EMPIRICAL STUDIES OF CONFLICT PROJECT ANNUAL MEETING

Post-Conflict Stabilization: Lessons for a Post-ISIS Middle East
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PRESENTER AND PANELIST BIOS

Ala’ Alrababa’h is a PhD candidate in political science at Stanford University, where he focuses on political violence in the Middle East. He graduated magna cum laude from Dartmouth College with a major in government. In 2014-2015, he worked as a junior fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

Eli Berman is Chair and Professor of Economics at UC San Diego. He is Research Director for International Security Studies at the UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC) and co-directs the Economics of National Security group at the National Bureau of Economic Research. He is also a member of the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project (ESOC). His research interests include economic development and conflict, the economics of religion, labor economics, technological change, and economic demography. He is co-author of Small Wars, Big Data (Princeton University Press, 2018) and Proxy Wars (Cornell University Press, forthcoming). Berman received his Ph.D. in Economics from Harvard University.

Sebastian Chaskel provides strategic leadership to the Peace and Recovery (P&R) Program at IPA, coordinates its research network and agenda, and leads the Program's efforts on project development, fundraising, and policy outreach. Before taking on this role in 2017, Sebastian was the founding director of IPA's country office in Colombia and the Dominican Republic, where he managed a portfolio of research projects, led project development, and oversaw financial and administrative operations in both countries. Before joining IPA, he held research and program management positions at the Government Performance Lab at Harvard Kennedy School, the Council on Foreign Relations, the Cerrejón Foundation, and Princeton University's Innovations for Successful Societies. Sebastian has an MPA from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School and a BA in Anthropology and International Relations from Tufts University.

Cesi Cruz is an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science and the Vancouver School of Economics at the University of British Columbia. Cesi's work focuses on the interplay between electoral incentives and economic outcomes, and is published in the American Economic Review, American Journal of Political Science, Comparative Political Studies, and the Review of International Organizations. Her research uses social network analysis, surveys, and
field experiments and is funded by organizations and agencies such as the Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada, the U.S. National Science Foundation, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, and the Policy Design and Evaluation Lab.

**Marwa Daoudy**, prior to Georgetown University, where she is affiliated with the Edmund Walsh School of Foreign Service and the Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Dr. Daoudy was a lecturer at Oxford University (UK) at St Antony's College. During the 2011-12 academic year, she received a one-year fellowship from Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of International Affairs to teach graduate seminars and carry out research. Dr. Daoudy's research and teaching focus on Critical Security Studies, Environmental Politics, Negotiation theory, Peace negotiations, Water politics and Middle East politics. She published her research in Cambridge review of International Affairs, International Negotiation, Journal of International Affairs, Journal of Peace and Security, The World Today, and Water Policy amongst others. Her current book project on climate security and the Syrian conflict is under contract with Cambridge University Press. Her previous book is entitled 'The Water Divide between Syria, Turkey and Iraq: Negotiation, Security and Power Asymmetry' (CNRS Editions, 2005). Her book received the Ernest Léémonon Prize by the Institute of France at the French Academy (Institut de France). In parallel to her academic work, she collaborates as policy advisor and consultant for government agencies, non-governmental and multilateral organizations, and the private sector. Dr. Daoudy advised the United Nations Development Program/UNDP (Jerusalem) on Middle East peace and water negotiations. She also provides executive training in Negotiation Theory and Practice to business schools, international organizations (European Commission, UNDP) and the private sector. She is a frequent contributor to the newspapers and provides regular comments to international media.

**Barbara Elias** is Assistant Professor of Government at Bowdoin College specializing in international relations, counterinsurgency warfare, national security, Islam and politics and U.S. foreign policy. She received her Ph.D. from the University of Pennsylvania in political science, and was formerly the Director of the Afghanistan/Pakistan/Taliban Documentation Project at The National Security Archive in Washington D.C.

**James D. Fearon** is Geballe Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences and Professor of Political Science at Stanford University, and a Senior Fellow at Stanford’s Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Studies. His research has focused primarily on political violence, and in particular on civil and interstate war. He has also published on the theory of democracy, foreign aid and institution building, post-conflict reconstruction, and international peacekeeping operations.

