

SEAN PAUL ASHLEY

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APPOINTMENTS

University of Maryland , College Park, MD President's Postdoctoral Fellow Department of Government and Politics	2024 - present
Dartmouth College , Hanover, NH Niehaus Fellow in U.S. Foreign Policy and International Security The John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding	2023 - 2024
University of Notre Dame , Notre Dame, IL Hans J. Morgenthau Fellow (Non-Residential) Notre Dame International Security Center	2023 - 2024

BOOK PROJECT

National Reconstruction and Political Order after Rebel Victory

EDUCATION

Harvard University , Cambridge, MA Department of Government Ph.D. Political Science Committee: Steven Levitsky (chair), Max Abrahms (Northwestern), Payam Mohseni Dissertation: <i>Rebel Victory, State Power, and the Durability of Rebel Regimes</i>	2023
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Princeton University , Princeton, NJ BA Politics (International Relations), Certificate in African American Studies <i>Cum Laude</i>	2013
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ACADEMIC WRITING

Journal Articles

"The Dark Side of Defection: Security Force Defectors and the Aftermath of Nonviolent Revolution." *Journal of Peace Research* Forthcoming. 2026

"Comrades in Arms? Rebel Leadership Roles and Coups in Rebel Regimes." *International Studies Quarterly* 68, no. 2: sqae059. 2024

"From snapshots to panoramas: navigating power, space, and time in the study of armed groups" (with Kai Thaler and Antonia Juelich) *Conflict, Security & Development* 24, no. 6: 725-755. 2024

Working Papers

"Rebel Governance and the Durability of Rebel Regimes"

- Winner of the 2024 Patricia Weitsman Award for Outstanding International Security Studies Section Paper, International Studies Association
- Winner of the 2023 Ralph Bunche Best Graduate Student Paper Award, African Politics Conference Group Section, American Political Science Association
- Shortlisted for the 2023 Conflict Research Society Cedric Smith Prize for the "best piece of peace and conflict research (broadly defined) by a PhD. candidate".

Works In Progress

"The Long Arm of the Lawless."

"Revolutions in Uniform: The Military Origins of Revolutionary Regimes."

"Golden Parachutes or Golden Springboards? Exiled Leaders and Political Destabilization."

"Reconsidering Revolution and War"

DATA SETS

Victorious Insurgent Governance Organization Underwriting Regimes (VIGOUR)

This dataset captures the extent of wartime governance practiced by all rebel victors in civil wars, 1945-2014. Drawing on rebel biographies, conflict and armed group histories, archival sources, interview data and declassified intelligence, it captures data on victorious rebels' wartime social service provision, disciplinary regimens, and mass civic organization. This data set is in progress and is not yet publicly available.

Leaders in Exile & Acts of Destabilization (LEAD)

This project assembles cross-national leader-year data on all exiled leaders and destabilization episodes globally from 1945-2010. It captures a range of actions taken by exiled leaders attempting to destabilize their home countries and retake power, including organizing coup plots, mobilizing insurgency and rallying international support for restoration. This data set is in progress and is not yet publicly available.

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

Fellowships

Civil War Paths Fellowship, Centre for the Comparative Study of Civil War.	2024-2025
Rosenwald Postdoctoral Fellowship, Dartmouth College.	2023-2024
Hans J. Morgenthau Fellowship, University of Notre Dame.	2023-2024
Harvard University Dissertation Completion Fellowship.	2022
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Graduate Student Affiliate.	2019-2020

Grants

University of Maryland CIDCM Research Support Funds	2025
University of Maryland GVPT Current-Use Faculty Support Funds	2025
University of Maryland Postdoctoral Conference Support Award	2025
International Studies Association Travel Grant	2023
Laura Bassi Scholarship	2022
GSAS Division of Social Sciences Fund Research Grant	2022
Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa Travel Grant	2022

Graduate Student Council Spring Conference Grant	2021
GSAS Emergency Support Research Fund	2021
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs Mid-Dissertation Grant	2019-2020
Harvard Program on Negotiation (PON) Next Generation Grant	2019
Harvard Program on Negotiation (PON) Next Generation Grant	2018

PRESENTATIONS

Annual Meetings

- 2026 International Studies Association (*scheduled*)
- 2025 American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, ISSS-IS, Network of European Peace Scientists, Southern Political Science Association
- 2024 American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, ISSS-IS
- 2023 American Political Science Association, International Studies Association
- 2022 American Political Science Association, African Studies Association, Association for the Study of the Middle East and Africa, Midwestern Political Science Association, Peace Science (*canceled*)
- 2021 American Political Science Association
- 2020 American Political Science Association
- 2019 International Studies Association, Midwestern Political Science Association

Invited Talks, Workshops, and Symposia

- 2025 University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign Politics Workshop
- 2024 Hertie School International Security Research Colloquium
- 2023 Violence, Instability, and Peace (VIP) Workshop, APSA Democracy & Autocracy Section Graduate Student Workshop, Notre Dame International Security Center Seminar on Grand Strategy, University College London Conflict & Change Workshop
- 2022 American Political Science Association Political Violence Dissertation Workshop, Cato Institute Junior Scholars Symposium, Judith Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies Graduate Student Workshop on Peace and Conflict, Junior Scholars in International Security Workshop, Peace Science Society Rising Scholars Workshop (*canceled*)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Teaching Fellow

- 2020 Conflict Resolution in a Divided World, Harvard University
Instructor: Daniel Shapiro, Harvard International Negotiation Program.
Fall Semester
Awarded Certificate of Distinction and Excellence in Teaching
- 2019 Race, Film, and American Politics, Harvard University
Instructor: Gloria Ayee, Department of Government.
Spring Semester
Awarded Certificate of Distinction and Excellence in Teaching
- 2017 American Foreign Policy, MIT
Instructor: Stephen Van Evera, Political Science Department.
Fall Semester

2017 Origins of Modern War, Harvard University
Instructor: Stephen Walt, Harvard Kennedy School.
Spring Semester

2015 Foundations of Comparative Politics, Harvard University
Instructor: Steven Levitsky, Department of Government.
Fall Semester
Awarded Certificate of Distinction and Excellence in Teaching

SERVICE

Committee

African Politics Conference Group Award Committee (2025)

Reviewer

Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, International Interactions

Member

American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, National Capital Area Political Science Association, Southern Political Science Association

SKILLS

Fieldwork Uganda (2019), Ethiopia (2018)

Languages Jamaican Patois (fluent)

Software R, L^AT_EX, STATA

REFERENCES

Steven R. Levitsky

David Rockefeller Professor of Latin American Studies and Professor of Government
Harvard University
levitsky@gov.harvard.edu

Max Abrahms

Associate Professor of Political Science
Northeastern University
m.abrahms@northeastern.edu

Payam Mohseni

Lecturer and Director of the Project on Shi'ism and Global Affairs
Harvard University
pmohseni@hds.harvard.edu