

# Mara Redlich Revkin

Mailing Address:  
805 Channing Pl. NE Apt. 412A  
Washington, DC 20018

Phone (U.S.): +1 (203) 671-5322  
Phone (Iraq): +964 750-710-8762  
Email: [mr1679@georgetown.edu](mailto:mr1679@georgetown.edu)  
Website: <https://mararevkin.com/>

## Academic Appointments

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**Georgetown University Law Center**  
National Security Law Fellow

2020–2021

**Yale Law School**  
Robina Foundation Fellow in International Human Rights

2019

## Education

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**Yale University**, Ph.D. in Political Science

2019

Dissertation: “Three Essays on the Microfoundations of Rebel Governance: Theory and Evidence from the Islamic State in Iraq and Syria”

Committee: Elisabeth Wood (chair), Robert Blair, Oona Hathaway, Ellen Lust, Elizabeth Nugent

**Yale University**, M.A. & M.Phil. in Political Science

2016, 2017

**Yale Law School**, J.D.

2016

**Swarthmore College**, B.A. with High Honors  
Political Science major, Arabic minor

2009

## Research and Teaching Interests

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**Law:** Criminal Law and Procedure, Empirical Legal Studies, National Security Law, International Law

**Political Science:** Comparative Politics, Political Violence, Rebel Governance, State Formation

## Publications

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### *Peer-Reviewed Publications*

“What Explains Taxation by Resource-Rich Rebels? New Data from the Islamic State in Syria,” *The Journal of Politics* (2020)

“The Social Contract in Rebel Governance: Evidence from Syria and Iraq” with Ariel Ahram (forthcoming at *World Development*)

“To Stay or to Leave? Displacement Decisions During Rebel Governance” (conditionally accepted at *The Journal of Conflict Resolution*)

“Egypt’s Constitution in Question,” *Middle East Law and Governance Journal*, Vol. 5, No. 3 (2013), pp. 331–343.

“Middle Eastern Law” with Chibli Mallat, *Annual Review of Law and Social Science*, Vol. 9 (2013), pp. 405–433.

### *Law Journal Publications*

“When Terrorists Govern: Protecting Civilians in Conflicts with State-Building Armed Groups,” *Harvard National Security Journal*, Vol. 9 (2018), pp. 100–144.

“Triadic Legal Pluralism in North Sinai: A Case Study of State, Shari’a, and ‘Urf Courts in Conflict and Cooperation,” *UCLA Journal of Islamic and Near Eastern Law*, Vol. 13, No. 1 (2014), pp. 21–59.

### *Working Papers*

“The Islamic State’s Pattern of Sexual Violence: Ideology and Institutions, Policies and Practices” with Elisabeth Wood (R&R at the *Journal of Global Security Studies*)

“Can Community Policing Increase State Legitimacy? Evidence from Iraq”

“Retribution or Reconciliation? Attitudes Toward Rebel Collaborators in Iraq” with Kristen Kao

“Do Harsher Punishments Promote Reintegration? An Empirical Test of Incapacitation Theory in Iraq” with Kristen Kao

### *Chapters in Edited Volumes*

“‘I Am Nothing Without a Weapon’: Understanding Child Recruitment and Use by Armed Groups in Syria and Iraq,” in *Cradled by Conflict: Child Involvement with Armed Groups in Contemporary Conflict* (United Nations University, ed. O’Neil, Siobhan and van Broeckhoven, Kato: 2018).

“Islamic Law and Constitutions” with Nathan Brown, in *The Oxford Handbook of Islamic Law* (Oxford University Press: 2015)

### *Selected Policy Reports*

“Perceptions of Security and Police in Iraq: Baseline Survey Findings,” International Organization for Migration (Apr. 2020), with Olga Aymerich.

“West Mosul: Perceptions on Return and Reintegration Among Stayees, IDPs, and Returnees,” International Organization for Migration (Jun. 2019), with Delair Jabari.

“After the Islamic State: Balancing Accountability and Reconciliation in Iraq,” United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (May 31, 2018).