Fearon is an elected member of the National Academy of Sciences (2012) and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2002), and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations. He is a Program Fellow of the Canadian Institute for Advanced Research. From 2007 to 2010 he served as Chair of the Department of Political Science at Stanford.
Thiemo Fetzer is an Associate Professor in the Department of Economics at the University of Warwick. He is also affiliated with several other institutions including the Pearson Institute at University of Chicago, the Spatial Economics Research Group at London School of Economics and the Centre for Competitive Advantage in the Global Economy (CAGE) at Warwick. He has completed his PhD in Economics at the London School of Economics and held a visiting appointment at the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. Thiemo has worked as consultant for the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the United Nations.

Thiemo’s research interest lie in the fields of political economy & conflict, development and natural resources and his work has been published in journals, including the Economic Journal, the Journal of International Economics, the Journal of Development Economics and the Journal of the European Economics Association.

His current ongoing work includes work quantifying the economic cost of terrorism, understanding the causal effect of political instability on economic development and studying the economic drivers of populism in the context of the UK and the EU as a whole.

Grant Gordon is the Director of Innovation Strategy at the Airbel Center at the International Rescue Committee (IRC), where he directs and manages the IRC's innovation portfolio. Prior to joining the IRC, Dr. Gordon worked at the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations, where he developed and directed a global, inter-agency mine action monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess 175 million USD in annual operations. He has worked for multiple UN agencies, donors and governments, re-structuring business processes to integrate evidence into strategic planning and decision-making. Dr. Gordon has worked and lived in Great Lakes region of Africa, West Africa, and Somalia and Haiti. He has a Ph.D. in political science from Columbia University and a B.A. in public policy from the University of Chicago.

Sarhang Hamasaeed is the director of Middle East Programs at the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP). He joined USIP in February 2011 and works on program management, organizational development, and monitoring and evaluation. His areas of focus include political and policy analysis, conflict analysis, dialogue processes, reconciliation and post-conflict stabilization, and ethnic and religious minorities. He writes, gives media interviews to international media, and is featured on events and briefings on Iraq, Syria, and the Middle East. He provided analysis to NPR, Voice of America, Al-Jazeera America, Fox News Al-Hurra TV, Radio Sawa, Kurdistan TV, Kursat TV, Rudaw, Al-Iraqiya TV, NRT TV, Skynews Arabia, the Washington Times, PBS, and CCTV. He is a member on the Task Force on the Future of Iraq, and was member of the Rebuilding Societies Working Group under the Middle East Strategy Taskforce, both initiatives by the Atlantic Council’s Rafik Hariri Center for the Middle East. He regularly gives a lecture at the Foreign Service Institute on ISIL and Challenges to Governance in Iraq.

Hamasaeed has more than 15 years of strategy, management, and monitoring and evaluation experience in governmental, nongovernmental, private sector, and media organizations.

As a deputy director general at the Council of Ministers of the Kurdistan Regional Government of Iraq (2008-2009), Hamasaeed managed strategic government modernization initiatives through information technology with the goal of helping improve governance and service
delivery. As a program manager for the Research Triangle Institute International (2003-2004), he managed civic engagement and local democratic governance programs in Iraq. Hamasaeed has worked as a planning and relations manager at Kurdistan Save the Children (1997-2002). Hamasaeed has also worked for the Los Angeles Times and other international media organizations.

He holds a Master’s degree in International Development Policy from Duke University (2007) and is a Fulbright alumnus.

Chad Hazlett is an assistant professor in Statistics and in Political Science at UCLA. He completed his Ph.D. in Political Science at Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 2014, and served as a predoctoral fellow in the Department of Politics at Princeton University. His interests include applications of machine learning in the social sciences, and developing and extending approaches to causal inference, particularly where randomization is difficult or impossible. He often applies these tools in particular to the study of civil war and mass violence.

Jonathan Hersh is an economist who combines machine learning and econometric methods to answer questions in the social science. His research interests include development economics, applied machine learning, artificial intelligence, international economics, economics of digitization, and public policy implications of the aforementioned. Current research projects include estimating poverty using satellite imagery, detecting violence and predicting refugee flows using artificial intelligence, using machine learning to target poverty transfers, and predicting firm performance using API data flows.

