

# **ORA B. SZEKELY, PHD**

**ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR OF POLITICAL SCIENCE  
CLARK UNIVERSITY**

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## **EMPLOYMENT**

2017-present Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Clark University  
2011- 2017 Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Clark University

## **EDUCATION**

2011 McGill University, PhD, Political Science  
2004 University of Chicago, MA, Social Sciences  
1999 Cornell University, BA, *Cum Laude*, History and Religious Studies.

## **RESEARCH INTERESTS**

Comparative politics of the Middle East; foreign and domestic policy making by non-state military actors; female combatants in civil wars; ideology, propaganda, and political mobilization.

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### ***Books***

*Insurgent Women: Female Combatants in Civil Wars.* With Jessica Trisko Darden and Alexis Henshaw. (Georgetown University Press, 2019.)

*The Politics of Militant Group Survival in the Middle East: Resources, Relationships, and Resistance.* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.)

### ***Articles***

“Fighting About Women: Gendered Propaganda in the Arab World's Struggle against ISIS.” *Journal of Global Security Studies* (accepted)

“A Friend in Need: The Impact of the Syrian Civil War on Syria’s Clients,” *Foreign Policy Analysis*, Volume 12, Issue 3 (July 2016), pp. 450-468.

“Gender Ideology and Forms of Contentious Mobilization in the Middle East” (with Victor Asal, Richard Legault and Jonathan Wilkenfeld), *Journal of Peace Research*, Vol. 50, No. 4 (July 2013), pp. 305-318.

“Doing Well by Doing Good: Charity as Political Advertising in the Palestinian Territories,” *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, Vol. 38, No. 4 (2015), pp. 275-292.

“Proto-State Realignment and the Arab Spring,” *Middle East Policy*, Vol. XXIII, No. 1 (Spring 2016), pp. 75-91.

“Hezbollah’s Survival: Resources and Relationships,” *Middle East Policy*, Vol. XIX, No. 4 (Winter 2012), pp. 110-126.

### **Book chapters**

“Comparative analysis” in *Key Concepts in Research Methods*, J.-F. Morin, C. Olsson and E.O. Atikcan eds. Forthcoming.

“Lessons from Lebanon: The Costs of Avoiding Transitional Justice,” in *Transitional Justice and the Arab Spring*. Robert Stewart and Kirsten Fisher, eds., (Routledge, 2013), pp. 94-111.

### **Book reviews**

Sara Roy, *Hamas and Civil Society in Gaza*, in *Perspectives on Politics*. Vol. 11, No. 4 (2013), pp. 983-985.

Naim Stifan Ateek, *A Palestinian Christian Cry for Reconciliation*, in *Journal for Peace and Justice Studies*, Vol. 20, No. 1 (2010), pp. 100-103.

Cheryl Rubenberg, *The Palestinians: In Search of a Just Peace*, in *International Journal of Middle East Studies*, Vol. 38 (2006), p. 499.

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

*Syria Divided* (working title) Book manuscript.

“Monopolies vs. Markets: Bureaucratic Politics and the Dismantling of the Iraqi Military.” (With Steve Saideman and Philip Jones.)

“Doing Good While Killing: Why Some Insurgent Groups Provide Social Services.” Co-authored with Victor Asal and Shawn Flanigan. (Under review.)

“Exceptional Inclusion: Understanding the PKK’s Gender Policy.”

## **SELECTED WORKSHOP AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

“Monopolies vs. Markets: Bureaucratic Politics and the Dismantling of the Iraqi Military.” (With Steve Saideman and Philip Jones.) International Studies Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 4-7, 2018.

“Doing Good While Killing: Why Some Insurgent Groups Provide Social Services.” (With Victor Asal and Shawn Flanigan.) American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, September 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2017

“When Nature Causes Violence: Political Mechanisms That Link Climatic Extremes with Nonstate Violence” (With Casey Stevens) International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD February 22<sup>nd</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

“Fighting Over Women: Gendered Propaganda in the Arab World’s Struggle Against ISIS.” ISA Annual Meeting, Atlanta GA, March 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

“Exceptional Inclusion: Understanding the PKK’s Gender Policy.” ISA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, February 18<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

“Why support violent nonstate actors (VNSAs)? Exploring the reasons why states support some violent nonstate actors but not others.” (With Victor Asal). ISA Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, March 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

“The Politics of the Memorial in South Lebanon.” ISA Annual Meeting, Toronto, Ontario, March 26<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

“States without a State: Protostate Actor Realignment and the Arab Spring.” Workshop on the Origins and Effects of the (Post-) Arab Spring on The Middle East and North Africa. Istanbul Sehir University, Istanbul, Turkey. January 4<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

“Civil-military Relations and the Timing of Israeli Military Campaigns: From Lebanon to Gaza (and back again?).” Peace Science Society-International Studies Association Joint Meeting, Corvinus University, Budapest, Hungary. June 27<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> 2013.

