





CHES THURBER

DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND GLOBAL AFFAIRS
NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY
1425 W. LINCOLN HWY, DEKALB, IL 60115

 (815) 753-1011
 cthurber@niu.edu
 chesthurber.com
 [0000-0002-3407-7589](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-3407-7589)

Academic Appointments

Northern Illinois University

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science	2022-Present
Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Political Science	2023 - Present
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science	2016 - 2022

University of Denver, Josef Korbel School of International Studies

Visiting Scholar, Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security	2022-2023
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University of Chicago

Postdoctoral Scholar, Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism	2015-2016
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Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government

Research Fellow, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs	2014-2015
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Education

Tufts University, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

Ph.D. International Relations	2015
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Dissertation: "Strategies of Violence and Nonviolence in Revolutionary Movements"
Committee: Richard Shultz, Zeynep Bulutgil, Erica Chenoweth
Recipient of the Ackerman Award for Outstanding Doctoral Dissertation

M.A.L.D. International Relations	2010
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Middlebury College

B.A. International Studies (summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa)	2004
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Publications

Book

2021. *Between Mao and Gandhi: the Social Roots of Civil Resistance*. Cambridge University Press, Cambridge
Studies in Contentious Politics. Reviewed in *International Affairs* and *Perspectives on Politics*.

Journal Articles

- Forthcoming. [“How Civil Resistance Improves Inclusive Democracy,”](#) with Subindra Bogati, Titik Firawati, and Jonathan Pinckney. Forthcoming in *Perspectives on Politics*.
2023. [“From Doctrine to Detonation: Ideology, Organization, and Terrorism in Mass Dissident Campaigns,”](#) with Margherita Belgioioso. *Journal of Peace Research*, OnlineFirst.
2020. [“The Security Force Ethnicity \(SFE\) Project: Introducing a New Dataset,”](#) with Paul Lorenzo Johnson. *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 37 (1): 106-129.
2019. [“Social Ties and the Strategy of Civil Resistance.”](#) *International Studies Quarterly* 63 (4): 974-986.
2018. [“Ethnic Barriers to Civil Resistance.”](#) *Journal of Global Security Studies* 3 (3): 255-270.
2014. [“Milicias as Sociopolitical Movements: Lessons from Iraq’s Armed Shia Groups.”](#) *Small Wars and Insurgencies* 25 (5-6): 900-923.

Refereed Chapters & Reports

- Forthcoming. [“A Yam Between Two Boulders: Global Orders, Regional Rivalries, and Contentious Politics,”](#) in Abu Bakarr Bah, ed. *Glocalized Security*, Forthcoming with Indiana University Press.
2021. [From the Hills to the Streets to the Table: Civil Resistance and Peacebuilding in Nepal](#) with Subindra Bogati. ICNC Press.

Policy Briefs & Essays

2022. [“Civil Resistance and Inclusive Democratization in Indonesia,”](#) with Titik Firawati. Center for Strategic and International Studies, Jakarta. February 4, 2022.
2011. [“From Coexistence to Cleansing: The Rise of Sectarian Violence in Baghdad, 2003-2006.”](#) *al-Nakhlah: Journal of Southwest Asia and Islamic Civilization*.
2011. [“A Step Short of the Bomb: Explaining the Strategy of Nuclear Hedging.”](#) *Journal of Public and International Affairs* 22: 29-47.

Book Reviews & Correspondence

2023. [Reply to Corinna Jentsch’s Review](#) of *Between Mao and Gandhi*, in *Perspectives on Politics* 21 (1): 344 - 346.
2023. [Review of *Violent Resistance: Militia Formation and Civil War in Mozambique*, by Corinna Jentsch \(Cambridge, 2022\),](#) in *Perspectives on Politics* 21 (1): 344 - 346.
2014. Review of *The Maoist Insurgency in Nepal: Revolution in the Twenty-First Century*, edited by Mahendra Lawoti and Anuk K. Pahari (Routledge, 2009), in *Himalaya* 34, no. 1 (Spring): 148-150.

Commentary

2024. [“6+1 on *Between Mao and Gandhi*,”](#) *The Duck of Minerva*, (February 29).
2018. [“Why Ethnic Cleavages Create Barriers to Civil Resistance,”](#) *Political Violence a Glance*, (October 29).
2017. [“Mao, Gandhi, and the Choice Between Violent and Nonviolent Action,”](#) *Political Violence @ a Glance* (September 11).
2017. [“New Data Shows a Sharp Increase in U.S. Protest Activity in April,”](#) with Erica Chenoweth, Jeremy Pressman, and Evan Perkoski, *Washington Post*, “Monkey Cage” Blog (May 22)

2017. ["In Trump's America, Who's Protesting and Why?"](#) with Erica Chenoweth, David Prater, Jeremy Pressman, and Stephen Zunes, *Washington Post*, "Monkey Cage" Blog (April 24).

Work in Progress

- "Ethnic Coalitions and the Trajectories of Resistance Campaigns," with Robert Tanner Bivens (Under Review).
- "Military Ethnicity and Genocide," with Paul Lorenzo Johnson (Working Paper).
- "Ethnicity and Defection during Uprisings from Below," with Paul Lorenzo Johnson, Theodore McLauchlin, and Julien Morency-Laflamme (Working Paper).
- "A Nod, a Nudge, a Push, and a Putsch: Civil-Military Relations in the Heat of Mass Uprisings." (Working Paper).
- "Cold War, Hot War, Color War: Popular Uprisings and Interstate Conflict," (Working Paper).

