

# Sean Christopher Rao

University of Maryland, Department of Government and Politics  
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## **Education:**

### University of Maryland, College Park, August 2015-current

- Doctoral candidate, Government and Politics, expected graduation May 2022
- Coursework completed, cumulative GPA 4.0, including coursework in intrastate and interstate conflict and cooperation, comparative institutions, political economy, public opinion, field methods, and quantitative methods
- Comprehensive exams passed in international relations (January 2017) and comparative politics (January 2018)
- Advanced to candidacy August 2020

### University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, September 2013-May 2015

- M.A., Political Science
- GPA 4.0, including coursework in ethnic conflict, interstate conflict, authoritarian institutions, political economy, and quantitative methods

### University of Wisconsin-Madison, September 2007-May 2011

- Honors B.A. in international studies, emphasis in global security
- GPA: 3.866, Honors College of Letters and Science: Dean's List, 5 semesters
- Phi Beta Kappa member, inducted April 2010

## **Research Interests:**

Religious rhetoric and mobilization, political Islam, violent and nonviolent contentious politics, identity and conflict, non-state conflict actors, Middle Eastern politics, public opinion on foreign policy

## **Works in Progress:**

- “Ideology and Recruitment in Political Movements”, Dissertation
  - Researching and coding an original cross-national dataset on ideology in political organizations demanding autonomy or independence
  - Fielded survey experiment in campus lab on religious political rhetoric, April 2021
  - Corresponding field experiment in development for Fall 2021
  - Carried out elite interviews in Israel in Summer 2021, having done networking interviews in 2017
- “Exclusive and Inclusive Religious and National Values: The Case of American Views on Israel”
  - Designed original survey questions on American identity and views of Israel
  - Presented at the UMD Government and Politics Departmental Workshop in International Relations, October 5, 2020
  - Presented at the Midwest Political Science Conference April 2021
- Rebel Group Origins and Civilian Victimization, co-authored with Jessica Maves Braithwaite, Kathleen Gallagher Cunningham, and Margaret McWeeney, cross-national quantitative analysis of data on rebel origins and civilian abuse

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**Fellowships  
and Awards:**

Fulbright One-Semester Ph.D. Research Award, Summer 2021, Israel  
Humane Studies Fellowship, Institute for Humane Studies, Spring 2022  
UMD Flagship Fellow, 2015  
UWM Chancellor's Graduate Student Award, 2013

**Teaching  
Experience:**

Instructor, Government and Politics, University of Maryland, August 2020-January 2021  
-Independently taught introduction to international relations for 38 freshmen students  
-Applied online tools to provide learning outcomes in the online pandemic environment, balancing recorded lectures with synchronous class discussions and small group activities, a multi-stage written project, and a virtual role-playing simulation

Teaching Assistant, Government and Politics, University of Maryland, August 2018-June 2020, January-April 2021

-Led discussion sections in both international relations and political theory and ethics  
-Advised students on research questions, formulating arguments, and organizing evidence in written papers  
-Advised undergraduate students in semester practicum research projects for the College Park Scholars International Studies program (Spring 2019)

Program Assistant, Wisconsin Universities United Nations Summer Seminar, January 2014-July 2015

-Scheduled briefings for undergraduates at the missions of around 40 UN member states in New York  
-Advised undergraduates on finding research topics

Teaching Assistant, UW-Milwaukee Department of Political Science, August 2013-May 2015

-Monitored online course discussion boards  
-Assisted with courses on international relations, American politics, and political theory

**Other  
Academic  
Employment:**

Research Assistant to Professor Shibley Telhami, August 2017-June 2018

-Analyzed, interpreted, and presented results of biennial, US public opinion polls  
-Designed poll questions to identify the sources of US public opinion on foreign policy  
-Conducted background research on the ties between the Trump campaign and Evangelical Christians

Research Assistant to Professor Kathleen Cunningham, August 2015-August 2017

-Retrieved facts on rebel group formation in Africa, Latin America, and the Middle East for faculty, from media and academic databases, including Lexis Nexis and Factiva  
-Interpreted regression models and transform time series datasets using R software

Research Assistant to Professor Ora John Reuter, August 2014-May 2015

-Coded dataset on elections in non-democracies since 1972  
-Coded dataset classifying regime transitions in non-democracies since 1972

**Professional  
Associations:**

-Midwest Political Science Association, member since 2014  
-American Political Science Association, member since 2015  
-Philadelphia Society, member since 2020

**Data Skills:**

-Multinomial MLE, multilevel modeling, survey weighting, R software

**Languages:** - Advanced high Arabic speaking and reading (Modern Standard and Levantine);  
intermediate writing  
-Advanced French reading and intermediate speaking and writing

**Other Work Experience:** The Chertoff Group, Intern, January 2013-May 2013  
-Monitored congressional hearings for topics relevant to staff research priorities

The Heritage Foundation, President's Office Intern, September 2012-January 2013  
-Analyzed literature on transnational ideology to brief the chief of staff for an academic roundtable  
-Researched work of co-panelists to prepare the chief of staff for debate at the American Bar Association conference  
-Assisted the foundation president in reviewing a book on European society  
-Located statistics on capital punishment to prepare the chief of staff for radio interviews

Rep. Jim Sensenbrenner Office, Intern, July 2011-August 2011  
-Found sources for staff research on tax and internet competition policy  
-Formatted data for presentation in constituent newsletters

Sen. Ron Johnson Office, Intern, May 2011-July 2011  
-Composed memoranda for legislative assistants on the Palestinian bid for UN observer status  
-Compiled unemployment data to assist the research projects of legislative assistants  
-Led training for peers in Intranet Quorum (IQ) software for managing constituent correspondence