Presenters and Panelist Bios

Laia Balcells is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Political Science at Duke University. Her research and teaching focuses on issues of Security, Peace and Conflict, with a special interest in civil wars, political violence, and nationalism and ethnic conflict. She has been a Niehaus Visiting Associate Research Scholar at the Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University (2015-16). In the Spring of 2017, she is on Research Leave from Duke to serve as Chair of Excellence (Catedrática de Excelencia) at the Carlos III University of Madrid.

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 faculty member in the School of International Relations and Pacific Studies and 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. His book *Radical, Religious and Violent: The New Economics of Terrorism* was published in 2009 by the MIT Press. Berman received his Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University.

Christopher Blattman is the Ramalee E. Pearson Professor of Global Conflict Studies at The University of Chicago, in the Harris School of Public Policy. He is an economist and political scientist who studies poverty and violence in developing countries, and has worked mainly in Colombia, Liberia, Uganda, and Ethiopia. Dr. Blattman was previously faculty at Columbia and Yale Universities, and holds a Ph.D. in Economics from the University of California at Berkeley and a Master’s in Public Administration and International Development (MPA/ID) from the Harvard Kennedy School.

Robert Blecher is the MENA Deputy Program Director at International Crisis Group, where he helps oversee the research of the program’s regional analysts. He was previously the organization’s Project Director and Senior Analyst for Israel/Palestine. Before joining Crisis Group, he consulted with NGOs and the UN, and prior to that, taught at the University of Richmond and Stanford University, where he earned his Ph.D. in Middle East history. Rob, who lived for many years in Damascus, Jerusalem, Ramallah, Cairo and Amman, currently resides in New York.
Ethan Bueno de Mesquita is the Sydney Stein Professor and Deputy Dean for Research & Strategic Initiatives, at the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. He is also a member of the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project (ESOC). His research focuses on applications of game theoretic models to a variety of political phenomena including political violence—such as terrorism, rebellion, and insurgency—and electoral accountability. Dr. Bueno de Mesquita is the author of a widely used textbook, Political Economy for Public Policy (Princeton University Press), as well as many articles in leading journals in both political science and economics. Previously, he taught in the department of political science at Washington University in St. Louis and was a Lady Davis Fellow in political science and visiting fellow in the Center for the Study of Rationality at the Hebrew University of Jerusalem. He received his BA in political science from the University of Chicago and his MA and Ph.D. in political science from Harvard.

William Byrd is a development economist whose academic background includes a doctorate in economics from Harvard University and a master's degree in East Asian Regional Studies from the same institution. He joined USIP in April 2012 as a senior expert, working on Afghanistan. He had long experience at the World Bank, where most of his work was country-focused, including China, India, Pakistan and Afghanistan. He lived for significant lengths of time in all of these countries and speaks Dari and Chinese, with some knowledge of other languages. During 2002-2006, he was stationed in Kabul, Afghanistan, where he served as the World Bank’s country manager for Afghanistan and then as economic adviser. His publications include six books on China, other books, and numerous articles, among them several papers on Afghanistan, as well as a number of World Bank reports. Examples include reports on Afghanistan’s economic development, public finance management, economic cooperation in the wider Central Asia region, vulnerabilities to corruption assessments, Afghanistan’s drug industry, and economic incentives and development initiatives to reduce opium production, as well as papers on these topics, security sector reform from a financial and development perspective, and on responding to Afghanistan’s development challenge.

Bledi Celiku is an Economist at the World Bank and holds a Ph.D. in Economics from Georgetown University. Bledi is heavily involved in an ongoing United Nations/World Bank report on conflict prevention. In recent work with Aart Kraay titled “Predicting Conflict”, the authors study the performance of alternative prediction models for conflict.

Darin Christensen is an Assistant Professor of Public Policy at UCLA. He studies the political economy of conflict and development, with a focus on sub-Saharan Africa. One strand of research focuses on the logic of protest and repression: what motivates people to protest, what technologies enable this collective action, and when do governments repress demonstrations? A second strand considers the political determinants and consequences of investments in mining and agribusiness in developing states. He has consulted on evaluations of USAID and World Bank projects. He received his Ph.D. in political science and M.A. in economics from Stanford University. He has a B.A. in political science and German from Duke University.

