

IR Seminar: War and International Intervention

POL-GA 3700.001

Spring 2015

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Overview

This course will familiarize students with key debates about coercive and non-coercive international interventions in armed conflicts and conflict-prone environments. While we cover some classic works, the course focuses on recent studies. We will discuss why states and/or rebel groups fight in the first place, with an emphasis on the sources of bargaining failure in disputes; methodological challenges in learning about conflict and intervention; and a series of different types of interventions, the conditions in which they are likely, their intended and unintended effects, and the benchmarks we should use to evaluate them. We conclude the semester with student presentations.

Requirements

The course meets once a week (Thursdays, 4:00-5:50pm) in Room 212, 19 West 4th Street. All readings for the course are available online or on NYU Classes. We will spend the majority of the seminar talking about the assigned readings and the ideas that connect them, so it is essential that you come prepared to make thoughtful contributions to our discussion. Some of the readings make heavy use of game theory and/or statistics, and knowledge of the relevant methods is helpful, but not required for the course.

Grades will be based on class participation (40%), a research paper or detailed project proposal (40%), and a presentation of your research project (20%). Research papers or proposals will be 20-30 pages long and will be related to key theoretical or empirical questions discussed in the course. A one-paragraph description of the paper or project proposal is due on Sunday, **March 8**. A two-page summary of the main argument and structure is due on Friday, **April 10**. The paper is due on Friday, **May 15**.

Schedule

January 29
Introduction and course logistics

February 5
Bargaining theory and war

- James D. Fearon (1995), "Rationalist Explanations for War," *International Organization* 49(3): 379-414, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2706903.pdf>>.

- Erik Gartzke (1999), “War is in the Error Term,” *International Organization* 53(3): 567-587, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2601290.pdf>>.
- Robert Powell (2004), “The Inefficient Use of Power: Costly Conflict with Complete Information,” *American Political Science Review* 98(2): 231-241, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/4145309.pdf>>.
- Mark Fey and Kristopher W. Ramsay (2007), “Mutual Optimism and War,” *American Journal of Political Science* 51(4): 738-754, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/4620097.pdf>>.
- Alexandre Debs and Nuno P. Monteiro (2014), “Known Unknowns: Power Shifts, Uncertainty, and War,” *International Organization* 68(1): 1-31, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0020818313000192>>.

February 12

Research design issues

- Alan S. Gerber, Donald P. Green, and Edward H. Kaplan (2004), “The Illusion of Learning from Observational Research,” in Ian Shapiro, Rogers M. Smith, and Tarek E. Masoud (eds.), *Problems and Methods in the Study of Politics* (New York, NY: Cambridge University Press), ch. 12, 251-273, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/CBO9780511492174.012>>.
- Angus Deaton (2010), “Instruments, Randomization, and Learning about Development,” *Journal of Economic Literature* 48(2): 424-455, <<http://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/jel.48.2.424>>.
- Jasjeet S. Sekhon and Rocio Titunik (2012), “When Natural Experiments Are Neither Natural nor Experiments,” *American Political Science Review* 106(1): 35-57, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003055411000542>>.
- Alan Gerber and Neil Malhotra (2008), “Do Statistical Reporting Standards Affect What Is Published? Publication Bias in Two Leading Political Science Journals,” *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 3(3): 313-326, <<http://nowpublishers.com/articles/quarterly-journal-of-political-science/QJPS-8024>>.
- Macartan Humphreys, Raul Sanchez de la Sierra, and Peter van der Windt (2013), “Fishing, Commitment, and Communication: A Proposal for Comprehensive Nonbinding Research Registration,” *Political Analysis* 21(1): 1-20, <<http://pan.oxfordjournals.org/content/21/1/1.full.pdf>>.

February 19

Datasets in conflict research

February 26

New empirical work on conflict

- Michael C. Horowitz and Allan C. Stam (2014), “How Prior Military Experience Influences the Future Militarized Behavior of Leaders,” *International Organization* 68(3): 527-559, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0020818314000046>>.
- Jason Lyall, Graeme Blair, and Kosuke Imai (2013), “Explaining Support for Combatants during Wartime: A Survey Experiment in Afghanistan,” *American Political Science Review* 107(4): 679-705, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003055413000403>>.
- Thomas Hegghammer (2013), “Should I Stay or Should I Go? Explaining Variation in Western Jihadists' Choice between Domestic and Foreign Fighting”, *American Political Science Review* 107(1): 1-15, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003055412000615>>.
- Christopher Blattman, Alexandra C. Hartman, and Robert A. Blair (2014), “How to Promote Order and Property Rights under Weak Rule of Law? An Experiment in Changing Dispute

Resolution Behavior through Community Education,” *American Political Science Review* 108(01): 100-120, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003055413000543>>.

