Empirical Studies of Conflict Project Annual Meeting

Addressing Persistent Conflict
Cosponsored by
U.S. Institute of Peace and The Pearson Institute for the Study and Resolution of Global Conflicts
May 18-19, 2017

All sessions will be held at:
U.S. Institute of Peace, 2301 Constitution Avenue NW, Washington, DC 20037

AGENDA

**Thursday, May 18** - Day 1 of the conference focuses on building relationships and sharing information between people working on addressing persistent conflict in the too-often disparate domains of research, policy, and practice.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM Breakfast available *(Leland Atrium)*

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<th>Time</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<td>8:00 AM – 8:50 AM</td>
<td><strong>Prologue: Predicting Conflict (Room B203/204)</strong> (Optional research-focused panel discussion)</td>
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<td>Panelists:</td>
<td>Bledi Celiku, Economist, World Bank</td>
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<td>Aart Kraay, Economist, Development Research Group, World Bank</td>
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<td>Jacob Shapiro, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University and ESOC Co-Director</td>
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9:00 AM – 9:15 AM **Welcome (Room B241)**

ESOC – Eli Berman, Professor and Chair, UC San Diego Economics

Pearson Institute – Ethan Bueno de Mesquita, Sydney Stein, Jr. Professor, Deputy Dean for Research & Strategic Initiatives, and Director of the Center for Policy Entrepreneurship in the Harris School of Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago

USIP – Carla Koppell, Vice President, Applied Conflict Transformation, United States Institute of Peace
Thursday, May 18 - POLICY PANELS

All policy panels will be held in Room B241, with live streaming in Kathwari Amphitheatre.

POLICY PANEL 1:
9:15 AM – 10:45 AM  Fueling Conflict: How Can the Resource Curse Be Managed?

Chair: Jacob Shapiro, Professor of Politics and International Affairs, Princeton University and ESOC Co-Director

Panelists: William Byrd, Senior Expert – Afghanistan, United States Institute of Peace
Shanta Devarajan, Chief Economist of the World Bank’s Middle East and North Africa Region

Papers:

Darin Christensen, Assistant Professor of Public Policy, UCLA
Co-authors: Mai Nguyen and Renard Sexton
“Strategic Violence during Democratization: Evidence from Myanmar”

Gaurav Khanna, Post-doctoral Fellow, Center for Global Development, Washington DC and Assistant Professor of Public Policy, UC San Diego (2017- )
Co-authors: Achyuta Adhvaryu, James Fenske, and Anant Nyshadham
“Resources, Conflict, and Economic Development in Africa”

James Walsh, Professor of Political Science, University of North Carolina at Charlotte
Co-authors: Justin Conrad, Kevin Greene, James Igoe Walsh, and Beth Elise Whitaker
“Rebel Natural Resource Exploitation and Conflict Duration”

10:45 AM – 11:00 AM  Break (Leland Atrium)

POLICY PANEL 2:
11:00 AM – 12:30 PM  Aiding or Abetting Conflict through Development Interventions

Chair: Eli Berman, Professor and Chair, UC San Diego Economics

Panelists: Beth Ellen Cole, Special Advisor, Violent Extremism, Conflict and Fragility, United States Institute of Peace
Jason Foley, Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA) in USAID's Office of Afghanistan and Pakistan Affairs and Adjunct Assistant Professor, Georgetown University's Center for Security Studies

Papers:

Tarek Ghani, Assistant Professor, Olin Business School, Washington University in St. Louis
Co-authors: Joshua Blumenstock, Sylvan Herskowitz, Ethan B. Kapstein, and Thomas Scherer
“Insecurity and Industrial Organization: Evidence from Afghanistan”

Radha Iyengar, Senior Economist, RAND Corporation
Co-authors: Benjamin Crisman, Stephen Hegarty, James Mao, Jacob N. Shapiro, and Manu Singh
“Evaluating the Impact of Stabilization Programming in Afghanistan”

Hugo Slim, Head of Policy, International Committee of the Red Cross
“When Humanitarian Action Goes on for Decades: The ICRC and Persistent Conflicts”
Thursday, May 18 - (continued)