Beth Ellen Cole joined the U.S. Institute of Peace (USIP) in September 2015 as special advisor on Countering Violent Extremism, Conflict and Fragility. Ms. Cole has served in leadership positions in and out of government for more than 30 years working on conflict and security issues. Prior to rejoining USIP, Ms. Cole was appointed by President Obama as the
director of the Office of Civil-Military Cooperation at the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) where she was responsible for managing the relationship between USAID and the Department of Defense. Ms. Cole has led pioneering initiatives including the USIP-hosted Working Group on Civil-Military Relations in Non-Permissive Environments where she helped negotiate the landmark, “Guidelines for Relations between U.S. Armed Forces and NGHOs in Hostile or Potentially Hostile Environments.” She was lead writer of the first “interagency” doctrine for stabilization operations, Guiding Principles for Stabilization and Reconstruction. She has authored and co-authored numerous books and publications and speaks widely on issues related to conflict. Ms. Cole is currently an adjunct professor at the Elliot School of International Affairs at George Washington University.

Hasan Davulcu is an Associate Professor in the School of Computing, Informatics and Decision Systems Engineering at Arizona State University. His research in social media mining was published at ACM and IEEE conferences. He is currently the PI for an NSF Partnership for Innovation (PFI:BIC) grant focusing on behavioral analytics for detecting financial fraud and PI of a DoD Minerva Research Initiative project titled “New Analytics for Measuring and Countering Social Influence and Persuasion of Extremist Groups”. Davulcu holds a Ph.D. in computer science from Stony Brook University, New York. He is co-founder of ARTIS Looking Glass, LLC -- a startup that focuses on the voices and perspectives of people and social movements in conflict areas as well as those of transnational groups.

Shanta Devarajan is the Chief Economist of the World Bank’s Middle East and North Africa Region. Since joining the World Bank in 1991, he has been a Principal Economist and Research Manager for Public Economics in the Development Research Group, and the Chief Economist of the Human Development Network, the South Asia Region and Africa Region. He was the director of the World Development Report 2004, Making Services Work for Poor People. Before 1991, he was on the faculty of Harvard University’s John F. Kennedy School of Government. The author or co-author of over 100 publications, Mr. Devarajan’s research covers public economics, trade policy, natural resources and the environment, and general equilibrium modeling of developing countries. Born in Sri Lanka, Mr. Devarajan received his B.A. in mathematics from Princeton University and his Ph.D. in economics from the University of California, Berkeley.

Joseph Felter is a Senior Research Scholar at the Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University and co-directs the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project (ESOC). Felter retired in 2012 from the U.S. Army as a Colonel, following a career as a Special Forces and Foreign Area Officer with distinguished service in a variety of special operations, diplomatic and other military assignments. He led the International Security and Assistance Force, Counterinsurgency Advisory and Assistance Team deployed throughout Afghanistan reporting directly to General Stanley McChrystal and General David Petraeus, advising them on counterinsurgency tactics, operations and strategy. Felter is a graduate of the U.S. Military Academy (BS), the Harvard Kennedy School (MPA), and Stanford University (Ph.D.). Felter’s research focuses on assessing and developing effective counterinsurgency forces and employment strategies.

Thiemo Fetzer joined the Department of Economics at the University of Warwick as Assistant Professor in August 2015. From August 2016, he is visiting the Harris School of Public Policy at the University of Chicago. He mainly works in Development Economics and
Political Economy, with a focus on resource economics and conflict. He has a Ph.D. in Economics from the London School of Economics.

**Jason Foley** has over 20 years of public and private sector experience. As a career member of the Senior Executive Service, he currently serves as U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID)'s Deputy Assistant Administrator (DAA) for Afghanistan and Pakistan. He is also an Adjunct Assistant Professor at Georgetown University's Center for Security Studies. Previously, Mr. Foley served as DAA for East Asia and as the Director of Strategic and Program Planning. Before joining USAID, he served as the Director of Strategic Planning at the U.S. State Department, Budget Director at the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, and U.S. Peace Corps volunteer in Benin. Prior to his government service, Mr. Foley was a senior manager for a consulting firm where he advised foreign governments on reforming their financial sectors. He earned his Bachelor’s degree in political science from the University of Michigan and his Master’s degree in Foreign Service from Georgetown University.