“From Moscow To Jerusalem: Comparing the choice of protest as a strategy by ethnopolitical organizations in Eastern Europe and the Middle East.” (With Victor Asal, Richard Legault and Jonathan Wilkenfeld.) ISA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, April 3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>, 2013.

“Social Services as Advertising for Nonstate Military Actors: The Case of Hamas.” ISA Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA, April 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>, 2012.

“The Impact of Syrian Sponsorship on its Nonstate Clients: A principal-agent approach.” ISA Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, March 16<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2011.

“Resources, Relationships and Militia Survival in the Modern Middle East”. ISA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA, February 17<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>, 2010.

“Send Lawyers, Guns and Money: Resources, Relationships and Relative Militia Effectiveness.” Workshop on Understanding Order, Cooperation and Variance among Non-State Armed Groups.” Queens University. September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2009. Kingston, Ontario.

“Critical Minorities: The impact of non-dominant ethnic groups on foreign policy.” ISA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, February, 2008.

“Blogging, Civil Society and Political Mobilization in the Arab Middle East.” Middle East Studies Association (MESA) Annual Meeting, Montreal, QC, November 17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>, 2007.

“Tilting at Windmills: Counterinsurgency in Historical Perspective.” (With Virginia DiGaetano) ISSS/ISAC Annual Meeting, October 18<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup>, 2007, Montreal, QC.

## **BLOG POSTS, PODCASTS, AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS:**

*New Books Network, National Security Channel.* Podcast. Interview by Beth Windisch. (Forthcoming.)

“Female Guerilla Warfare” *Popular Front* Podcast. Interview by Jake Hanrahan. September 18, 2018. <https://www.jakehanrahan.com/popularfront>

“The Politics of Militant Group Survival: A Conversation with Ora Szekely”. Podcast, Project on Middle East Political Science (POMEPS.) Interview by Marc Lynch. <http://pomeps.org/2017/04/03/the-politics-of-militant-group-survival-a-conversation-with-ora-szekely/>

“The Cracks in the Islamic State's Business Plan are Starting to Show.” *Reuters.* 2/20/2015 <http://blogs.reuters.com/great-debate/2015/02/20/the-cracks-in-islamic-states-business-plan-are-starting-to-show/>

“Warfare isn't just a man's game anymore.” (With Jessica Trisko Darden) *The Monkey Cage.* 2/9/2015 <http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2015/02/09/warfare-isnt-just-a-mans-game-anymore/>

“Choosing From the Contentious Politics Buffet.” (With Victor Asal)  
*Lawfare*. 11/23/14. <http://www.lawfareblog.com/2014/11/the-foreign-policy-essay-choosing-from-the-contentious-politics-buffet/>

“What's next for the Asad Regime's nonstate clients.” *The Monkey Cage*. 9/10/2014  
<http://www.washingtonpost.com/blogs/monkey-cage/wp/2014/09/10/whats-next-for-the-syrian-regimes-non-state-allies/>

“Thinking seriously about Syria.” *Political Violence at a Glance*. 9/3/2013  
<http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2013/09/03/seriously-thinking-about-syria/>

## **SELECTED INVITED TALKS, TRAININGS, AND PRESENTATIONS**

“The Politics of Militant Group Survival in the Middle East.” Book talk,  
George Washington University, October 30<sup>th</sup> 2017.

“Five Things You Should Know About Syria”. Keynote address,  
undergraduate honors program, Roger Williams University, April 18<sup>th</sup>, 2017

“Turkish Security Challenges in the Aftermath of the 2016 Coup”. (Panel  
discussion). Providence College, September 21<sup>st</sup>, 2016.

“What’s Next for the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict?” University of  
Connecticut, March 26<sup>th</sup>, 2016.

Discussant for screening of *Red Lines* (a documentary on the Syrian civil  
war), Brattle Theater, Cambridge MA. March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2015.

“What you should know about Syria”, The University Club, Providence.  
November 18<sup>th</sup>, 2014.

“The Arab-Israeli Conflict”. Worcester State University, April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2014.

“The Arab Spring”. Workshop on Teaching Nonviolence, Worcester MA,  
October 2013.