March 5 Mediation

- Andrew H. Kydd (2006), “When Can Mediators Build Trust?” *American Political Science Review* 100(3): 449-462, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/27644366.pdf>>.
- Mark Fey and Kristopher W. Ramsay (2010), “When Is Shuttle Diplomacy Worth the Commute? Information Sharing through Mediation,” *World Politics* 62(4), <https://www.princeton.edu/politics/about/file-repository/public/RAMSAY-1-WP_med.pdf>.
- Jacob Bercovitch and Scott S. Gartner (2006), “Is There Method in the Madness of Mediation? Some Lessons for Mediators from Quantitative Studies of Mediation,” *International Interactions* 32(4): 329-354, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/03050620601011024>>.
- Jonathan Wilkenfeld, Kathleen Young, Victor Asal, and David Quinn (2003), “Mediating International Crises Cross-National and Experimental Perspectives,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 47(3): 279-301, <<http://jcr.sagepub.com/content/47/3/279.full.pdf>>.
- Eric S. Dickson (2009), “Do Participants and Observers Assess Intentions Differently During Bargaining and Conflict?” *American Journal of Political Science* 53(4): 910-930, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/20647958.pdf>>.

March 8

Due date: One-paragraph description of seminar papers/project proposals

Week of March 9

Individual meetings to discuss paper topics

March 19

No class, spring break

March 26

Military intervention

- Andrew H. Kydd and Scott Straus (2013), “The Road to Hell? Third-Party Intervention to Prevent Atrocities,” *American Journal of Political Science* 57(3): 673-684, <<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajps.12009/pdf>>.
- Stephen E. Gent (2008), “Going in When it Counts: Military Intervention and the Outcome of Civil Conflicts,” *International Studies Quarterly* 52(4): 713-735, <<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1468-2478.2008.00523.x/pdf>>.
- Simon Collard-Wexler, Costantino Pischedda, and Michael G. Smith (2014), “Do Foreign Occupations Cause Suicide Attacks?,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58(4): 625-657, <http://jcr.sagepub.com/content/58/4/625.full.pdf>.
- Kevin A. Clarke (2009), “Return of the Phantom Menace: Omitted Variable Bias in Political Research,” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 26(1): 46-66, <<http://cmp.sagepub.com/content/26/1/46.full.pdf>>.
- Colin Vance and Nolan Ritter (2012), “The Phantom Menace of Omitted Variables: A Comment,” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 29(2): 233-238, <<http://cmp.sagepub.com/content/29/2/233.full.pdf>>.
- Kevin A. Clarke (2012), “More Phantom Than Menace,” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 29(2): 239-241, <<http://cmp.sagepub.com/content/29/2/239.full.pdf>>.

April 2

Peacekeeping

- Michael W. Doyle and Nicholas Sambanis (2007), "The UN Record on Peacekeeping Operations," *International Journal* 62(3): 495-518. Available on NYU Classes.
- Page Fortna (2004), "Does Peacekeeping Keep Peace? International Intervention and the Duration of Peace After Civil War," *International Studies Quarterly* 48(2): 269-292, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/3693574.pdf>>.
- Michael J. Gilligan and Ernest J. Sergenti (2008), "Do UN Interventions Cause Peace? Using Matching to Improve Causal Inference," *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 3(2): 89-122. Available on NYU Classes.
- Lisa Hultman, Jacob Kathman, and Megan Shannon (2013), "United Nations Peacekeeping and Civilian Protection in Civil War," *American Journal of Political Science* 57(4): 875-891, <<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajps.12036/pdf>>.
- Lisa Hultman, Jacob Kathman, and Megan Shannon (2014), "Beyond Keeping Peace: United Nations Effectiveness in the Midst of Fighting," *American Political Science Review* 108(4): 737-753, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003055414000446>>.