**Stacia George** is a Director in Chemonics’ West and Central Africa and Haiti Division. She previously served as the Deputy Director for USAID’s Office of Transition Initiatives (OTI) and is an expert in conflict management and international development with specializations in conflict-affected environments, stabilization, democracy, and community-driven development programming. Prior to this Ms. George was a Foreign Policy Fellow for Senator Chris Coons on the Africa Subcommittee of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and formerly the Practice Director for Government Services at Caerus Associates. She held an International Affairs Fellowship from the Council on Foreign Relations in 2011 and previously spent 11 years with USAID including service in Pakistan as the Country Representative for programs in the Federally Administered Tribal Areas. She managed OTI’s Afghanistan program as the Deputy Team Leader for Asia and the Middle East, established programs in Colombia, Nepal, and Sudan, and served as their Country Representative in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Ms. George holds degrees in International Studies and Spanish from Niagara University and International Conflict Management and Economics from the Johns Hopkins School of Advanced and International Studies (SAIS).

**Tarek Ghani** is an Assistant Professor at the Olin School of Business at Washington University in St. Louis. His research examines the development of emerging economies, in particular the impact of competition, finance and technology on market power and institutional weakness. At Olin, Tarek teaches the PMBA core strategy course and Ph.D.-level organizational economics and non-market strategy. Tarek is an affiliate of the Empirical Studies of Conflict (ESOC) Project and the International Growth Centre (IGC). During 2015-2016, Tarek was the ESOC Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton University's Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs. Tarek received his Ph.D. and M.S. from UC Berkeley's Haas School of Business and B.S. in Symbolic Systems with International Security Honors from Stanford University. From 2006-2009, Tarek oversaw grants on conflict prevention issues at the private foundation Humanity United. He previously worked at the Center for Global Development, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and the World Bank.
Michael Gilligan is a Professor of Politics at New York University. His research explores the effects of various types of international interventions (peacekeeping, post-conflict reconstruction aid and ex-combatant reintegration programs) on the societies in which those interventions are undertaken. He continues to have an ongoing research interest in using formal models to understand international cooperation. His teaching at the undergraduate level mainly consists of advising honors theses in the senior research seminar of the International Relations Honors major. At the M.A. level he teaches a course on formal models of international cooperation and sometimes a course on civil wars and international interventions. At the Ph.D. level he usually teaches one half of the department's year-long international relations core course, the half that focuses on political economy and international cooperation topics.

Jamie Hansen-Lewis is a student at Brown University pursuing a Ph.D. in economics. Her research interests include political and environmental economics of developing nations. Her previous research projects have used geospatial data analysis to examine the effects of mining and environmental policy in Brazil. She was an ESOC Research Specialist (2014-15) and previously worked at the World Bank as a Junior Professional Associate in the Africa region. She received her BA at Swarthmore College with honors in economics.

Jeffrey Helsing is the Associate Vice President of USIP's Academy. Helsing oversees the content of USIP’s education and training programs as well as curriculum development in the United States and in conflict zones abroad. Helsing has close to two decades of conflict resolution training globally, particularly in the Middle East. For more than eight years, Helsing worked with groups in Israel and the Palestinian Authority training educators, NGO workers, university students and young leaders in developing conflict resolution, nonviolence, human rights, and communication and facilitation skills. He has 20 years of experience as an educator, including teaching at the American University in Cairo, George Washington University, Swarthmore College and the University of Pennsylvania. Helsing has taught a broad range of international relations subjects, including conflict resolution, human rights, comparative foreign policies, American foreign policy and international relations theory. He has written articles on conflicts in the Middle East and co-edited a book on the links between human rights, humanitarian law and peacebuilding as well as written articles and delivered numerous conference papers on the impact of education policies and projects in conflict zones. Helsing holds a bachelor’s degree in history from Stanford University and a doctorate in political science from Columbia University.

