MICHAEL A. RUBIN

Asst. Professor ◇ Political Science & Human Rights ◇ University of Connecticut
michael.a.rubin@uconn.edu ◇ www.michaelarubin.com ◇ Office: Herbst Hall, 446

BACKGROUND & RESEARCH EXPERTISE

Civil Wars; Conflict Processes; Political Violence; International Security; Human Rights.

Quantitative Data Analysis; Fieldwork in Conflict-Affected Regions; Archival Research.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Connecticut

Asst. Professor, Dept. of Political Science & Human Rights Institute	2024-
Asst. Professor in Residence, Human Rights Institute	2023-2024
Asst. Research Professor, Human Rights Institute	2020-2023

University of California, San Diego

Post-Doctoral Scholar, Center for Peace and Security Studies	2018-2020

EDUCATION

Columbia University, Political Science: PhD (2018), M.Phil (2014), M.A. (2012)

Emory University, Political Science: B.A. (2010). High Honors, Phi Beta Kappa

RESEARCH & WRITING

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Weller, A. D.Y. Arnon, and **M.A. Rubin** (forthcoming, 2026). "The Politics of Punishment in Mandate Palestine: Administrative Capacity, Social Cleavages, and the Repertoires of Colonial Repression," *International Interactions*.
- Lotito, M.A., C.W. Shay, and **M.A. Rubin** (2025). "Into the Fray: Explaining State Support to Nonviolent Resistance Movements," *International Studies Quarterly*, 69 (3).
- **Rubin, M.A.** and I. Malone (2024). "Foreign Sponsorship of Armed Groups and Civil War," *International Studies Quarterly*, 68(2).
- McAlexander, R.J., **M.A. Rubin**, and R. Williams (2024). "They're Still There, He's all Gone: American Fatalities in Foreign Wars and Right-Wing Radicalization at Home," *American Political Science Review* 118(3): 1577-1583.
- Arnon, D.Y., R.J. McAlexander, and **M.A. Rubin** (2023). "Social Cohesion and Community Displacement in Armed Conflict," *International Security*, 47(3): 52–94.
- **Rubin, M.A.** and M.A. Stewart (2022). "Rebel Territorial Control and Governance." In Loyle, C.E., J.M. Braithwaite, K.G. Cunningham, R. Huang, R.J. Huddleston, D.F. Jung, and M.A. Rubin, "Forum: Revolt and Rule: Learning about governance from rebel groups," *International Studies Review*, 24(4).
- Fortna, V.P., N.J. Lotito, and **M.A. Rubin** (2022). "Terrorism in Armed Conflict: New Data Attributing Terrorism to Rebel Organizations," *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 39(2): 214-236.
- **Rubin, M.A.** and R.K. Morgan (2021). "Terrorism and the Varieties of Civil Liberties," *Journal of Global Security Studies*, 6(3).
- **Rubin, M.A.** (2020). "Rebel Territorial Control and Civilian Collective Action in Civil War: Evidence from the Communist Insurgency in the Philippines." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 64 (2-3): 459-489.

· Fortna, V.P., N.J. Lotito, and **M.A. Rubin** (2018). "Don't Bite the Hand that Feeds: Rebel Funding Sources and the use of Terrorism in Civil Wars," *International Studies Quarterly*, 62(4): 782-794.

Working Papers Under Review or In Preparation

· "Measuring territorial control in armed conflict," with A. Halterman, N. McMurry, and B. Radford.
· "State-society Linkages and Service Provision in Rebel-Controlled Areas during Civil War," with J. Kwon and M. Duzdag.
· "Introducing the Subnational Nonstate Actor Governance–Territorial Control Dataset," with A. Halterman, N. McMurry, and B. Radford.

Book Chapters

· **Rubin, M.A.** (2022). "Nonstate actors, civil wars, and other units of analysis." Chapter 19 in *Handbook of Research Methods in International Relations*, edited by R.J. Huddleston, T. Jamieson, and P. James, Edward Elgar Publishing (2022): pgs 329-349.

Public Engagement

· **Rubin, M.A.**, D.Y. Arnon and R.J. McAlexander. "Palestine 1948 and Its Lessons for Displacement Today," *Lawfare*, June 4, 2023.

Book Reviews

· **Rubin, M.A.** (2025). H-Diplo/RJISSF Review Essay 126: Andreas E. Feldmann, *Repertoires of Terrorism: Organizational Identity and Violence in Colombia's Civil War*, Columbia University Press, 2024.
· **Rubin, M.A.** (2019). "*Resisting War: How Communities Protect Themselves*, by Oliver Kaplan." Winter 2018-2019. *Political Science Quarterly*, 133(4).

