

# SHERRY ZAKS

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- 2019–                   University of Southern California  
                          Assistant Professor of Comparative Politics
- 2018–2019           Stanford University  
                          Postdoctoral Fellow, Center for International Security and Cooperation
- 2017–2018           Dartmouth College  
                          Postdoctoral Fellow, John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D.                 University of California, Berkeley (2017)  
                          DISSERTATION: “Resilience Beyond Rebellion: How Wartime Organizational Structures Affect Rebel-to-Party Transformation”  
                          *Winner of the 2018 United States Institute of Peace Dissertation Prize*
- M.A.                 University of California, Davis: Political Methodology (2011)
- B.A.                 Rutgers University (2006)

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

- 2022                 “Do we know it when we see it? (Re-)Conceptualizing Rebel-to-Party Transition.”  
                          (forthcoming at the *Journal of Peace Research*)
- 2022                 “Return to the Scene of the Crime: Revisiting Process Tracing, Bayesianism, and Murder.” *Political Analysis*. 30(2): 306–310
- 2021                 “Updating Bayesians: A Critical Evaluation of Qualitative Bayesian Inference.” *Political Analysis*. 29(1): 58-74.
- 2018                 “Militant and Rebel Organization(s).” *Journal of Comparative Politics*. 50(2): 271–290. (with Sarah E. Parkinson)
- 2017                 “Relationships Among Rivals: A Framework for Analyzing Contending Hypotheses in Process-Tracing Research.” *Political Analysis*. 25(3): 344–362.
- 2016                 “Process Tracing Progress and Pitfalls: The State of the Art of Qualitative Research Methods.” In *Handbook of Research Methods and Applications in Political Science*, eds. Hans Kerman & Jaap J. Woldendorp. Northampton, MA: Edward Elgar Publishing.

## WORKS IN PROGRESS

- “Political Science after the Insurrection: Teaching About Democratic Backsliding in U.S. Classrooms.” (with M.P. Broache and Carolyn Holmes)  
*(Under Review)*

*Resilience Beyond Rebellion: How Today's Rebels become Tomorrow's Parties*  
(Book Manuscript in Preparation)

“Resilience Beyond Rebellion: An Organizational Theory of Rebel-to-Party Transformation”  
(Finalizing for Submission)

“Organizational Origins: Tracing the Development and Evolution of Militant Organizational Structures.” (with Consuelo Amat) (Article Manuscript in Preparation)

“Testing Your Rivals: A Case Selection Framework for Testing Competing Hypotheses.”  
(with Melissa A. Carlson) (Article Manuscript in Preparation)

“Voting for Parties or Voting for Peace? The Link between Wartime Violence and Short-term Electoral Success” (Data Collection in Progress)

“Under my Umbrella: How Geographical Variation in FMLN Wartime Structures affected Post-conflict Vote Share” (Data Collection in Progress)

## OTHER WRITING & EXPERT INTERVIEWS

- 2021 “Organizational Resilience and Agility during Global Crisis: What Rebels can Teach the C-Suite” (Expert interview for *Workflow Magazine*).
- 2017 “Evaluating ‘Competing’ Explanations in *Economic Interdependence and War*” *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research*. 15(2): 40-44.
- 2017 “Having Your Cake and Eating it Too? The Conflicting Principles at Issue in the Masterpiece Cakeshop Case” (with Seth Masket) *Vox*. December 8, 2017.  
Online: <https://www.vox.com/mischiefs-of-faction/2017/12/8/16750960/masterpiece-cakeshop-conflicting-rights>

## INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2021 **Do we measure it when we see it? Exploring Bias from Conceptualization to Data Collection in Conflict Research**  
Harvard University Applied Statistics Workshop
- 2021 **Resilience Beyond Rebellion: How Today's Rebels become Tomorrow's Parties**  
University of Washington International Security Colloquium

- 2018      **Resilience Beyond Rebellion: How Wartime Organizational Structures Affect Rebel-to-Party Transition**  
Center for International Security and Cooperation Research Seminar: Stanford University
- 2017      **Resilience Beyond Rebellion: How Wartime Organizational Structures Affect Rebel-to-Party Transition**  
The Program on Order, Conflict, and Violence: Yale University
- 2015      **Resilience Beyond Rebellion: An Organizational Approach to Rebel-to-Party Transformations**  
Dynamics of Party Politics After War: Bergen, Norway
- 2013      **APSA Short Course 1**  
Co-teaching Short Course 1 on Multimethod Research
- 2012      **Institute for Qualitative and Multimethod Research**  
Co-teaching Course on Multimethod Research and Causal Inference with Jason Seawright
- 2011      **APSA Short Course 1**  
Co-teaching Short Course 1 on Multimethod Research

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2016      **Rival Hypotheses and Mechanisms in Process Tracing**  
APSA: Mechanisms and Process Tracing: “What are we actually tracing?”
- 2015      **New Directions in Multi-Method Research**  
APSA: Roundtable on Methodology and Causal Inference
- 2014      **Rethinking Designing Social Inquiry: Views from the Second Generation**  
APSA: Roundtable on Methodology and Causal Inference
- 2012      **Relationships Among Rivals: Analyzing Contending Hypotheses with a New Logic of Process Tracing**  
APSA: Panel on Methodology and Causal Inference
- 2010      **Strange Bedfellows in Humanitarian Interventions: How International Networks Explain Who Intervenes Together and Why**  
Poster Presented at the 2010 Peace Science meeting

## GRANTS and AWARDS

- 2018      United States Institute of Peace: Best Dissertation in Peace Science
- 2016–2017      Institute for International Studies: Simpson Fellowship
- 2015–2016      Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation: Herbert York Global Security Fellow
- Spring 2015      U.C. Berkeley Dean’s Normative Time to Completion Fellowship
- Summer 2011      Faculty-Student Collaborative Research Grant

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

### Graduate

Research Design  
Maximum Likelihood Estimation  
Matrices and OLS Regression  
Probability Theory

### Undergraduate

Political Analysis  
Terrorism and Genocide  
Rebellion, Conflict, & Political Violence  
Intro to Cognitive Science (CS Department)

## RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

### Substantive

Comparative Politics  
Civil War, Ethnic Conflict, Political Violence  
Political Parties & Social Movements

### Methodological

Research Design  
Multi-method Research  
Quantitative Methods

## COMPUTER SKILLS

R, Stata, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Adobe Creative Suite, Final Cut Pro

## REFERENCES

David Collier

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