Joseph Hewitt is the Vice President for Policy, Learning and Strategy at U.S. Institute of Peace. He leads USIP's efforts to capture learning from the Institute's program activities and apply it for more effective policy engagement and strategy formation. He brings more than twenty years of experience working to apply rigorous analyses of conflict dynamics to strengthen tools for conflict assessment, improve the design of peacebuilding programs and refine systems for program monitoring and evaluation. Previously, he was a senior conflict and peacebuilding advisor in USAID’s Office of Conflict Management and Mitigation. In that capacity, he directed the office's research activities and development of analytic tools to support USAID’s work in fragile and conflict-affected countries. In addition, he represented USAID in both international and U.S. policy processes to strengthen policy coherence for engagement in conflict-affected and fragile states. Before joining USAID, Dr. Hewitt was the associate director of the Center for International Development and Conflict Management at the
University of Maryland. He directed multiple projects for the Center, including a multi-year effort to train civil society organizations in West Africa to conduct local conflict assessments, as well as leading the center’s development of forecasting models for future conflict and political instability. Prior to joining the University of Maryland, Hewitt was a faculty member in the Department of Political Science at the University of Missouri. Dr. Hewitt’s publications have appeared in the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, the *Journal of Peace Research* and *International Interactions*. His most recent book is *Peace and Conflict 2012*, which was co-authored with Ted R. Gurr and Jonathan Wilkenfeld. Hewitt received his Ph.D. in Government and Politics from the University of Maryland and his B.A. from the University of Michigan.

**Georgia Holmer** is the Director of CVE at the United States Institute of Peace where she oversees a broad portfolio of CVE and rule of law-related projects and research, to include the RESOLVE and INPROL research networks. She also chairs USIP's working group on counter violent extremism (CVE), which coordinates USIP’s CVE work and strategy. Holmer previously led USIP’s Women Preventing Extremist Violence Project in Nigeria which worked to support the role of women in building community resilience to violent extremism through engagement with local police. She has two decades of experience in the international justice and security field, and is an expert in the analysis of violent extremism, radicalization and conflict and counter and preventative strategies and programs, and their intersection with human rights and rule of law. She served for ten years as an analyst at the Federal Bureau of Investigation, where she was assigned long-term to the Office of the Legal Attaché at the U.S. Embassies in Athens and Copenhagen, and was the lead analyst on the Kosovo Task Force. She worked as an analytic advisor at the Department of Homeland Security, and has designed innovative methodologies for understanding and addressing radicalization. She holds a Master’s degree in International Relations from Boston University and is a Master’s candidate in International Human Rights Law at the University of Oxford.

**Radha Iyengar** is a Senior Economist at the RAND Corporation. Previously, she served as a member of the Department of Energy Chief of Staff team and the Deputy Chief of Staff to the Deputy Secretary. There she worked on issues related to the budget for both energy and nuclear security, emergency preparedness, clean energy financing, and strategic management of the Department. Prior to DOE, Iyengar worked at the White House as the Director for Defense Personnel, Readiness, and Partnerships on the National Security Council. Her portfolio included sexual assault in the military, mental health programs for service members and veterans, base security at military installations, accessions policy, security sector assistance reform, and defense strategy and budget initiatives, including contributing to the 2014 Quadrennial Defense Review. She was instrumental in executive actions on sexual assault and suicide prevention. Prior to that, Iyengar was Chief of Staff of the DoD's Office of Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict and advisor to the Assistant Secretary on security policy issues related to counterterrorism and peacekeeping efforts in the Middle East and Africa. Before her government service, Iyengar worked as an economist at RAND. Her research has covered empirical evaluations of policies aimed at reducing violence including criminal violence, sexual assault, terrorist behavior, and sexual and intimate partner violence. At the outset of her career, she was an Assistant Professor at the London School of Economics and a Robert Wood Johnson Health Policy Scholar at Harvard. She received her Ph.D. in economics from Princeton University.
Clément Joubert is an Economist in the Development Research Group, Human Development and Public Services Team. He received his Ph.D. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania in 2010. His research focuses on pension reform, informality, labor market mismatch and gender inequality.

Guarav Khanna is a Postdoctoral Fellow at the Center for Global Development. His research focuses on education, high skill immigration, infrastructure policy, public-works programs, and conflict. He received his Ph.D. in economics from the University of Michigan with an emphasis on development economics, labor economics, and applied econometrics. Khanna will be joining the Public Policy faculty at the University of California, San Diego in the fall of 2017.

Carla Koppell is the Vice President for the Center for Applied Conflict Transformation at the United States Institute of Peace. She previously was chief strategy officer (CSO) for the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). Prior to serving as CSO, Koppell served as USAID’s first senior coordinator for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment and as a senior advisor to the USAID Administrator. Koppell brings to the position twenty-five years of experience working in a wide range of sectors for public, private and non-governmental organizations internationally. Prior to joining USAID, Koppell directed The Institute for Inclusive Security and the Washington, D.C. office of Hunt Alternatives Fund. She also was a senior advisor and, prior to that, interim director of the Conflict Prevention Project at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Earlier in her career, Koppell served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for International Affairs for the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development. She also worked for the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations. Koppell authored Preventing the Next Wave of Conflict: Understanding Non-Traditional Threats to Global Security with Anita Sharma. She received her M.A. in public policy from Harvard University’s Kennedy School of Government in Cambridge, Massachusetts, and her B.S. from Cornell University.

