

Sherry Zaks, Ph.D.

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Academic Appointments

University of Southern California

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE

Los Angeles, CA

2019–Present

Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

Palo Alto, CA

2018–2019

Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College

POSTDOCTORAL FELLOWSHIP

Hanover, NH

2017–2018

Education

Ph.D. University of California, Berkeley

POLITICAL SCIENCE (COMPARATIVE POLITICS, POLITICAL METHODOLOGY, INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS)

Berkeley, CA

2012–2017

- Dissertation: *Resilience Beyond Rebellion: How Wartime Organizational Structures Affect Rebel-to-Party Transformation*
 - Committee: David Collier (co-chair), Ron Hassner (co-chair), Heather Haveman, Leonardo Arriola
 - 2018 Recipient of the United States Institute of Peace (USIP) *Peace Dissertation Prize*

B.A. Rutgers University

POLITICAL SCIENCE & COGNITIVE PSYCHOLOGY

New Brunswick, NJ

2002–2006

- Summa Cum Laude

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- (2021) “Return to the Scene of the Crime: Revisiting Process Tracing, Bayesianism, and Murder.” *Political Analysis*, 1-5. (First View)
- (2020) “Updating Bayesians: A Critical Evaluation of Qualitative Bayesian Inference.” *Political Analysis*. 29(1): 58-74.
- (2018) “Militant and Rebel Organization(s).” *Journal of Comparative Politics*. 50(2): 271–290. (with Sarah E. Parkinson)
- (2017) “Relationships Among Rivals: A Framework for Analyzing Contending Hypotheses in Process-Tracing Research.” *Political Analysis*. 25(3): 344–362.

Invitations to Revise & Resubmit

- (2021) “Do we know it when we see it? (Re-)Conceptualizing Rebel-to-Party Transformation” (*Journal of Peace Research*)

Editor-Reviewed Publications & Expert Interviews

- (2021) “What Rebels can Teach the C-Suite: Organizational Resilience and Agility during Global Crisis” (Expert interview for *Workflow*).
- (2017) “Evaluating ‘Competing’ Explanations in *Economic Interdependence and War*” *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research*. 15(2): 40-44.
- (2017) “Having Your Cake and Eating it Too? The Conflicting Principles at Issue in the Masterpiece Cakeshop Case” (with Seth Maskett) *Vox*. December 8, 2017. Online: <https://www.vox.com/mischiefs-of-faction>
- (2016) “Process Tracing Progress and Pitfalls: The State of the Art of Qualitative Research Methods.” In *Handbook of Research Methods and Applications in Political Science*, eds. Hans Kerman & Jaap J. Woldendorp. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing.

Works in Progress

- “Political Science after the Insurrection: Teaching About Democratic Backsliding in U.S. Classrooms.” (with M.P. Broache and Carolyn Holmes) (Under Review)
- *Resilience Beyond Rebellion: How Today's Rebels become Tomorrow's Parties* (Book Manuscript in Preparation)
- “Resilience Beyond Rebellion: An Organizational Theory of Rebel-to-Party Transformation” (Finalizing for Submission)
- “Under my Umbrella: How Geographical Variation in FMLN Wartime Structures affected Post-conflict Vote Share” (Data Collection in Progress)
- “Organizational Origins: Tracing the Development and Evolution of Militant Organizational Structures.” (with Consuelo Amat) (Article Manuscript in Preparation)

Grants & Awards

EXTERNAL AWARDS

2018	Best Dissertation in Peace Studies , United States Institute of Peace	\$1,000
2016	Winner , Herbert York Global Security Fellowship, Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation	\$25,000
2016	Winner , Simpson Fellowship, Institute of International Studies	\$3,000

INTERNAL AWARDS

2021	Center for International Studies , Research Assistance Grant	\$30,500
2020	Center for International Studies , Research Assistance Grant	\$15,250

Invited Talks

University of Cambridge

Cambridge, UK

WORKSHOP ON QUANTITATIVE & QUALITATIVE SOCIAL SCIENCE

Spring 2022

- “Measure it? I hardly know it! Cascading Bias in Conceptualization, Measurement, and Data Collection”

Joseph Korbel School of International Studies

Denver, CO

KORBEL RESEARCH SEMINAR

Spring 2022

- “Resilience Beyond Rebellion: How Today's Rebels become Tomorrow's Parties”

Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

APPLIED STATISTICS WORKSHOP

Sept. 2021

- “(Re-)Conceptualizing Rebel-to-Party Transformation: Cascading Bias in Conceptualization, Measurement, and Data Collection”

University of Washington

Virtual Talk

UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON INTERNATIONAL SECURITY COLLOQUIUM

Jan. 2021

- “Resilience Beyond Rebellion: How Today's Rebels become Tomorrow's Parties”

Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas

Virtual Talk

PUBLIC POLICY PROGRAM

Nov. 2020

- “Rethinking Medium-N Analysis: Promises, Progress, and Pitfalls on the Quest for a Middle Ground”

Stanford University

Palo Alto, CA

CISAC RESEARCH COLLOQUIUM

Oct. 2018

- “Resilience Beyond Rebellion: How Wartime Organizational Structures Affect Rebel-to-Party Transformation”

Yale University

New Haven, CT

PROGRAM ON ORDER, CONFLICT, AND VIOLENCE

Oct. 2017

- “Resilience Beyond Rebellion: How Wartime Organizational Structures Affect Rebel-to-Party Transformation”

APSA Annual Meeting: Short Courses

Seattle, WA

SHORT COURSE ON MULTIMETHOD RESEARCH

Sept. 2013

- Analyzing “Competing” Hypotheses in Process Tracing Research

Institute for Qualitative and Multimethod Research

Syracuse, NY

MULTIMETHOD RESEARCH & CAUSAL INFERENCE

June 2012

- (co-taught with Jason Seawright)

Service

Chair of the Methods & Research Tools Field

USC

FIELD CHAIR, ADMISSIONS COMMITTEE, STEERING COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE

Aug. 2020-Present

- Created the first Methods Field Exam for the department
- Spearheaded the creation of a methods reading list
- Graduate admissions committee

Comparative Politics Working Paper Series

USC

CO-ORGANIZER (WITH GERRY MUNCK)

Aug. 2019–June 2020

- Ran workshops, coordinated speakers, mobilized participation

Predoctoral Institute for Diverse Scholars

USC

PANEL MEMBER

2020, 2021

- Panel on writing Ph.D. application documents
- Panel on the “hidden curriculum” & what to expect from graduate school

Service to the Discipline

JOURNAL REFEREE

Ongoing

- **Methods:** *Political Analysis, Sociological Methods & Research, Quality & Quantity*
- **Substantive:** *American Journal of Political Science, Perspectives on Politics, Journal of Conflict Resolution, International Studies Review, Democratization, International Interactions, Political Parties*

GRADUATE MENTORSHIP

CIS Professionalization Series

USC

PANEL MEMBER

2020, 2021

- How to be a [Good] Discussant
- Preparing for the Job Market
- How to give a Job Talk

Qualifying Exam Committees

USC

COMMITTEE MEMBER

2020, 2021

- Gave extensive feedback on written exams and participated in oral examination

Teaching

Teaching Interests: Research Methods (Design, Quantitative, Qualitative), Civil Conflict, Social Movements and Rebellion in Latin America, Social Movements and Political Parties

GRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT

POIR 610 **Research Design**, University of Southern California (Fall 2019, 2020, 2021)

PS 234a **Qualitative and Multimethod Research**, UC Berkeley (Spring 2012) (co-taught with David Collier)

UNDERGRADUATE COURSES TAUGHT

POSC 311 **Political Analysis**, University of Southern California (Fall 2019, 2020)

POSC 469 **Rebellion, Conflict, and Political Violence**, University of Southern California (Spring 2020)

POSC 366 **Terrorism and Genocide**, University of Southern California (Spring 2021, Fall 2021)

PS 2 **Intro to Comparative Politics**, UC Berkeley (Summer 2013)

Skills

Computational R, \LaTeX , Stata, Adobe Creative Suite

Methods Process Tracing, Statistics, Archival Work, Formal Modeling

Languages English (Native), Spanish (Intermediate), Italian (Beginner)

References

David Collier

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

- Department of Political Science
- dcollier@berkeley.edu

Ron Hassner

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

- Department of Political Science
- hassner@berkeley.edu

Heather Haveman

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, BERKELEY

- Department of Sociology and Haas School of Business
- haveman@berkeley.edu

Leonardo Arriola

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- Department of Political Science
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