12:30 PM – 2:15 PM  **Lunch (Great Hall)**  
Addressing and Recovering From Persistent Conflict in the Middle East

Moderator: Nancy Lindborg, President, United States Institute of Peace
Panelists: Shanta Devarajan, Chief Economist, Middle East and North Africa Region, World Bank  
Robert Malley, Vice President for Policy, International Crisis Group

*All policy panels will be held in Room B241, with live streaming in Kathwari Amphitheatre.*

**POLICY PANEL 3:**  
2:15 PM – 3:45 PM  Governance and Conflict (governance, public services, security sector)

Chair: Ethan Bueno de Mesquita, Sydney Stein, Jr. Professor, Deputy Dean for Research & Strategic Initiatives, and Director of the Center for Policy Entrepreneurship in the Harris School of Public Policy Studies at the University of Chicago

Panelists: Joseph Hewitt, Vice President for Policy, Learning and Strategy, United States Institute of Peace  
Sharon Morris, former Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau for Conflict and Stabilization Operations

Papers:

*Laia Balcells, Assistant Political Professor of Political Science, Duke University*  
*Co-author: Gerard Torrats-Espinosa*  
“The Political Consequences of Terrorism”

*Aila Matanock, Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, UC Berkeley*  
*Co-author: Natalia Garbiras-Díaz*  
“Considering Concessions: A Survey Experiment on the Colombian Peace Process”

*Santiago Tobón, PhD Candidate in Economics, Universidad de los Andes*  
*Co-authors: Christopher Blattman, Donald Green, and Daniel Ortega*  
“The State Building in the City: The Effects of Public Security and Services on Crime, Violence and State Legitimacy in Bogotá”

3:45 PM – 4:00 PM  **Break (Leland Atrium)**
Thursday, May 18 - (continued)

All policy panels will be held in Room B241, with live streaming in Kathwari Amphitheatre.

POLICY PANEL 4:
4:00 PM – 5:30 PM  Individuals in Conflict (opinions and preferences on peace and violence)

Chair: Radha Iyengar, Senior Economist, RAND Corporation
Panelists: Stacia George, Director, West and Central Africa and Haiti, Chemonics International
Candace Rondeaux, Senior Program Officer, Applied Conflict Transformation, United States Institute of Peace
Rebecca Wolfe, Director of Mercy Corp’s Peace and Conflict Team

Papers:

Michael J. Gilligan, Professor of Politics, New York University
Co-authors: Prabin B. Khadka and Cyrus Samii
“Social Incentives in State and Non-State Armed Groups”

Julia Lendorfer, Program Manager, Observatorio de Desarrollo Regional y Promoción Social
Co-author: Johannes Hoogeveen
“Does the 2015 Peace Accord in Mali Reflect the Priorities of Households and Local Leaders?”

Tamar Mitts, Assistant Professor, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, University of Michigan (July 2017- ); PhD Candidate, Department of Political Science, Columbia University
“Do Community Engagement Efforts Reduce Extremist Rhetoric on Social Media?”

5:30 PM – 6:30 PM Reception (Leland Atrium)
Friday, May 19 - ACADEMIC PAPER PRESENTATIONS

Day 2 of the conference focuses on taking cutting-edge research with the potential to inform policy and practice and digging into its methodological and analytical underpinnings to ensure it meets the high standards of rigor necessary to inform policy and practice.

8:00 AM – 9:00 AM  Breakfast available (Leland Atrium)

8:00 AM – 8:50 AM  Prologue: Using High Frequency Data to Study Conflict  
(Room B203/204)  
(Optional research-focused panel discussion)  
Hasan Davulcu, Arizona State University  
Tarek Ghani, Washington University in St. Louis  
Jamie-Hansen Lewis, Brown University  
Tamar Mitts, Columbia University

9:00 AM – 9:15 AM  Welcome (Leland Atrium)  
Joseph Felter, Senior Research Scholar, Stanford University  
Jeffrey Helsing, Associate Vice President, Academy, U.S. Institute of Peace  
Jacob Shapiro, Professor, Princeton University and ESOC Co-Director

NOTE: All papers will be presented in parallel sessions.