Ore Koren is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Minnesota in Political Science and a Jennings Randolph Fellow at the United States Institute of Peace. He studies micro-dynamics of violence, analyzes the behavior of combatants and perpetrators, and evaluates the specific mechanisms that generate conflict and other forms of political violence at the highly localized level. As a researcher, he devoted considerable energy into developing “localized conflict” approaches to understanding manifestations of violence that have traditionally been thought of mostly as initiated by states or leaders. Using a combination of “big data” analysis and archival research, Koren’s current work analyzes the implications of factors such as local political power asymmetries or food security and climatic variations to conflict and political violence, and experiments with creating theoretically informed indicators to measure the distribution of different political and economic factors at the highly localized level. His research was published or is forthcoming in multiple academic journals, and has also been featured in policy-oriented outlets.

Aart Kraay is an economist in the Development Research Group at the World Bank. He joined the World Bank in 1995 after earning a Ph.D. in economics from Harvard University (1995), and a B.Sc. in economics from the University of Toronto (1990). His research interests include international capital movements, growth and inequality, governance, and the Chinese economy. His research on these topics has been published in scholarly journals such as the
Quarterly Journal of Economics, the Review of Economics and Statistics, the Economic Journal, the Journal of Monetary Economics, the Journal of International Economics, and the Journal of the European Economic Association. He is an associate editor of the Journal of Development Economics, and co-editor of the World Bank Economic Review. He has also held visiting positions at the International Monetary Fund and the Sloan School of Management at MIT, and has taught at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University.

Julia Lendorfer is Program Manager at the Observatorio de Desarrollo Regional y Promoción Social (ODP), a Mexican non-profit, where - amongst other projects - she is managing the implementation and evaluation of an innovative crime and violence prevention project for high-risk youth based on cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT). Previously she was at the World Bank working on conflict, crime and violence in West Africa. She implemented various research and development projects in Mali including a research project awarded the World Bank Innovation Challenge to harness recent advances in cell phone technologies as data collection tool and track welfare, security and violence trends of displaced populations.

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. She holds a B.A and M.A. in English Literature from Stanford University and an M.A. in Public Administration from the John F. Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University.

Robert Malley is Vice President for Policy at the International Crisis Group and is responsible for shaping and overseeing Crisis Group’s policy across the organization's work. Prior to joining Crisis Group in his current role, Robert Malley served in the Obama administration as Special Assistant to the President, Senior Adviser to the President for the Counter-ISIL Campaign, and White House Coordinator for the Middle East, North Africa and the Gulf region. He also served as Special Assistant to President Clinton for Arab-Israeli affairs and Director for Near East and South Asian affairs at the National Security Council. Before joining the Obama administration, he was Program Director for Middle East and North Africa at Crisis Group, leading the organization’s research, analysis, policy prescription and advocacy in and about the region. Robert Malley is a graduate of Yale University, Harvard Law School and Oxford University, where he was a Rhodes Scholar. He is the author of The

Aila Matanock is an Assistant Professor of Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley. Her research focuses on post-conflict elections that are produced by peace processes, foreign intervention that occurs by host state invitation, and armed actor governance and social support, especially in counterinsurgency contexts. She uses case studies, survey experiments, and cross-national data in this work. She has conducted fieldwork in Colombia, Central America, the Pacific, and elsewhere. She has received funding for these projects from many sources, including the National Science Foundation (NSF), the National Center for the Study of Terrorism and the Response to Terrorism (START), and the Center for Global Development (CGD). Her first book, Electing Peace: From Civil Conflict to Political Participation, is forthcoming at Cambridge University Press (2017). Her dissertation, on the same topic, won the 2012 Helen Dwight Reid Award from the American Political Science Association. She has also published in the Annual Review of Political Science, Governance, and the Journal of Peace Research. She has worked at the RAND Corporation before graduate school, and she held fellowships at the Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation and the Hoover Institution afterward. She received her Ph.D. in political science from Stanford University and her A.B. magna cum laude from Harvard University.