Dr. Hersh is an assistant professor of economics and management science at Chapman University Argyros School of Business in Orange County, CA, where he teaches machine learning and business analytics to MBAs and undergraduates. Previously he was a visiting lecturer in the political science department at MIT, and in the economics department at Wellesley College. He also consults with the Poverty Global Practice at the World Bank. He received his PhD in economics at Boston University under Marianne Baxter, Samuel Bazzi, and Ray Fisman.

Ethan B. Kapstein is Associate Director of the Empirical Studies of Conflict Program (esoc.princeton.edu). He also holds an endowed chair at Arizona State University, where he is affiliated with the McCain Institute for International Leadership. Kapstein’s research and teaching focus on the political economy of development, especially in conflict-affected countries. At Princeton he has supervised MPA policy workshops on Stabilization Policy for the US Army, on the Civilian Surge to Afghanistan for SIGAR, and on the Sustainability of Millennium Challenge Corporation projects. His most recent book, *Seeds of Stability: Land Reform and US Foreign Policy* (Cambridge University Press 2017) traces American efforts to address peasant-based insurgencies in the developing world. His previous book (with Josh Busby), *AIDS Drugs for All: Social Movements and Market Transformations* (Cambridge University Press 2013), won the Don K. Price Award for best book from the American Political Science Association’s section on Science, Technology and Environmental Studies. Kapstein is a retired US naval officer and a member of the Council on Foreign Relations.
Dejan Kovač is a Postdoctoral Research Associate with the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project at the Woodrow Wilson School and the Department of Economics at Princeton University. Dejan’s main research interests are International Political Economy, Behavioral Economics, Education Economics, and Health Economics. He’s particularly interested in the detrimental effects of wars and conflicts on a variety of outcomes: child development, human capital accumulation, health, social values and norms. His research has focused on solving important policy questions in cooperation with several governmental agencies in Croatia, including Ministry of Science and Education, Ministry of Veterans, and Ministry of Health and Agency for Science and Higher Education.

Jon Kurtz serves as Mercy Corps’ Senior Director for Research and Learning, where he leads the agency’s applied research and impact evaluation efforts. Prior to his current role, Mr. Kurtz worked with other international NGOs and UN agencies to improve their abilities to generate and use rigorous evidence to influence policies and drive strategic learning around major program theories. Mr. Kurtz’ research concentrates on identifying how humanitarian and development action can best contribute to reducing conflict and strengthening resilience in crisis-prone contexts. His work has spanned both emergency and longer-term development contexts, including extensive stints in Afghanistan, Pakistan, Mozambique, Kenya, Uganda and Zimbabwe. Mr. Kurtz holds an MSc in Management of Agricultural Knowledge Systems and Social Change from Wageningen University in the Netherlands.

David A. Lake is the Jerri-Ann and Gary E. Jacobs Professor of Social Sciences and Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the University of California, San Diego. Lake has published widely in international relations theory, international political economy, and security studies. His most recent books are The Statebuilder’s Dilemma: Legitimacy, Loyalty, and the Limits of External Intervention (Cornell 2016) and Proxy Wars: Supressing Violence through Local Agents (edited with Eli Berman, Cornell 2019). Lake served as President of the American Political Science Association in 2016-2017. He has also served as co-editor of the journal International Organization (1997-2001), founding chair of the International Political Economy Society (2005-2012), Program Co-Chair of the Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (2007), and President of the International Studies Association (2010-2011). At UCSD, Lake has served as Research Director for International Relations at the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (1992-1996 and 2000-2001), chair of the Political Science department (2000-2004), Associate Dean of Social Sciences (2006-2015), Acting Dean of Social Sciences at UCSD (2011-12), and Director of the Yankelovich Center for Social Science Research (2013-2015). The recipient of UCSD Chancellor’s Associates Awards for Excellence in Graduate Education (2005) and Excellence in Research in Humanities and Social Sciences (2013), he was elected to the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in 2006 and a was fellow at the Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences in 2008-2009.