“The Legal Foundations of the Islamic State,” Brookings Institution, The Brookings Project on U.S. Relations with the Islamic World, Analysis Paper No. 21 (Jul. 18, 2016).

*Selected Media Publications*

“How the Iraqi crackdown on the Islamic State may actually increase support for the Islamic State” with Kristen Kao, *Washington Post* (Jan. 7, 2019).

“Iraq’s Harsh Approach to Punishing Islamic State ‘Collaborators’ Stands to Have Counterproductive Consequences,” *Lawfare* (Jun. 11, 2018).

“How Militants in Iraq Recruit and Use Children,” *Washington Post* (Feb. 14, 2018).

“Law and Lawfare in the Islamic State,” *Lawfare* (Aug. 5, 2016).

“Does ISIS Need Territory to Survive?” *New York Times* (Oct. 20, 2016).

“ISIS’ Social Contract,” *Foreign Affairs* (Jan. 10, 2016).

“Caliphate of Law” with Andrew March, *Foreign Affairs* (Apr. 15, 2015).

“Egypt’s New Constitution and the Police State,” *Foreign Affairs* (Feb. 11, 2014).

“Sharia Courts of the Sinai,” *Foreign Policy* (Sept. 20, 2013).

“Egypt’s Power Vacuum is Radicalizing the Sinai Peninsula,” *Washington Post* (Aug. 29, 2013).

“Egypt’s Fallen Police State Gives Way to Vigilante Justice” with Yussuf Auf, *The Atlantic* (Apr. 3, 2013).

“Immigration Issues: City on a Hill,” *The American Prospect*, Vol. 18 (2007), pp. 31–33.

**Fellowships and Awards**


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Scholarship, Zurich Summer School for Women in Political Methodology	2018
Clifford L. Porter Prize for Best Paper on Taxation, Yale Law School	2016
Junior Fellow (Middle East), Carnegie Endowment for International Peace	2010–11
Fulbright Fellowship (Research) in Oman, U.S. Department of State	2009–10
Critical Language Scholarship for Arabic study in Jordan, U.S. Department of State	2009

**External Grants**


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Innovations for Poverty Action Peace & Recovery Fund (\$4,064)	2020
Project on Middle East Political Science Research Grant (\$3,000)	2020
APSA Second Century Fund Grant (\$2,428)	2019
P.E.O. Scholar Award (\$15,000—declined)	2019
Project on Middle East Political Science Research Grant (\$3,000)	2018
Program on Governance and Local Development Research Grant (\$3,000)	2017
Jennings Randolph Peace Doctoral Fellowship, U.S. Institute of Peace (\$20,000)	2017–18
Graduate Student Fellow in National Security, Tobin Project (\$2,000)	2015–16
Program on Governance and Local Development Research Grant (\$3,000)	2015
U.S. Dept. of Education Foreign Language Fellowship for Arabic (\$33,000)	2013–14
Program on Governance and Local Development Research Grant (\$3,000)	2013

## Invited Presentations

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U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "Police Reform in Iraq"	Jul. 2020
U.S. Department of Homeland Security, "IS Governance"	Feb. 2020
Ohio State University Peacebuilding Symposium, "Community Policing in Iraq"	Nov. 2019
New York University-FBA, "Can Community Policing Increase State Legitimacy?"	Sept. 2019
Brandeis University, "Rebel Governance and Relative Legitimacy: Evidence Iraq"	Apr. 2019
Fordham University School of Law, "Protecting Children in Armed Conflict"	Oct. 2018
University of California, Santa Barbara, "Migration Decisions Under the Islamic State"	Feb. 2018
Christopher Newport University, "Migration Decisions in Islamic State-Controlled Mosul"	Nov. 2017
United Nations University, "Legal Obstacles to Reintegration of Children Recruited by IS"	Aug. 2017
Oxford University, "ISIS State-Building and State Failure"	Apr. 2017
American University in Beirut, "Migration Decisions in Islamic State-Controlled Mosul"	Mar. 2017
World Bank, MENA Chief Economist Seminar, "The ISIS Social Contract"	Mar. 2017
United Nations University, "An Introduction to ISIS Recruitment"	Jan. 2017
Permanent Mission of Canada to the United Nations, "Child Soldiers in the Islamic State"	Dec. 2016
Peace Research Institute in Oslo, "IS State-Building in Iraq and Syria"	Dec. 2016
Afro-Middle East Center in Johannesburg, "The ISIS Taxation System"	May 2016
American University in Cairo, "ISIS Governance in Iraq and Syria"	Dec. 2016
Harvard Political Violence Workshop, "The Non-Economic Functions of Rebel Taxation"	Apr. 2016
Yale University Anthropology Colloquium, "The Non-Economic Functions of Rebel Taxation"	Apr. 2016
Society for the Scientific Study of Religion, "Crime and Punishment in the Islamic State"	Oct. 2015
Harvard Political Violence Workshop, "The Non-Economic Functions of Rebel Taxation"	Apr. 2016
The Atlantic Council, Middle East Center, "The Struggle for Sinai"	Oct. 2013

