Clayton Thomas Besaw

CONTACT Research Department INFORMATION

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RESEARCH **INTERESTS** Political Violence, Social/Affective Psychology, and Computational Methods: Insurgency, Terrorism, Conflict Ecology, Organizational Behavior, Learning, Emotion, Beliefs, Experimental Design, Quasi-Experimental Design, Data Mining, Content Analysis, Out-of-Sample Prediction.

EDUCATION University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL

> Ph.D., Security Studies, 2018 B.A, Political Science, May 2011

RESEARCH **EMPLOYMENT** Researcher - Data Science and Forecasting

December 2017 - Present

OEF Research, One Earth Future Foundation

Instructor of Record

January 2017 - December 2017

Department of Political Science, University of Central Florida POS3703 - Scope and Methods of Political Science (Fall 2017) POS3703 - Scope and Methods of Political Science (Spring 2017)

Visiting Lecturer

September 2016 - January 2017

Department of Political Science, Universität Mannheim

Einführung in die internationalen Beziehungen: Behavioral Approaches to Terrorism

START Summer Research Fellow on Illicit Networks May 2014 to August 2014 National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, University of

Maryland

PEER-REVIEWED **PUBLICATIONS**

Tezcür, Güneş Murat, and Clayton Besaw. "Jihadist waves: Syria, the Islamic State, and the changing nature of foreign fighters." Conflict Management and Peace Science (2017): 0738894217738990. (Online First)

Dolan, Thomas M., Clayton Besaw, and Joseph Butler. "Where the Insurgents Aren't: Rurality, Information, and Nonterritorial Insurgency." Journal of Conflict Resolution (2016): 0022002716678985. (Online First)

Non-Peer REVIEWED **PUBLICATIONS** Tezcür, G., Besaw, C. "The Generational Waves of Jihadist Foreign Fighters". Sustainable Security. February, 2018. web-link

Tezcür, G., Besaw, C. "Violence in Turkey is Increasingly Resembling Violence in Syria. Here's Data to Show Why". Political Violence @ a Glance., September, 2016. web-link

Besaw, C., Greene, K., Jacome, M. "Failure Points in Smuggling Networks: A Case Study of the Soto-Huarto Network." College Park, MD: START, 2014.

INVITED TALKS

Tezcür, G., Besaw, C. (August, 2016). "Understanding Waves of Jihadism Recruitment." United States Central Command (CENTCOM), MacDill Air Force Base Tampa, Florida.

Besaw, C. (August, 2016). "Scientific Approaches to Terrorism: Group and Individual Analyses of Violent Extremism." United States Central Command (CENTCOM), MacDill Air Force Base Tampa, Florida.

Besaw, C., Hofmann, D. (July, 2014). "The Role of Leadership in Terrorist-Organizations." National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START), University of Maryland, College Park, Maryland.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- **Besaw, C.,** Smith, G., & Lambert, J. "Evaluating Out-of-Sample Accuracy for Models of Interstate Conflict using Machine Learning." *Prepared for the ISA South Annual Meeting*. Orlando, Florida. October, 2017
- **Besaw, C.,** Ritter, K. "Civilian Massacres in the Turkey-PKK Conflict." *Prepared for the ISA South Annual Meeting.* Orlando, Florida. October, 2017
- Semmelbeck, J., **Besaw, C.** "Exploring the Crime-Terror-Nexus." *Presented at the Deutschen Vereinigung für Politikwissenschaft: Sektion Internationale Beziehungen.* Bremen, Germany. October, 2017
- Tezcür, G., **Besaw**, C. "Modeling Volatility in a Civil War: Political Processes and Violent Events." *Presented at the International Studies Association Annual meeting*. Baltimore, Maryland. February, 2017
- Schafer, M., Walker, S., Besaw, C., Gill, P., Smith, G. "Psychological Correlates and U.S. Conflict Behavior: Introducing a New Data Set." Presented at the International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting. Warsaw, Poland. July, 2016
- **Besaw, C.** "The Politics of Outbidding: Revisiting the Israel-Palestine Conflict Through Time-Series Analysis." *Presented at the University of Central Florida 2016 Graduate Research Forum.* Orlando, Florida. April, 2016
- Semmelbeck, J., **Besaw, C.** "The Influence of Organizational Structure on Crime-Terror Cooperation." *Presented at the International Centre for Comparative Criminology's Annual Illicit Networks Worskhop.* Montreal, QC. November, 2015
- **Besaw, C.,** Payne, J., Williams, J. "Personality, Beliefs, and the Use of Violence in Ethno-Political Organizations." *Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting.* San Francisco, CA. September, 2015
- **Besaw, C.** "Personality of War: Social Dominance Orientation, Right Wing Authoritarian Personality, and War Behavior." *Presented at the International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting.* San Diego, CA. July, 2015
- **Besaw**, C., Schafer, M. "Profiler Plus, RWA Personality, and U.S. Conflict Behavior." *Presented at the International Studies Association Annual Meeting*. New Orleans, LA. February, 2015
- **Besaw, C.** "Deadly Premonition: Can Terrorist-Leader Psychology Predict Terrorist-Group Lethality?." *Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting.* New Orleans, LA. January, 2014.
- Williams, J., **Besaw**, C., Payne, J. "The Terrorism Psychology Project: Leadership Psychology as a Potential Salilent Variable in Quantitative Terrorism Studies." *Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting*. New Orleans, LA. January, 2014.
- Payne, J., and **Besaw, C.** "Extremist Leaders: A Case Analysis of Velupillai Prabhakaran and Sri Lankan Violent Extremism." *Presented at the Southern Criminal Justice Association Annual Meeting.* Virginia Beach, VA. September, 2013.
- **Besaw, C.,** Payne, J., Williams, J. "What Drives Extremist Leaders? A Psychological Comparison of Terrorist-Leaders and State-Leaders." *Presented at the Southern Criminal Justice Association Annual Meeting.* Virginia Beach, VA. September 2013.

Besaw, C. "An Organizational model of Crime-Terror Cooperation." *Presented at the Florida Political Science Association Annual Conference*. Florida International University. Miami, FL. March, 2013.

Besaw, C. "An Empirical Analysis of the Criminal-Based Strategies of Terrorist and Insurgent Organizations." *Presented at the Globalization, Information, Policy & Knowledge Production (GIP & KP) Conference.* University of Central Florida. Orlando, FL. February, 2013.

PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Programming:

• R, Stata, WinRATS, Python, Jekyll, BUGS(open/win), JAGS, TEX (LATEX, BIBTEX)

Quantitative Methods

- Linear and Generalized Linear Regression modeling.
- Time Series Analysis: Vector Autoregression, Box-Jenkins, ARCH/GARCH, Dynamic Conditional Correlation, Panel/Time Series-Cross Sectional, Event History/Survival Analysis, Fractional Integration.
- Machine Learning: Lasso, Random Forest, Naive Bayes, Latent Factors, Clustering, Logistic Regression, Neural Nets, SVM, Resampling/Cross-validation techniques.
- Text Analysis: Content Analysis Design, Sentiment Analysis and Library Creation, Latent Dirchlet Allocation, Neural Network/Deep Learning.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP American Political Science Association, Member, 2013–present International Studies Association, Member, 2011–present International Society of Political Psychology, Member, 2013–present Peace Science Society, Member, 2014–present

PEER-REVIEW REFEREE American Political Science Review American Journal of Political Science

REFERENCES Available on request.