Mearsheimer  
University of Chicago  
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Dan Slater  
University of Michigan  
[dsltr@umich.edu](mailto:dsltr@umich.edu)

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