Nancy Lindborg has served since February, 2015, as President of the United States Institute of Peace, an independent institution founded by Congress to provide practical solutions for preventing and resolving violent conflict around the world.
Ms. Lindborg has spent most of her career working in fragile and conflict affected regions around the world. Prior to joining USIP, she served as the assistant administrator for the Bureau for Democracy, Conflict and Humanitarian Assistance (DCHA) at USAID. From 2010 through early 2015, Ms. Lindborg led USAID teams focused on building resilience and democracy, managing and mitigating conflict and providing urgent humanitarian assistance. Ms. Lindborg led DCHA teams in response to the ongoing Syria Crisis, the droughts in Sahel and Horn of Africa, the Arab Spring, the Ebola response and numerous other global crises.

Prior to joining USAID, Ms. Lindborg was president of Mercy Corps, where she spent 14 years helping to grow the organization into a globally respected organization known for innovative programs in the most challenging environments. She started her international career working overseas in Kazakhstan and Nepal.

Ms. Lindborg has held a number of leadership and board positions including serving as co-president of the Board of Directors for the U.S. Global Leadership Coalition; co-founder and board member of the National Committee on North Korea; and chair of the Sphere Management Committee. She is a member of Council on Foreign Relations.

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**Giulia La Mattina** is Assistant Professor of Economics at the University of South Florida. She earned her B.S. and M.S. from Bocconi University, and her Ph.D. in Economics from Boston University. Her fields of research are Labor Economics and Development Economics. Her current research interests include determinants of gender inequalities within the family and in the labor market, the long-term effect of armed conflict on domestic violence and health, and the interaction between marriage markets and the intergenerational transmission of health.

**Benjamin Laughlin** is a Postdoctoral Fellow at Perry World House at the University of Pennsylvania and a PhD Candidate in the Department of Political Science at the University of Rochester. His research focuses on the political economy of conflict, refugees, and identity.

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Professor Lee's research and teaching interests bridge the subfields of international relations and comparative politics, with a specialization in statebuilding, state capacity, sovereignty, and international intervention. She is also deeply interested in understanding how international actors build or undermine state capacity in developing countries. Her research has been published in the Journal of Politics, International Organization, World Development, and Governance. She is the 2016 recipient of the American Political Science Association's Helen Dwight Reid Award for best dissertation in the field of international relations, law, and politics. She is currently writing a book about how foreign subversion undermines state authority and promotes ungoverned space in developing countries.
She holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Stanford University and a B.A. in Political Science - International Relations from the University of California, San Diego.

**Salma Mousa** is an Egyptian PhD candidate at Stanford University’s political science department, where she is a fellow at the Centers for Philanthropy and Civil Society, International Conflict and Negotiation, and Global Development. At Stanford’s Immigration Policy Lab, she works directly with resettlement agencies in the U.S. to design and run programs aimed socio-economically integrating refugees. Her dissertation uses experimental evidence from the Arab world to test and build a theory of change around social cohesion. She received her BSc in International Politics from Georgetown University in Qatar, where she also worked as an Aljazeera researcher and helped launch the region’s first Arabic public policy school. She is a 2017-18 USIP Peace and Security Scholar.

**Hannes Mueller** is a tenured researcher at the Institute for Economic Analysis (IAE(CSIC)). His fields of interest are political economy, development economics and conflict studies. In his most recent research projects he has analyzed how political institutions can make societies more robust, the channels through which violence affects the economy and how conflict can be predicted using millions of newspaper articles. His work has been published in leading journals in economics and political science such as the American Economic Review (AER), the American Political Science Review (APSR), the Journal of the European Economic Association (JEEA) and the American Journal of Economics: Macro (AEJ: Macro). He has produced research reports for the UK government, the World Bank and the UN.

**Matthew Nanes** is a postdoctoral research fellow at Stanford University’s Center on Democracy, Development, and the Rule of Law (CDDRL). His research is on the role of domestic security institutions in shaping citizen-state relations, particularly in places plagued by violent intergroup conflict. For example, how does minority integration into the police rank-and-file affect citizens’ willingness to cooperate with police officers? Does marginalization from state security forces motivate anti-state violence? How does community-oriented policing affect engagement with the state? He explores these questions using survey and experimental research in the Middle East and Southeast Asia.