9:15 AM – 10:00 AM  SESSION 1  
Room B203/204:  
Governance and Conflict  
Juan Morales, University of Toronto  
“Legislating During War: Conflict and Politics in Colombia”

Room B241:  
Individuals in Conflict  
Atika Pasha, University of Göttingen  
Co-authors: Sarah Khan and Jana Kuhnt  
“Employment in the Times of Terror: A Gendered Perspective on Pakistan”

10:00 AM – 10:15 AM  Break (Leland Atrium)

10:15 AM – 11:00 AM  SESSION 2  
Room B203/204:  
Governance and Conflict  
Thiemo R. Fetzer, University of Warwick; Harris School of Public Policy  
Co-authors: Oliver Vanden Eynde and Austin L. Wright  
“Security Transitions”

Room B241:  
Aiding and Abetting Conflict  
Rick Morgan, Emory University  
“Road Warriors: State Power, Road Development, and Popular Support in Insurgencies”

11:00 AM – 11:15 AM  Break (Leland Atrium)
11:15 AM – 12:00 PM  
**SESSION 3**

Room B203/204:  
**Individuals in Conflict**  
*Christopher Blattman, University of Chicago*  
*Co-authors: Gustavo Duncan, Benjamin Lessing, and Santiago Tobón*  
“Gangs of Medellin”

Room B241:  
**Governance and Conflict**  
*Maria Micaela Sviatschi, Columbia University*  
“Making a Narco: Childhood Exposure to Illegal Labor Markets and Criminal Life Paths”

12:00 PM – 1:15 PM  
**Lunch Buffet (Leland Atrium)**

12:15 PM – 1:15 PM  
**Lunch discussion of Syria research (Room B241)**

Moderator:  
David Lake, Jerri-Ann and Gary E. Jacobs Professor of Social Sciences and Distinguished Professor of Political Science at the UC San Diego

Panelists:  
**Individuals in Conflict**  
*Clement Joubert, World Bank*  
*Co-authors: Mohamed Abdel-Jelil, Kartika Bhatia, Anne Brockmeyer, and Quy-Toan Do*  
“Economic Inclusion and Radicalization into Violent Extremism”

**Individuals in Conflict**  
*Tolga Sinmazdemir, Bogazici University*  
*Co-authors: Kristin Fabbe and Chad Hazlett*  

12:00 PM – 1:15 PM  
**Parallel Lunch for Informal Networking Discussions**  
(Room B203/204 and B214/215)

1:15 PM – 2:00 PM  
**SESSION 4**

Room B203/204:  
**Individuals in Conflict**  
*Michael J. Gilligan, New York University*  
*Co-authors: Prabin B. Khadka and Cyrus Samii*  
“Social Incentives in State and Non-State Armed Groups”

Room B241:  
**Governance in Conflict**  
*Austin L. Wright, University of Chicago*  
*Co-authors: Luke N. Condra, James D. Long, and Andrew C. Shaver*  
“The Logic of Insurgent Electoral Violence”

2:00 PM – 2:15 PM  
**Break (Leland Atrium)**
2:15 PM – 3:00 PM  
**SESSION 5**

Room B203/204  
**Fueling Conflict**  
*Ore Koren, University of Minnesota*  
“Food Abundance and Violent Conflict in Africa”

Room B241:  
**Individuals in Conflict**  
*Richard Peck, Northwestern University*  
*Co-authors: Samuel Bazzi, Robert Blair, Christopher Blattman, Oeindrila Dube, and Matthew Gudgeon*  
“What Can Prediction Teach Us About Conflict? A Machine Learning Application in Colombia and Indonesia”

3:00 PM – 3:15 PM  
**Wrap-up (Leland Atrium)**

3:15 PM – 5:00 PM  
Meeting rooms (and coffee service) available for research collaboration meetings *(Rooms B203/204, B216, B241)*