Tamar Mitts is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Columbia University, specializing in comparative politics and international relations, with a focus on political violence, conflict, radicalization and extremism. She will join the University of Michigan’s Ford School of Public Policy as an Assistant Professor in fall 2017. Her dissertation examines how the Islamic State exploits rising anti-Muslim hostility in the wake of terrorist attacks to recruit foreign fighters in the West. The research draws on an ongoing data collection on the online behavior of over a million users linked to the Islamic State on Twitter. Her other projects study the effect of war on pro-social behavior, the impact of terrorism on the dissemination of right-wing ideology in popular media, and the degree to which counter-radicalization programs reduce support for extremist ideologies on social media. Prior to Columbia, she worked four years as a counterterrorism research officer in the Israeli Directorate of Military Intelligence and one year in the Israeli Ministry of Foreign Affairs. Tamar holds M.Phil. and M.A in Political Science from Columbia University and a B.A., summa cum laude, in Politics with Highest Honors from New York University.

Juan Morales is a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at the University of Toronto. His research areas are Development Economics, Political Economy and Applied Microeconomics. Starting in the fall of 2017, Juan will be joining the Collegio Carlo Alberto as Assistant Professor of Economics.

Rick Morgan is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at Emory University focusing on intrastate conflict, the growth of insurgent movements, counterinsurgency strategies, state power, and the political economy of development.
Sharon Morris served as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Near Eastern, Western Hemisphere and European Affairs in the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations from February 2015 - January 2017. Her portfolio also focused on atrocities prevention, support to peace processes, and measuring the impact of conflict management interventions. Dr. Morris has more than 25 years of experience designing and implementing conflict management and stabilization policies and programs in places such as Afghanistan, Nigeria, Yemen, Libya, Nepal, and Somalia. She has served in leadership positions at the State Department, USAID, the United States Institute of Peace and Mercy Corps, including serving as the Director, Provincial Reconstruction Team, Afghanistan, USAID in 2006. She has a Ph.D. and Master’s from the University of Chicago.

Atika Pasha is currently a postdoctoral researcher with the chair of Development Economics, University of Göttingen, where she also received her doctoral degree in 2016. She is currently working under the Growth and Economic Opportunities for Women (GrOW) project on topics of women’s empowerment (specifically female employment, labor force participation and domestic violence) and the impact on economic growth, as well as child development outcomes. She has recently started work on conflict and its impact on women’s outcomes like health, migration, employment etc. Her Ph.D. was based on topics covering poverty measurement, specifically multidimensional poverty, which she continues to works on.

Richard Peck is a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at Northwestern University. Prior to graduate school, he worked at Innovations for Poverty Action and the Federal Reserve Bank of New York.

Patrick Quirk is Senior Policy Advisor in the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations (CSO) at the U.S. Department of State. As CSO’s Political Violence and Governance Lead, he oversees bureau analysis, planning, and interventions focused on mitigating violence surrounding high priority political transitions, including elections. He has more than a decade of analysis and foreign aid experience in more than 20 countries, including Afghanistan, Colombia, Kenya, Nigeria, and Burma. He is a political scientist whose most recent research focuses on understanding the dynamics of “alliances” between great powers and weak states to combat internal threats. This is the topic of his most recent book: Great Powers, Weak States and Insurgency: Explaining Internal Threat Alliances (2017). Concurrent to work at CSO, Quirk is an Adjunct Professor in Georgetown University’s Department of Government. Immediately prior to joining the Department, he was a Research Fellow at the German Marshall Fund of the United States. Prior to GMF, as a Senior Manager at Creative Associates International, he led risk assessments for the U.S. government and managed democracy assistance programs in East Africa and the Middle East. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science from Johns Hopkins University and a B.A. in History/Political Science from Bates College.

