

Sean Paul Ashley

Department of Government and Politics
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Academic Appointments

University of Maryland, College Park MD
Government and Politics Department
President's Postdoctoral Fellow, 2024 - 2026

Dartmouth College, Hanover NH
The John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding
Niehaus Fellow in U.S. Foreign Policy and International Security, 2023 - 2024

University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame IN
Notre Dame International Security Center
Hans J. Morgenthau Fellow, 2023 - 2024

Research Interests

Legacies of War and Conflict, Political Order, Authoritarianism, Regime Durability, Civil War, Political Violence, African Politics, Peacekeeping, Security, Democratization, Human Rights, Political Institutions, Rebel Governance, Statebuilding, Race and Ethnic Politics, Revolution and Counterrevolution

Book Project

National Reconstruction and Political Order after Rebel Victory

Education

- 2023 **Harvard University**, Cambridge MA
Department of Government
Ph.D. Political Science
Fields: Comparative Politics, International Relations
Committee: Steven Levitsky (chair), Max Abrahms (Northeastern), Payam Mohseni
- 2013 **Princeton University**, Princeton NJ
B.A. Politics (International Relations)
Certificate in African American Studies
cum laude

Journal Articles

[“Comrades in Arms? Rebel Leadership Roles and Coups in Rebel Regimes.”](#) June 2024. *International Studies Quarterly* 68 (2).

[“From snapshots to panoramas: navigating power, space, and time in the study of armed groups.”](#) *Conflict, Security, & Development* (2024): 1-31 (with [Kai Thaler](#) and [Antonia Juelich](#)). DOI: 10.1080/14678802.2024.2390407.

Working Papers

“Holding Hands with the Devil? Security Force Defection and Democratic Derailment after Nonviolent Revolutions”
Invited to Revise & Resubmit at *Journal of Peace Research*.

“Wartime Institutions and the Durability of Rebel Regimes”

- Winner of the 2024 Patricia Weitsman Award for Outstanding International Security Studies Section Paper, International Studies Association
- Winner of the 2023 Ralph Bunche Best Graduate Student Paper Award, African Politics Conference Group Section, American Political Science Association
- Shortlisted for the 2023 Conflict Research Society Cedric Smith Prize for the “best piece of peace and conflict research (broadly defined) by a PhD. candidate”.

Works In Progress

“Guerrilla Governance and Authoritarian Durability”

“Rebel Victory and Women’s Liberation”

“Black Veterans, Red Summers: Revolutionary Threat and Reactionary Politics after War”

Data Sets

Victorious Insurgent Characteristics that Organize Regimes (VICTOR)

This dataset identifies the organizational characteristics and wartime institutions built by all rebel victors in civil wars, 1945-2014. Drawing on rebel biographies, conflict and armed group histories, archival sources, interview data and declassified intelligence, it captures data on 10 dimensions of victorious rebels’ wartime institution-building including social service provision, diplomacy, disciplinary structures, and political education regimens. This data set is in progress and is not yet publicly available.

Teaching Experience

Teaching Fellow

Fall 2020

Conflict Resolution in a Divided World, Harvard University
Instructor: Daniel Shapiro, Harvard International Negotiation Program.
Awarded Certificate of Distinction and Excellence in Teaching

Spring 2019

Race, Film, and American Politics, Harvard University
Instructor: Gloria Ayee, Department of Government.
Awarded Certificate of Distinction and Excellence in Teaching

Fall 2017

American Foreign Policy, MIT
Instructor: Stephen Van Evera, Political Science Department.

Spring 2016

Origins of Modern War, Harvard University
Instructor: Stephen Walt, Harvard Kennedy School.

Spring 2015

Comparative Politics of the Middle East
Instructor: Payam Mohseni, Department of Government.

Fall 2015

Foundations of Comparative Politics, Harvard University
Instructor: Steven Levitsky, Department of Government.
Awarded Certificate of Distinction and Excellence in Teaching

Awards, Grants and Fellowships	<p>Civil War Paths Fellowship, The Centre for the Comparative Study of Civil War: 2024</p> <p>Hans J. Morgenthau Fellowship, University of Notre Dame: 2023-2024</p> <p>Harvard University Dissertation Completion Fellowship: 2022</p> <p>International Studies Association Travel Grant: 2023</p> <p>Laura Bassi Scholarship: Winter 2022</p> <p>GSAS Division of Social Sciences Fund Research Grant: 2022</p> <p>Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa Travel Grant: 2022</p> <p>Graduate Student Council Spring Conference Grant: 2021</p> <p>GSAS Emergency Support Research Fund: 2021</p> <p>Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Graduate Student Affiliate: 2019-2020</p> <p>Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Mid-Dissertation Grant: 2019-2020</p> <p>Harvard Program on Negotiation (PON) Next Generation Grant: 2019</p> <p>Harvard Program on Negotiation (PON) Next Generation Grant: 2018</p>
Invited Presentations, Workshops and Symposia	<p>Violence, Instability, and Peace (VIP) Workshop: 2023</p> <p>APSA Democracy & Autocracy Section Graduate Student Workshop: 2023</p> <p>Seminar on Grand Strategy, University of Notre Dame International Security Center: 2023</p> <p>Conflict & Change Workshop, University College London: 2023</p> <p>Peace Science Society Rising Scholars Workshop: 2022</p> <p>Cato Institute Junior Scholars Symposium: 2022</p> <p>American Political Science Association Political Violence Dissertation Workshop: 2022</p> <p>Graduate Student Workshop on Peace and Conflict, Reppy Institute, Cornell University: 2022</p> <p>Junior Scholars in International Security Workshop: Fall 2022</p>
Conference Presentations	<p>American Political Science Association Annual Conference: 2024, 2023, 2022, 2021, 2020</p> <p>International Studies Association Annual Conference: 2025 (<i>scheduled</i>) 2024, 2023, 2019</p> <p>Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Conference: 2022, 2019, 2016</p> <p>Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science Annual Conference: 2022</p> <p>Peace Science Society Annual Meeting: 2023, 2022</p> <p>African Studies Association Annual Conference: 2022</p> <p>Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa: 2022</p> <p>ISSS-IS Annual Conference: 2024 (<i>scheduled</i>), 2022</p> <p>Harvard-MIT-Tufts-Yale Political Violence Annual Conference: 2018</p>
Skills	<p>Languages: Jamaican Patois (Fluent)</p> <p>Computing: R, Stata, LaTeX</p>
Research Positions	<p>Graduate Researcher, Harvard Project on Shi'ism & Global Affairs (2019-2022)</p>
Fieldwork	<p>Uganda (2019), Ethiopia (2018)</p>
Service	<p>Reviewer: <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i>, <i>Journal of Peace Research</i></p>

References

Steven R. Levitsky
David Rockefeller Professor of Latin American Studies and Professor of Government
Department of Government
Harvard University
levitsky@gov.harvard.edu

Max Abrahms
Associate Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science
Northeastern University
m.abrahms@northeastern.edu

Payam Mohseni
Lecturer and Director of the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs
Harvard University
pmohseni@hds.harvard.edu

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