

Justin Schon

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EDUCATION

Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Political Science

Ph.D., 2018 (Expected)

Fields: International Relations & Comparative Politics

Dissertation Title: "The Relational Approach to Conflict-Induced Migration"

Committee: Karen Rasler (chair), Lauren M. MacLean, William R. Thompson, Jennifer N. Brass (IU SPEA)

Abstract: My dissertation develops an information-centric explanation for how civilian perceptions and expectations, which may or may not be factually accurate, shape civilian choices regarding whether and when to migrate during conflict. Civilian perceptions and expectations are most heavily influenced by information about security conditions spreading via word-of-mouth along the lines of strong social ties and ethnic and ideological homophily. Vertical ties provide opportunity to safely share that information. Then, civilians evaluate the information that they hear through the lenses of narratives and evidence. Resultant information diffusion can then motivate migration, while vertical ties provide opportunity to safely migrate. I use over 200 interviews with Syrian refugees and 18 interviews with Somali refugees. These interviews were conducted during fieldwork in Jordan, Turkey, Kenya, and the United States. Findings suggest that explanations for civilian responses to armed conflict, including migration, should focus on the information civilians possess about security conditions instead of externally observed indicators.

Koc University, MiReKoc (Migration Research Centre), Istanbul, Turkey, 2016

Visiting Researcher

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2011

B.A., Political Science & Economics

Senior Thesis awarded Highest Honors: *The Causes of Refugee Militarization*

ADDITIONAL METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), Ann Arbor, MI, 2013

Coursework: Time Series Analysis, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Survival Models

PUBLICATIONS

PEER REVIEWED

2016. "The Centrality of Checkpoints for Civilians during Conflict." *Civil Wars*, 18(3): 281-310.

2015. "Focus on the Forest, Not the Trees: A Change-point Model of Forced Displacement." *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 28(4): 437-467.

NON PEER REVIEWED

Forthcoming. Book review of *A Right to Flee: Refugees, States, and the Construction of International Cooperation*, by Phil Orchard, *Perspectives on Politics*.

ACADEMIC BLOG POSTS

"Another Escalation in Migrant-EU Contention", *Duck of Minerva*, October 10, 2016.

(<http://duckofminerva.com/2016/10/another-escalation-in-migrant-eu-contention.html#more-29361>)

"How Violence and Uncertainty Can Deter Displacement", *Political Violence @ a Glance*,

September 26, 2016.

(<https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2016/09/26/how-violence-and-uncertainty-can-deter-displacement/>)

“What new evidence from Somalia tells us about when civilians decided to flee war zones”, *The Monkey Cage*, February 23, 2016.

(<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/02/23/what-new-evidence-from-somalia-tells-us-about-when-civilians-decided-to-flee-war-zones/>)

“The Unintended Consequences of Closing and Restricting Jordan-Syria Border Crossings”, *Syria Comment*, August 14, 2014.

(<http://www.joshualandis.com/blog/unintended-consequences-closing-restricting-jordan-syria-border-crossings-justin-schon/>)

“10 Things to Know About Refugees in Jordan”, *Syria Comment*, August 10, 2014.

(<http://www.joshualandis.com/blog/10-things-know-refugees-jordan/>)

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR SOON TO BE SUBMITTED

“Introducing the African Pro-Government Militias Dataset,” with Yehuda Magid, Revise and Resubmit at *International Interactions*.

“Warriors or Entrepreneurs: How Refugee Camp Policies Shape Behavior,” Revise and Resubmit for special issue on forced migration at *Small Business Economics*.

"The Multiple Logics of Distributive Politics: Spatial Analysis of Voter Mobilization and Need in a Developing Democracy," with Jennifer N. Brass, Lauren M. MacLean, and Elizabeth Baldwin, preparing for submission to *American Journal of Political Science*.

“Displacement Cascades: Disaggregating Cascade Models in the Context of Somali Displacement,” under review at *Journal of Social Structure*.