**Harun Onder** is a Senior Economist in the Middle East and North Africa Region of the World Bank. His work at the Bank has focused on the economics of conflict and forced displacement, economic implications of demographic transitions, international trade policy, and challenges faced by natural resource-rich economies, with applications in many countries in Africa, Europe, and Latin America.

He was the lead author of “The Toll of War” – the World Bank’s flagship report on the economic and social consequences of the conflict in Syria – and “The Economics of Hosting Refugees”—a joint World Bank and UNHCR report that assessed the economic implications of refugees for host communities. His technical work has been published in academic journals including the Journal of International Economics and the Journal of Development Economics, and his

Harun received Executive Education in development policy at Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and he holds a Ph.D. degree in Economics from Florida International University. He is the husband of Stefanie Onder (née Sieber) and the father of Pia J. Onder.

Catherine Panter-Brick is Professor of Anthropology, Health, and Global Affairs at Yale University, where she directs the Program on Conflict, Resilience, and Health and the Program on Stress and Family Resilience. Her research addresses issues of risk and resilience in contexts of war, displacement, famine, and poverty. She has directed more than forty interdisciplinary research projects in Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Jordan, Nepal, Niger, Pakistan, Saudi Arabia, Tanzania, and the United Kingdom. She works to develop effective partnerships between academic scholars, health policy-makers, and humanitarian practitioners. For her work in humanitarian areas, she received the Lucy Mair Medal, awarded by the Royal Anthropology Institute of Great Britain and Ireland to honor excellence in the application of anthropology to the active recognition of human dignity. She has authored over 140 scientific publications and co-edited seven books, most recently Medical Humanitarianism: Ethnographies of Practice (Pennsylvania Press 2015) and Pathways to Peace (MIT Press, 2014).

Kate Phillips-Barrasso is the Director of Humanitarian Policy at InterAction, an alliance of over 190 U.S.-based non-governmental organizations engaged in international humanitarian and development work. In this capacity she helps lead the NGO community’s efforts to secure policies for improved humanitarian response and represents the experience and views of InterAction’s members in both U.S. and international humanitarian policy fora. This includes sitting on the Grand Bargain Facilitation Group, the IASC Working Group and UNHCR’s Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework Reference Group. Prior to joining InterAction, Kate served as the Senior Director of Policy and Advocacy for the International Rescue Committee (IRC), a humanitarian organization responding to crises in over 40 countries around the world. At the IRC, she guided work to draw the attention of policy makers to global humanitarian needs, led advocacy efforts for policy change to better assist people forced to flee war and disaster and oversaw the organization’s relations with the U.S. Congress, U.S. Executive Branch and other NGOs. Kate also worked for several years as a Senior Policy Advisor with CARE, leading the organization’s policy and advocacy efforts on a number of humanitarian and development issues. Kate is a Truman National Security Project Fellow and served as a Council on Foreign Relations Term Member. She holds a Master's in International Development Studies from the George Washington University’s Elliott School of International Affairs and a Bachelor of Science from the University of California, Berkeley in Conservation of Natural Resources in Developing Countries.

Peter Quaranto works as the Senior Advisor for Peace and Security in the Office of U.S. Foreign Assistance Resources at the U.S. Department of State. In this capacity, Peter leads analytical, research, and planning efforts to shape the strategic direction of U.S. foreign assistance toward addressing violent conflict and promoting security. Prior to this position, Peter
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**Jessica Reitz** is the Acting Chief of Field Programs Division for USAID's Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI). She previously served as OTI's Middle East Team Leader, Country Representative in Haiti, and Deputy Country Representative in Afghanistan. Prior to working with USAID, Jessica was an associate with the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at the Harvard Kennedy School where she conducted research on intelligence policy and religion and conflict. She also did political fundraising for USAAction, a progressive grassroots organization promoting investment in America's future, and fundraising and program development for Free the Slaves, a non-profit organization combating human trafficking and modern slavery worldwide. Jessica was the A. Leon Higginbotham Public Service Fellow at Harvard Kennedy School where she received her master's in public policy, and she holds a bachelors in neuroscience from Duke University. She is a Fellow with the Truman National Security Project and a Member of the Council on Foreign Relations.