April 9

Private actors

- Jan H. Pierskalla and Florian M. Hollenbach (2013), "Technology and Collective Action: The Effect of Cell Phone Coverage on Political Violence in Africa," *American Political Science Review* 107(2): 207-224, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0003055413000075>>.
- Holger Lutz Kern and Jens Hainmueller (2009), "Opium for the Masses: How Foreign Media Can Stabilize Authoritarian Regimes," *Political Analysis* 17(4): 377-399, <<http://pan.oxfordjournals.org/content/17/4/377.full.pdf>>.
- Amanda Murdie and Dursun Peksen (2014), "The Impact of Human Rights INGO Shaming on Humanitarian Interventions," *Journal of Politics* 76(1): 215-228, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0022381613001242>>.
- Peter W. Singer (2002), "Corporate Warriors: The Rise of the Privatized Military Industry and Its Ramifications for International Security," *International Security* 26(3): 186-220, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/3092094.pdf>>.

April 10

Due date: Two-page summary of main argument and structure of seminar papers/project proposals

April 16

Norms and international law

- Martha Finnemore and Kathryn Sikkink (1998), "International Norm Dynamics and Political Change," *International Organization* 52(4): 887-917, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/2601361.pdf>>.
- Kenneth R. Rutherford (2000), "The Evolving Arms Control Agenda: Implications of the Role of NGOs in Banning Antipersonnel Landmines," *World Politics* 53(1): 74-114, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/25054137.pdf>>.
- Tanisha Fazal (2013), "The Demise of Peace Treaties in Interstate War," *International Organization* 67(4): 695-724, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0020818313000246>>.

- Michael G. Findley, Daniel L. Nielson, and J. C. Sharman (2015), “Causes of Noncompliance with International Law: A Field Experiment on Anonymous Incorporation”, *American Journal of Political Science* 59(1): 146-161, <<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/ajps.12141/pdf>>.

April 23

Foreign aid and economic shocks

- Richard A. Nielsen, Michael G. Findley, Zachary S. Davis, Tara Candland, and Daniel L. Nielson (2011), “Foreign Aid Shocks as a Cause of Violent Armed Conflict,” *American Journal of Political Science* 55(2): 219-232, <<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/j.1540-5907.2010.00492.x/pdf>>.
- Jean-Paul Azam and Véronique Thelen (2010), “Foreign Aid Versus Military Intervention in the War on Terror,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 54(2): 237-261, <<http://jcr.sagepub.com/content/54/2/237.full.pdf>>.
- James D. Fearon, Macartan Humphreys, and Jeremy M. Weinstein (2009), “Can Development Aid Contribute to Social Cohesion after Civil War? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Post-Conflict Liberia,” *American Economic Review* 99(2): 287-291, <<http://www.aeaweb.org/articles.php?doi=10.1257/aer.99.2.287>>.
- Peter M. Aronow, Allison Carnegie, and Nikolay Marinov (2012), “The Effects of Aid on Rights and Governance: Evidence from a Natural Experiment,” working paper, <http://papers.ssrn.com/sol3/papers.cfm?abstract_id=2124994>.
- Edward Miguel, Shanker Satyanath, and Ernest Sergenti (2004), “Economic Shocks and Civil Conflict: An Instrumental Variables Approach,” *Journal of Political Economy* 112(4): 725-753, <<http://www.jstor.org/stable/pdfplus/3555136.pdf>>.

April 30

Election monitoring

- Susan D. Hyde (2007), “The Observer Effect in International Politics: Evidence from a Natural Experiment,” *World Politics* 60(1): 37-63, <http://muse.jhu.edu/journals/world_politics/v060/60.1.hyde.pdf>.
- Susan D. Hyde (2010), “Experimenting in Democracy Promotion: International Observers and the 2004 Presidential Elections in Indonesia,” *Perspectives on Politics* 8(2): 511-527, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S1537592710001222>>.
- Dawn Brancati (2014), “Building Confidence in Elections: The Case of Electoral Monitors in Kosovo,” *Journal of Experimental Political Science* 1: 6-15, <http://brancati.wustl.edu/Brancati_JEPS.pdf>.
- Nahomi Ichino and Matthias Schündeln (2012), “Deterring or Displacing Electoral Irregularities? Spillover Effects of Observers in a Randomized Field Experiment in Ghana,” *Journal of Politics* 74(1): 292-307, <<http://dx.doi.org/10.1017/S0022381611001368>>.

May 7

Paper presentations

May 15

Due date: Seminar papers/project proposals