“Motivation and opportunity for conflict-induced migration: An analysis of Syrian migration timing,” preparing for invited submission to special issue on Refugees, Forced Migration, and Conflict at *Journal of Peace Research*.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

“Learning during conflict-induced migration: A spatial analysis of geo-coded migration routes for Syrian refugees.”

“Border Walls and Migration,” with David Leblang.

"Explaining the creation of districts and constituencies in Ghana," with Lauren M. MacLean, Jennifer N. Brass, and Kingsley Agomor.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Power to the people, or the MPs? Explaining the manipulation of internal geographic unit boundaries in Ghana”, with Lauren M. MacLean and Jennifer N. Brass, Data-Driven Development in Africa Workshop, State College, PA, May 2017.

“The Strength of Strong Ties: How Rumor Affects the Coordination of Conflict-Induced Migration,” Conflict and the Migration Cycle Workshop, Hamburg, Germany, April 2016.

“The Conflict Information Network,” International Studies Association Annual Convention, March 2016.

“Introducing the African Pro-Government Militia Database”, with Yehuda Magid, International Studies Association Annual Convention, March 2016.

“Killing Two Birds with One Stone: State Repression and Refugees,” Peace Science Society Conference, November 2015.

“Barriers to Information Diffusion During Conflict: Why Civilians Don’t Share Information with Weak Ties and Can’t Distinguish Signals from Noise,” International Studies Association Annual Conference, February 2015.

“Does Violence Actually Increase Displacement? Uncovering Civilian Security Calculations,” Conflict Consortium Virtual Workshop (Invited Paper), February 2015.

“Surviving Conflict: How Foreign Intervention Affects Displacement Patterns,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 2014.

TEACHING

Instructor of Record, Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Political Science
The Politics of International Development (Spring 2017)

Associate Instructor, Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Political Science
Research Design (Spring 2016)

Introduction to American Politics (Fall 2014 & Spring 2015)

Introduction to Law (Spring 2013)

American Political Controversies (Fall 2012)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship (AY 2017-2018)

Ostrom Workshop Research Award (Summer 2014; Summer 2016)

POMEPS Research Award (Summer 2016)

John Gillespie Research Award (Summer 2015)

Benjamin Most Research Award (Summer 2015)

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship (AY 2013-2014; Summer 2014)

CONFERENCE TRAVEL AWARDS

Travel Grant: ISA 2015, 2016, 2018

Conference-Funded Travel: Data-Driven Development in Africa Workshop,
State College, PA, 2017

Conference-Funded Travel: Conflict and the Migration Cycle Workshop,
Hamburg, Germany, 2016

Travel Grant: Peace Science Society, 2015

Travel Grant: MPSA, 2014

SKILLS

LANGUAGE SKILLS

French (reading, conversational)

Arabic (reading)

Swahili & Chichewa (basic)

SOFTWARE SKILLS

Statistical Analysis: Stata, R

Spatial Analysis: ArcGIS, GeoDa

Data Management: Microsoft Access, Excel

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Turkey (2015 & 2016)

Kenya (2015)

Jordan (2014)

Malawi (2011)

SERVICE TO THE DISCIPLINE AND COMMUNITY

MANUSCRIPT REVIEWS

Journal of Conflict Resolution

International Security

Conflict Management and Peace Science

International Interactions

Perspectives on Politics

Peace and Conflict Studies

CONFERENCE SERVICE

Co-organizer, with Jessica Steinberg, Data Driven Development in Africa Workshop 2018

Panel Chair: American Political Science Association 2017, “The Determinants of Conflict Escalation”

Panel Discussant: American Political Science Association 2017, “Understanding the Dynamics of the Syrian Civil War”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Great Decisions Lecture Series, Columbus, Indiana

Syrian refugee crisis (2015)

Global migration (2016)

REFERENCES

Karen Rasler (Chair)
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