**Mara Revkin** is a Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science at Yale University, where her dissertation examines variation in civilian cooperation with and resistance against rebel governance through multi-method data collection on the case of the Islamic State (IS) in Iraq and Syria. Her work draws upon analysis of archival documents, social media data, large-scale surveys, and interviews with key informants including former IS employees conducted during extensive fieldwork in Turkey and Iraq. She is currently a Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar with the U.S. Institute of Peace and has recently served as the lead researcher on Iraq and Syria for two projects on (1) child recruitment by armed groups and (2) post-IS transitional justice implemented by United Nations University, the research wing of the UN system. Mara holds a J.D. from Yale Law School, where she was an Islamic Law & Civilization Research Fellow in 2016-2017, and her legal scholarship focuses on the treatment of civilians who have lived in areas controlled and governed by terrorist groups under international humanitarian law and domestic material support laws.

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**Jago Salmon** has over 15 years’ experience in programme design and management in conflict settings with field experience in Sudan, Central African Republic, Somalia, Yemen, Liberia, Lebanon, and Afghanistan. Jago established the UN Programme on Core Government Functions, supporting states in the immediate aftermath of conflict, and lead the UN's Payment Programme for Ebola Response Workers as part of the integrated UN response to the Ebola epidemic in 2014/15. Prior to joining the UN, Jago worked with the Small Arms Survey, International Crisis Group, the Overseas Development Institute and the UK's Department for International Development. Jago has a doctorate on the formation and organisation of armed groups in Sudan and Lebanon from Humboldt University in Berlin.
Renard Sexton is a political scientist who studies social conflict, insurgency and development using quantitative methods and field work. He works primarily in Latin America and South/Southeast Asia, especially Peru, Colombia, Afghanistan, Myanmar and the Philippines, but with global interests. Currently a postdoctoral fellow at Princeton University, Renard will join the faculty of Emory University in 2019. Before completing his PhD at New York University, he worked at the UN and for NGOs in Ecuador and Afghanistan, and wrote for journalistic outlets such as FiveThirtyEight, the Guardian, and the New York Times.

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Maria Micaela Sviatschi is currently an Instructor of Economics and Public Affairs at Princeton University, where next year she will be an Assistant Professor of Economics and Public Affairs. Her research focuses on development economics with a focus on human capital, labour, and crime. She is particularly interested in how conditions during childhood and adolescence, such as exposure to illegal labour markets and gangs, affect individuals’ long-term outcomes such as participation in illegal industries, engaging in violence against the state and state legitimacy. In particular, her research has explored how policies can reduce the development of criminal skills that perpetuate illegal labour markets in developing countries. She has ongoing collaborative research projects in Colombia, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Peru, Turkey, and the U.S. She received her PhD in economics from Columbia University. She has also conducted policy evaluations for the World Bank and Inter-American Development Bank.

William B. Taylor is the executive vice president at the U.S. Institute of Peace. Earlier, he was the special coordinator for Middle East Transitions in the U.S. State Department. He oversaw
assistance and support to Egypt, Tunisia, Libya and Syria. He served as the U.S. ambassador to Ukraine from 2006 to 2009.

He also served as the U.S. government's representative to the Mideast Quartet, which facilitated the Israeli disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank. He served in Baghdad as the first director of the Iraq Reconstruction Management Office from 2004 to 2005, and in Kabul as coordinator of international and U.S. assistance to Afghanistan from 2002 to 2003. Ambassador Taylor was also coordinator of U.S. assistance to the former Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. He earlier served on the staff of Senator Bill Bradley.

He is a graduate of West Point and Harvard University's Kennedy School of Government and served as an infantry platoon leader and combat company commander in the U.S. Army in Vietnam and Germany.

He is married with two adult children.