“The Arab Spring”. Global Education Workshop (for Massachusetts high  
school teachers, Worcester MA. February 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012.)

## **MEDIA (SELECTED)**

### **Print:**

*US News and World Report*. "After Paris and Planned Parenthood, a Fear of the Unknown." *December 2nd, 2015*.

*Telegram and Gazette* "Clark Professor Tries to Untangle Threads in Syria's Civil War" 11/8/2015

*New York Times*, "Tradition Saves Camels' Spot in Desert Forces" 11/29/2014

*New York Times*, "ISIS tactics questioned as hostages dwindle" 2/1/2015

*Arizona Republic* "ISIS takes hostages to get cash, instill fear" 2/11/2015

### **Video:**

*HuffPost Live* Interview on aftermath of execution of Jordanian pilot. 2/4/2015

*HuffPost Live* Interview on new most wanted list for ISIS members. 5/7/2015

*HuffPost Live* Panel discussion on ISIS' prospects for the future. 7/5/2015

*HuffPost Live* Panel on potential sale of radiological material to terror groups. 10/8/15

*HuffPost Live* Panel on use of term "Islamic Terrorism." 11/30/15

### **Radio:**

CBS radio, KNX (Los Angeles). Interview on execution of Jordanian pilot by ISIS 2/3/2015

NPR/BBC, *The World*. Interview on Palestinian, Syrian, and Iraqi refugees in Jordan. Interviewed on 12/28/16.

WPKZ (Fitchburg). Interview on first 60 days of the Trump administration, March 20<sup>th</sup>, 2017.

## **COURSES TAUGHT**

Clark University:                    Introduction to Comparative Politics  
   The Politics of the Middle East  
   The Arab-Israeli Conflict  
   Capstone seminar: Civil War  
   Capstone seminar: Refugees, Migrants and the Politics of  
   Displacement  
   The Politics of Ethnicity and Identity  
   Art and Empathy: Humanizing the Israeli-Palestinian  
   Conflict

McGill University:                    Introduction to International Relations  
   Peacebuilding

## **FIELD RESEARCH**

2018-2019    Field research in Jordan (Amman, Zarqa)

2018            Field research in Germany (Syrian community in Berlin)

- 2016 Field research in Turkey (Istanbul) and Germany (Hamburg).
- 2014 Preliminary site evaluation, Diyarbakir, Turkey.
- 2012 Field research in Lebanon, the West Bank and Egypt.
- 2009 Field research in Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, Israel and the West Bank.
- 2006 IDRC internship, United Nations Relief and Works Agency, Beirut, Lebanon.

## **FELLOWSHIPS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND AWARDS**

- 2018 Hodgkins Junior Faculty Fellowship, Clark University
- 2015 Faculty Development Research Grant, Clark University
- 2013 Project on Middle East Political Science, Junior Scholars Book Development Workshop, November 2013, Yale University
- 2011 START Conference, “Catastrophe and Catalyst: 10 Years Since 9/11.” Poster competition, runner up
- 2010-2011 START Terrorism Research Award, University of Maryland
- 2009-2010 TA of the Year, McGill Political Science Student Association
- 2008-2010 Nathan Steinberg Fellowship in Political Science, McGill University
- 2007-2008 Max E. Binz Fellowship, McGill University
- 2005-2006 McGill University Graduate Recruitment Fellowship

## **CLARK UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

- Spring 2018 Co-chair, Peace Studies Program
- Spring 2018 Co-chair, Institutional Review Board, Clark University
- 2016-present Member, President’s Diversity Advisory Council
- 2016-present Member, capstone exemplar group
- 2013-present Core faculty, Peace Studies Program
- 2013-present CGRAS Steering committee
- 2012-present Institutional Review Board, Clark University
- 2011-2012 Steering Committee, Race and Ethnic Studies Program, Clark University

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

Reviewer for *British Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Politics*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *International Security*, *International Studies Review*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Politics*, and *Security Studies*.

## **LANGUAGE SKILLS**

- Arabic*: Colloquial fluency
- German*: Intermediate comprehension
- French*: Basic comprehension

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

- 2005            Lead instructional designer, ESL curriculum. Rubicon  
(multimedia software company), Amman, Jordan.
- 2004–2005    Program Coordinator for Jordan and Palestine programs, Relief  
International-Schools Online, Middle East Headquarters, Amman,  
Jordan.
- 1999-2001    Peace Corps Volunteer, Secondary Education. ‘Allan Secondary School  
for Girls, Balqa Governorate, Jordan.