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Research Grants

· National Science Foundation (NSF), Security and Preparedness Program — 2025 - 2028
  · Project Title: "Subnational Nonstate Actor Governance"; Award # 446384
  · w/ A Halterman, N McMurry, and B Radford.
· Scholarship Facilitation Fund, University of Connecticut — 2024
  · Project Title: "Territorial Control in Civil Wars."
· Institute for the Study of Human Rights, Columbia University — 2019-2020; 2020-2021
  · Project Title: "Govt. Repression and Rebel Terrorism," w/ VP Fortna.
· Center for Israel Education — 2019-2020
  · Project Title: "Communities in Conflict in Mandate Palestine,"
  · w/ DY Arnon and RJ McAlexander.
· National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant — 2015-2016
  Project Title: "Rebel Territorial Control, Governance, and Political Accountability in Civil War"(Doctoral Dissertation)

Awards

· ISA 2025 Ethnicity, Nationalism, & Migration Studies (ENMISA) Section Best Article Award
  · "Social Cohesion and Community Displacement in Armed Conflict."
· APSA 2024 Middle East and North Africa (MENA) Section Best Article Award
  · "Social Cohesion and Community Displacement in Armed Conflict."
· APSA 2020 Conflict Processes Section Best Paper Award

- "Social Cohesion and Community Displacement in Armed Conflict."

AFFILIATIONS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Affiliations

- Human Rights Research Hub, Steering Committee Member (formerly Director).
- Engineering for Human Rights Initiative, Steering Committee Member, Faculty Affiliate.
- Business and Human Rights Initiative, Steering Committee Member, Faculty Affiliate.
- Research Program on Economic and Social Rights, Faculty Affiliate.
- American Political Science Association, Member.
- International Studies Association, Member.
- Peace Science Society, Member.

INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks

- George Washington University, Institute for Security & Conflict Studies, Security Studies Workshop, April 15, 2026.
- University of Pittsburgh, Global Politics Seminar, February 6, 2026.
- Washington Univ. in St. Louis, Dept. of Political Science, September 27, 2024.
- Univ. of Miami Dept. of Political Science, Dec. 3, 2021.
- Univ. of Pennsylvania, Middle East Center (MEC), Oct. 26, 2021.
- Univ. of Southern California (USC), Korean Studies Institute (KSI), Jan. 30, 2020.
- UC-Riverside Dept. of Political Science, May 13, 2019.

Invited Workshops

- Civilian Agency & Civilian Public Opinion in War: Bridging Two Fields of Study, Peace Science Society–International, 59th North American Annual Meeting, November 13, 2025, Orlando, FL.
- Consortium for Human Rights Analysis and Measurement (CRAM) Third Annual Workshop. Center for Nonviolence & Peace Studies, University of Rhode Island, May 14-16, 2025.
- Human Rights Measurement Workshop. Peace Science Society–International, 58th North American Annual Meeting, November 7, 2024, Ann Arbor, MI.
- Consortium for Human Rights Analysis and Measurement (CRAM) Second Annual Workshop. Center for Nonviolence & Peace Studies, University of Rhode Island, June 7-8, 2024.
- Human Rights Measurement – Diversifying Approaches, Unifying Voices. Peace Science Society–International, 57th North American Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO November 9, 2023.
- Consortium for Human Rights Analysis and Measurement (CRAM) Human Rights Measurement Workshop. Center for Nonviolence & Peace Studies, University of Rhode Island, May 5-6, 2023.
- Civilians in Conflict Workshop. Peace Science Society 2019, Nov. 7, 2019.
- Functional Governance/Welfare Non-state Workshop. Univ. of Toronto, Oct. 4-5, 2019
- Ostrom Workshop-Rebel Governance and Legitimacy, Indiana University, May 23, 2019.
- Rebel Governance Network Workshop. Peace Science Society 2018, Univ. of Texas, Nov. 8, 2018.
- The Welfare Non-State. University of California, San Diego, June 7-9, 2018.

DATA COLLECTION

Fieldwork

- South Africa (2024)
  - Archival Research; Key Informant Interviews

- Philippines (2014-2015)
  - Key Informant Interviews with village leaders in Compostela Valley, Davao Oriental, and Agusan del Sur. Elite Interviews in Manila and Davao City.