Kelly Uribe is the Senior Stabilization Advisor in the Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Stability and Humanitarian Affairs. Prior to this assignment, she served as a Department of Defense Fellow in the U.S. Agency for International Development’s Office of Transition Initiatives where she led civilian-military issues. Ms. Uribe joined the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD) as a Presidential Management Fellow in 1999. Her tenure with OSD includes numerous regional and functional assignments. In the Partnership Strategy and Stability Operations office, Ms. Uribe led policy initiatives to improve transitional public security and civilian-military cooperation in support of stabilization and counterinsurgency operations. Ms. Uribe was also the driving force behind the Ministry of Defense Advisors Program. Under her leadership, this innovative idea grew from a pilot program in Afghanistan to a well-respected DoD program with a dedicated staff, budget and global authority. Ms. Uribe is a former U.S. Army Military Police officer. In 2003, she supported the 4th Infantry Division’s police reconstruction efforts throughout Diyala Province, Iraq. Her other overseas assignments include Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kosovo, Kuwait and South Korea. Ms. Uribe earned a Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy from the Fletcher School at Tufts University and a Bachelor of Arts from Davidson College where she was a Distinguished Military Graduate. She, her husband Ernesto, and their two sons live in Northern Virginia.

Juan Vargas is Professor of Economics at Universidad del Rosario, Colombia. He holds a PhD in Economics from Royal Holloway, University of London (2007) and has held visiting positions at the University of Bergamo, (2015), the Inter-American Development Bank (2013), the Institute of Development Studies (2011), UCLA (2007-2008) and Harvard University (2005-2007). His main interests are in the areas of political economy and development, focusing particularly on the causes and consequences of violent armed conflict, the economics of crime and the interplay between political and economic institutions. He has worked with international institutions like the World Bank and USAID in evaluating large government security policies in Colombia, is Associate Editor of Conflict Management and Peace Science, Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy, Defense and Peace Economics, and Economics for Peace and Security Journal. His research has appeared in peer review journals such as The Review of Economic Studies, The Economic Journal, Management Science, Journal of Economic Behavior and Organization and Science among other international journals.
**Austin Wright** is an assistant professor of public policy at the Harris School of The University of Chicago. He leverages micro-level data to study the political economy of conflict and crime in Afghanistan, Colombia, Indonesia, Iraq, and Thailand. Austin’s research on substate conflict largely focuses on rebel strategy, examining how rebel groups adopt new technologies of war in a dynamic environment. His work also unpacks how individuals respond to unexpected economic and climatic conditions, including projects on opium diseases and intelligence sharing, weather shocks and crime, and wildfires and interpersonal violence. His research is supported by the National Science Foundation, Niehaus Center for Global Governance, The Asia Foundation, and World Bank.

Austin is a Faculty Affiliate of the Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Conflicts, the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project, and non-resident fellow of the Liechtenstein Institute; also a non-resident research associate of the Deep South Watch program in Thailand.

He received his B.A. and B.S. from The University of Texas at Austin and Ph.D. from Princeton University. Before attending graduate school, Austin was a Teach For America corps member in New Orleans, Louisiana.

**Mona Yacoubian** joined the U.S. Institute of Peace after serving as deputy assistant administrator in the Middle East Bureau at USAID from 2014-2017 where she had responsibility for Iraq, Syria, Jordan and Lebanon. Prior to joining USAID, Ms. Yacoubian was a senior advisor at the Stimson Center where her work focused on the Arab uprisings with an emphasis on Syria. Prior to joining the Stimson Center, Ms. Yacoubian served as a special advisor on the Middle East at the U.S. Institute of Peace where her work focused on Lebanon and Syria as well as broader issues related to democratization in the Arab world.

Ms. Yacoubian’s research focuses on conflict analysis and prevention in the Middle East, with a specific focus on Syria, Iraq, and Lebanon. Her interests also include fragility and resilience.

Ms. Yacoubian was a Fulbright scholar in Syria where she studied Arabic at the University of Damascus from 1985 to 1986. She has held an international affairs fellowship with the Council on Foreign Relations (CFR) and is currently a CFR member. Ms. Yacoubian earned an MPA from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government and a BA from Duke University.