Fellowships, Grants & Awards

Externally Funded Research Grants

U.S. Institute of Peace: People Power, Peace Processes, and Democratization (2020-2021).	\$28,000
Smith Richardson Foundation: World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship (2014-2015).	\$7,500
Harvard Law School Program on Negotiation: Next Generation Grant (2013).	\$2,000

Internally Funded Research Grants

Northern Illinois University: Great Journeys Grant (2020-2021).	\$15,000
Northern Illinois University: Great Journeys Grant (2017-2018).	\$14,000
Northern Illinois University: Summer Research and Artistry Grant (2017).	\$13,500
Northern Illinois University: Student Engagement Fund Grant (2016-2017).	\$1,200
Tufts University: Fletcher Summer Research Grant (2014).	\$6,500
Tufts University: Fletcher Summer Research Grant (2013).	\$4,000

Fellowships and Awards

- Tobin Project: National Security Fellowship (2014).
- Eisenhower Foundation: Clifford Roberts Fellowship (2012-2013).
- Bradley Foundation: Dissertation Fellowship (2010-2011).
- American Academy of Diplomacy: Leonard Marks Essay Contest Winner (2009).

Invited Talks

- University of Notre Dame, Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies (Scheduled November 2024).
- University of Minnesota, Minnesota International Relations Colloquium (April 2024).
- Centro de Investigacion y Docencia Economicas, Division of International Studies (May 2023, virtual).
- International Foundation for Electoral Systems (May 2023, virtual).
- Online Peace Science Colloquium ([April 2023, virtual](#)).
- University of Denver, Korbel Research Seminar (February 2023).
- University of Wisconsin-Madison, Comparative Politics Colloquium (February 2022).
- Northwestern University, WCCIAS Global Lunchbox Series ([February 2022, podcast](#)).

University of Chicago, Workshop on International Politics (January 2022, virtual).
International Center for Nonviolent Conflict (April 2021, December 2018, March 2017, virtual).
Alliance for Peacebuilding (April 2018, virtual)
Nepal Armed Police Force School, Kathmandu, Nepal (June 2016).
University of Chicago, Program on International Security Policy (May 2016).
University of Chicago, Comparative Politics Workshop (October 2015).
Harvard Kennedy School, Belfer International Security Program ([December 2014](#)).
Tufts University, Fletcher Colloquium (October 2013).
Martin Chautari Invited Speaker Series, Kathmandu, Nepal (July 2013).

Conference Presentations

- “Mobilizing for Social Inclusion in Post-Conflict Nepal,” with Subindra Bogati.
2024. ISA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- “The Yam Between Two Boulders: India, China, and the Glocalization of Contention in Nepal.”
2023. Symposium on Muslim Politics and World Society, Universitas Islam Internasional Indonesia (virtual).
- “Coalitions, Cleavages, and Claims: Rethinking the multiple dimensions of ethnicity in conflict,” with Robert Tanner Bivens.
2023. Four Corners Conflict Network Conference, Moab, UT.
2023. ISA Annual Meeting, Montreal, CA.
2021. ISA Annual Meeting, virtual format.
- “Inclusive Democratization in the Aftermath of Civil Resistance,” with Subindra Bogati, Titik Firawati, and Jonathan Pinckney.
2022. ISA Annual Meeting (virtual).
2021. Conflict Research Society Annual Meeting (virtual).
- “A Nod, a Nudge, a Push, and a Putsch: Civ-Mil Relations in Mass Uprisings.”
2021. APSA Annual Meeting (virtual).
- “Ethnicity and Defection during Uprisings from Below: New Data and Analysis,” with Paul Johnson, Theodore McLaughlin, and Julien Morency-LaFlamme.
2021. ISA Annual Meeting, (virtual).
2019. APSA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
2019. ISA Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON.
- “Investigating Links between Ideology, Audiences, Fragmentation, and Terrorism in Campaigns of Mass Resistance,” with Margherita Belgioioso.
2019. APSA Annual Meeting, Washington, DC.
2019. ISA Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON.
- “The Ethnic Barrier to Nonviolent Action.”
2017. APSA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
- “Asymmetric Networks and the Breakdown of Civil Resistance: Evidence from Syria.”
2017. *Mobilization* Conference on Nonviolent Strategies and the State, San Diego, CA..

2017. ISA Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MD.
- “Social Roots of Revolution: Gandhians, Maoists, and Insurgent Strategy in Nepal.”
2016. APSA Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA.
2014. ISA Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON.
- “The Strategic Utility of Diversity in Violent and Nonviolent Conflict,” with Ben Naimark-Rowse and Phoebe Donnelly.
2016. ISA Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- “Military Composition and Coups in the Modern Middle East,” with Paul Lorenzo Johnson.
2016. ISA Annual Meeting, Atlanta, GA.
- “Resistance Networks, Social Overlap, and Revolutionary Strategy.”
2015. APSA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
2015. MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
2015. Harvard-MIT-Yale Political Violence Conference, Cambridge, MA.
2015. ISA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- “Stacking to Repress: The Effect of Ethnic Manipulation in the Military on State Violence,” with Paul Lorenzo Johnson.
2015. MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
2015. ISA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.
- “The Ethnic Composition of State Security Forces: Introducing a New Dataset,” with Paul Lorenzo Johnson.
2014. MPSA Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.
2014. ISA Annual Meeting, Toronto, ON.
- “Violence and Nonviolence in Revolutionary Movements.”
2013. ISA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA.
2013. WPSA Annual Meeting, Hollywood, CA.