Datasets

- Subnational Nonstate Actor Governance (SNAG), with A Halterman, N McMurry, and B Radford. In Progress. NSF Award #: 2446384.
- Communities in Conflict in Mandate Palestine, with DY Arnon and RJ McAlexander.
- Terrorism in Armed Conflict (TAC), with VP Fortna and NJ Lotito
  - Assigns attacks recorded in the Global Terrorism Database (GTD) to rebel organizations included in the Uppsala Conflict Data Program (UCDP) family of datasets.

TEACHING

UConn

Political Science:

- Civil Wars & World Politics
- Ending War & Building Peace
- Introduction to Research in Political Science

Human Rights:

- Human Rights and Armed Conflict (HRTS 3460/5460)
- Applied Research in Human Rights (HRTS 3401)
- Human Rights Research Practicum (HRTS 3540 – Topics in Human Rights Practice)

SERVICE

Department and University Service

- Human Rights Research Hub — Steering Committee: 2021 - Director: 2021-2024
- POLS Colloquium Committee Chair — 2024-
- Human Rights Institute Faculty Research Grants, Award Committee — Spring 2026
- Faculty Adviser, Alexander Hamilton Society (Student Organization) — 2025-
- Human Rights Institute Graduate Research Fellowship, Award Committee — Spring 2025
- Human Rights Institute Undergraduate Curriculum Committee — 2022-present
- Business and Human Rights Initiative, Steering Committee — 2020-present
- Engineering for Human Rights, Steering Committee — 2020-present
- Human Rights Institute Dissertation Research Fellowship, Award Committee — Spring 2024
- Human Rights Institute Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Award Committee — Spring 2022
- Human Rights Institute Dissertation Research Fellowship, Award Committee — Spring 2022
- Human Rights Institute Faculty Small Grants Program, Award Committee — Spring 2022
- UConn Human Rights Institute Postdoctoral Fellowship Search Committee — Spring 2021

Graduate Advising

- Dissertation Committee Member: Alexander Grey, Political Science — 2025-
- Dissertation Committee Member: Jae Kwang Kang, Political Science — 2024-

- Dissertation Committee Member: Jessica Cross, Political Science 2024-
- Dissertation Committee Member: Tahmina Akter, Political Science 2024-
- Dissertation Committee Member: San Lee, Political Science 2024-
- Dissertation Committee Member: Cory Runstedler, Political Science 2025- 2027
- Dissertation Committee Member: Spencer Hayes, Political Science 2023- 2026

Undergraduate Advising

- Faculty Mentor, UConn Office of Undergraduate Research
  Social Sciences, Humanities, and Arts Research Experience (SHARE) Program Summer 2026
  Summer 2025
  Summer 2024
  Summer 2023
- POLS Undergraduate Honors Thesis Advisor AY 2026-2027 (x2)
  AY 2022-2023

Graduate & Postgraduate Supervision

- Graduate Assistant Supervisor,
  Subnational Nonstate Actor Governance Project (NSF award) AY 2024-2025, 2026-2027
- Graduate Assistant Supervisor, Human Rights Research and Data Hub AY 2021-2022
- Postdoctoral Fellow Supervisor, Human Rights Research and Data Hub 2021-2023

Referee

- *American Journal of Political Science*; *American Political Science Review*; *Civil Wars*; *Comparative Political Studies*; *Conflict Management and Peace Science*; *International Interactions*; *International Politics*; *International Security*; *International Studies Quarterly*; *International Studies Review*; *Journal of Conflict Resolution*; *Journal of Human Rights*; *Journal of Global Security Studies*; *Journal of Peace Research*; *Journal of Politics*; *Security Studies*; *World Politics*.

SKILLS

- Programs: R, Excel
- Statistics & Data Analysis: Linear Modeling, Non-Linear Modeling & Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Time Series & Panel Data Analysis, GIS & Spatial Data Analysis, Bayesian Data Analysis
- Qualitative Research: Fieldwork in Conflict Settings, Archival Research

REFERENCES

- **Prof. V. Page Fortna**. Dept. of Political Science, Columbia University.
  email: vpf4@columbia.edu; phone: +1 212-854-0021
- **Prof. Jack L. Snyder**. Dept. of Political Science, Columbia University.
  email: jls6@columbia.edu; phone: +1 212-854-8290
- **Prof. Erik Gartzke**. Dept. of Political Science, University of California San Diego.
  email: egartzke@ucsd.edu; phone: +1 858-534-8211
- **Prof. Kathryn Libal**. Human Rights Institute, University of Connecticut.
  email: kathryn.libal@uconn.edu; phone: +1 860-486-6061