## Conference Presentations

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Conference on Empirical Legal Studies (2018); Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (2019, 2018, 2017); Annual World Justice Project Scholars Conference (2018); Annual Meeting of the Middle East Studies Association (2018); Association for Analytical Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (2018); Empirical Studies of Conflict Annual Meeting (2018); European Consortium for Political Research Annual Meeting (2018); Harvard Experiments Conference (Harvard University, March 2018); Middle East Legal Studies Seminar (2019, 2018, 2016, 2015, 2014); Mid-Year Meeting of the American Society of International Law (2017); Program on Governance and Local Development Annual Conference (2018); Project on Middle East Political Science Annual Conference (2018)

## Teaching & Training Experience

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Guest lecturer for students at the American University of Iraq, Sulaimani	Nov. 2019
Training in survey methodology for field researchers in Erbil, Iraq	Oct. 2019
Training in survey methodology for field researchers in Erbil, Iraq	Dec. 2019
Guest lecturer, "Advanced Property" for Prof. Claire Priest, Yale Law School	Nov. 2018
Guest lecturer, "U.S. & the Middle East" course for K-12 teachers, New York University	Jul. 2016
Guest lecturer, "International Humanitarian Law" for Prof. Eyal Benvenisti, Yale Law School	May 2017

## Language Skills

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Modern Standard Arabic (professional proficiency)

French (advanced reading)

## Field Research

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Iraq (surveys, interviews, impact evaluation)	12 months between 2015–Current
Turkey (interviews)	12 months between 2014–2018
Egypt and the Sinai Peninsula (interviews)	10 months between 2007–2013
Jordan (Arabic language training)	2 months, 2009
Oman (interviews and Arabic language training)	10 months, 2009–10

## Service and Associations

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**Referee:** *American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, International Studies Quarterly, International Security, Journal of Conflict Management and Peace Science, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*

New York State Bar, Third Department (admitted in 2017)

Folke Bernadotte Academy Research Working Group on Security Sector Reform (2019–present)

Junior Fellow, Association for the Analytic Learning of Islamic Societies (2018–present)

American Political Science Association (2016–present)

Coordinator, Yale Comparative Politics Workshop (2015–16)

Lowenstein International Human Rights Clinic, Yale Law School (2015–16)

Transnational Development Clinic, Yale Law School (2012–13)

## Relevant Professional Experience

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Consultant, United Nations Development Programme's Iraq Mission, Social Cohesion Project	2020
Consultant, United Nations Migration Agency's Iraq Mission, Community Stabilization Unit	2019
Lead Researcher on Iraq, Transitional Justice Project, United Nations University	2017–18
Lead Researcher on Iraq & Syria, Children in Violence Project, United Nations University	2016–17
Research Consultant on Bahrain, Oman, and Saudi Arabia, Freedom House	2011–13
Summer Associate, Shearman & Sterling LLP in Paris, France	2014
Summer Legal Intern, Human Rights Watch in Cairo, Egypt	2013
Assistant Director, Middle East Center at the Atlantic Council	2011–12

Last updated: April 16, 2020