Jacob Shapiro is Professor of Politics and International Affairs at Princeton University and co-directs the Empirical Studies of Conflict Project (ESOC), a multi-university consortium that compiles and analyzes micro-level conflict data and other information on politically motivated violence in nine countries. His active research projects study political violence, economic and political development, and security policy. He is author of The Terrorist’s Dilemma: Managing Violent Covert Organizations and co-author of Foundations of the Islamic State: Management, Money, and Terror in Iraq. His research has been published in a broad range of academic and policy journals, as well as a number of edited volumes. Shapiro
received the 2016 Karl Deutsch Award from ISA. The award is given to a scholar younger than 40 or within 10 years of earning a Ph.D. who has made the most significant contribution to the study of international relations. He is Associate Editor of Journal of Conflict Research, World Politics, and Studies in Conflict and Terrorism, a Faculty Fellow of the Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (AALIMS), a Research Fellow at the Center for Economic Research in Pakistan (CERP), and an Associate Fellow of the Institute of Development and Economic Alternatives (IDEAS). Shapiro is also President of Giant Oak Inc, a software firm that applies social science to big data environments to identify illicit actions, actors, and networks. Prior to graduate school, Shapiro served in the U.S. Navy and Naval Reserve. He holds a Ph.D. in Political Science and a M.A. in Economics from Stanford University and a B.A. in Political Science from the University of Michigan.

**Tolga Sinmazdemir** is an Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Relations at Bogazici University, Istanbul. He was previously a Postdoctoral Research Associate at the Department of Political Science, Washington University in St. Louis. He holds a Ph.D. in Politics from New York University. His main research and teaching interests focus on causes and consequences of political conflict and violence, with a special focus on the Middle East. His recent work focuses on determinants of public opinion towards Syrian refugees in Turkey.

**Hugo Slim**, Ph.D., is Head of Policy at the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) in Geneva. Before joining ICRC in 2015, he was Senior Research Fellow at the Institute of Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC) at the University of Oxford where he led research on humanitarian ethics and the protection of civilians. Hugo has combined a career between academia and practice. He was Chief Scholar at the Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue from 2003-2007 and Reader in International Humanitarianism at Oxford Brookes University from 1994-2003. Between 1983 and 1994, Hugo worked for Save the Children and the United Nations in Morocco, Sudan, Ethiopia, the Occupied Palestinian Territories and Bangladesh. His most recent books are Humanitarian Ethics: A Guide to the Morality of Aid in War and Disaster (2015 Hurst/OUP) and Killing Civilians: Method, Madness and Morality in War (2007 Hurst/OUP).

**Maria Micaela Sviatschi** is a Ph.D. candidate in Economics at Columbia University and will be joining Princeton’s Economics department in the fall. Her research interests are labor and development economics, with a focus on crime, gender and political economy. One strand of her research explores how local labor market conditions during childhood affect investment in industry-specific human capital, generating long-term consequences during adulthood. In particular, she focuses on the development of criminal skills in illegal labor markets in Peru. She studies how exposure to illegal industries during childhood leads to the development of criminal capital, increasing the probability of incarceration and reducing trust in state institutions later in life. She also studies how policies that target parents taking into account location-specific factors can reduce the development of criminal careers and persistence of illegal markets in developing countries.

**Santiago Tobón** is a Ph.D. student in Economics at the Universidad de los Andes in Bogotá. He earned his Master’s in Economics in the Université catholique de Louvain in Belgium, and his Masters in Administration at the Universidad EAFIT, Medellín. From 2013 to 2014, he was Advisor to the President of FINAGRO and from 2008 to 2011, he was first Director of Economic Development and then Director of Cadastre and Territorial Development at the
regional Government of Antioquia, Colombia. His research interests lie in development economics, specifically the fields of economics of crime and conflict, and political economy.

**James Walsh** is Professor of Political Science at the University of North Carolina at Charlotte. He holds a Ph.D. in International Relations from American University. His research interests include political violence and terrorism, human rights violations, and intelligence and national security. His book, *The International Politics of Intelligence Sharing*, was published by Columbia University Press and was named an Outstanding Title by *Choice*. His work has been supported by the Army Corps of Engineers, the Department of Homeland Security, the National Science Foundation, and the Minerva Research Initiative. He is completing a book on drones and public support for the use of force.

**Rebecca Wolfe** is a leading expert on political violence, conflict and violent extremism. Currently, she is the Director of Mercy Corps’ Peace and Conflict team, where she has developed and supported programs in various countries across Africa, the Middle East, Central and South Asia, Southeast Asia and Latin America. Dr. Wolfe is able to draw on her practitioner and academic backgrounds to effectively research important development issues and communicate to multiple audiences. Dr. Wolfe has taught at Princeton University’s Woodrow Wilson School for Public and International Affairs and at the Wagner School for Public Service at New York University. She received her Ph.D. in Social Psychology from Harvard University.

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