

SEAN LEE

Department of Political Science
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

07/19 – present	The American University in Cairo Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science	Cairo, Egypt
09/18 – 05/19	Max Weber Stiftung, Orient Institut-Beirut Doctoral Fellow	Beirut, Lebanon
09/07 – 06/11	The American University of Beirut Instructor, Department of English	Beirut, Lebanon

EDUCATION

2019	PhD – Political Science NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: Evanston, IL Dissertation: <i>Minorities in Times of Conflict: Civil War in Lebanon and Syria</i> Committee: William Reno (chair), Wendy Pearlman, Hendrik Spruyt Major: Comparative Politics; Minor: Methods
2014	M.A. – Political Science NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: Evanston, IL
2007	Master de Recherche en Sciences Sociales ECOLE DES HAUTES ETUDES EN SCIENCES SOCIALES: Paris
2004	Maîtrise de Lettres Modernes – Comparative Literature UNIVERSITE DE LA SORBONNE-NOUVELLE – PARIS III: Paris
2002	Licence de Lettres Modernes – Comparative Literature UNIVERSITE DE LA SORBONNE-NOUVELLE – PARIS III: Paris
2001	Bachelor of Arts – Psychology, Philosophy and French MERCER UNIVERSITY: Macon, GA Minor: Photography <i>Cum Laude</i>

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2005-2006	United Nations World Water Assessment Programme, Editor & Researcher
2003-2004	UNESCO, Project Coordinator (Culture Sector)

PUBLICATIONS, REVIEWS & COMMENTARY

2020. “The Evolution of Rojava: Tensions Between Democratic Confederalism and State-Building in Northern Syria.” Michael Gunter, David Romano and Mehmet Gurses (eds.) *The Kurds in the Middle East: Enduring Problems and New Dynamics*. New York: Lexington Books, pp. 81-98.
2020. “The Tragedies and Dilemmas of US Intervention in Northeast Syria.” *Middle East Report*. Spring, No. 294.
2017. “The Kurds of Syria.” *Arab Studies Journal*. Fall, Vol 25, No. 2, pp 226–36.
2014. “Race, Medicine, and Genocide.” Cockerham, William (ed.), *The Wiley-Blackwell Encyclopedia of Health, Illness, Behavior, and Society*. New York: Wiley.
2013. “An Open Letter on Syria to Western Narcissists,” *The Huffington Post*. October 30.
2010. Review of *The Arabs and the Holocaust: The Arab-Israeli War of Narratives* by Gilbert Achcar. *The National* (Dubai). August 2.
2010. Review of *The Ghosts of Martyrs Square: An Eyewitness Account of Lebanon’s Life Struggle* by Michael Young. *The National* (Dubai). June 26.
2009. “Serve But Don’t Swim.” *The Executive* (Beirut). No. 122, September.
2006. *The United Nations World Water Development Report: Water, A Shared Responsibility*. Oxford: Berghahn Books / Paris: UNESCO. (editor).

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

- “How Bashar al-Asad Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the ‘War on Terror’”
- “Insurgent Narratives and Insurgent Realities” (with Romain Malejacq and William Reno)
- “Counting the Bodies” (with Mostafa Hefny)
- “Organization in the Revolution: Cohesion and Fragmentation in Syria’s Civil War”
- “Egyptian responses to the Covid-19 outbreak”
- “Identity-coding in the study of ‘sectarian’ and ‘ethnic’ conflict”
- “The PKK years in Syria: Impacts on domestic Kurdish politics”
- “Counting co-ethnics: Nation building and the census in Lebanon and Hasaka, Syria”

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

- 2020 American Political Science Association Middle East and North Africa Fellow
- 2018 - 2019 Max Weber Foundation, Orient-Institut Beirut, Doctoral Fellow
- 2016 - 2017 Kellogg School of Management Dispute Resolution Research Center research grant
- 2015 - 2016 Fulbright-Hays DDRA – Turkey and Democratic Republic of Congo
- Fall/Winter 2015 FLAS Dissertation research abroad Fellowship (Istanbul)
- Summer 2015 FLAS Summer Language Fellowship (Advanced Arabic – Rabat, Morocco)

Spring 2015 FLAS Academic Year Fellowship (Swahili)
Winter 2014 Project on Middle East Political Science Research grant (Lebanon)
Summer 2013 Keyman Modern Turkish Studies Research Grant (Turkey/Syria border)
Summer 2013 Crown Family Middle East Research Travel Award (Beirut, Lebanon)
Summer 2013 Morris Goodman African Language Award (Advanced Arabic, Beirut, Lebanon)
Summer 2012 Critical Language Scholarship (Advanced Arabic – Tangier, Morocco)
Summer 2012 Hans Panofsky Pre-Dissertation Award (Shousha camp – Tunisia/Libya border)
Summer 2012 Buffett Center for International and Comparative Studies Summer Research
Travel Award (Shousha refugee camp – Tunisia/Libya border)

TEACHING

American University in Cairo, Department of Political Science

Politics and Society in Contemporary Africa (spring 2020)
Introduction to Comparative Politics (fall 2019, spring & fall 2020)
Introduction to Politics (fall 2019, spring & fall 2019)
Introduction to Research Methods in Political Science (fall 2019, spring 2020)

American University of Beirut, Department of English & Civilization Sequence Program

Advanced Academic Writing: Contemporary Africa (2007-2011)
Man's Inhumanity to Man: Violence in the 20th century (Fall, 2008)
English for International Business (2007-11)
Enrichment Course in English (2007-2008)

Northwestern University, departments of Political Science, International Studies, Slavic Studies

Internal Wars and the State (Fall 2012, with William Reno)
Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2013, with William Reno)
Statistical Research Methods (Fall 2014, with Rachelle Brooks)
Politics of the Middle East (Spring 2014, with Wendy Pearlman)
International Development (Winter 2014, 2015, with Brian Hanson)
Dostoevsky (Spring 2013, with Saul Morson)

AFFILIATIONS

APSA MENA Fellow - 2020
Doctoral Fellow - Max Weber Stiftung, Orient-Institut Beirut
Research Affiliate - Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, American University of Beirut
Graduate Affiliate – Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University

SERVICE

Multi-Section Coordinator, POLS 1001/2003, Department of Political Science, American University in Cairo (2020)
Graduate Committee, Department of Political Science, American University in Cairo (2019-2020)
Core Curriculum Advisory Committee, American University in Cairo (2019-2021)
Library Committee, American University in Cairo (2020-2021)
Annual Political Science Conference Committee, American University in Cairo (2020-2021)
Peer reviewer for *Arab Studies Journal*
Middle East Research and Information Project (MERIP), Futures Committee (2017)
Assistant Master – Northwestern University Residential College of Cultural and Community Studies (2013-2015)
Co-Chair – Northwestern University MENA Graduate Group (2013-2014)
Board, Northwestern University Student Parent Alliance (2014-2016)
Faculty Advisor, Student Book Club, American University of Beirut (2008-2010)

LANGUAGE SKILLS

French – fluent
Arabic (MSA, Levantine) – proficient
Swedish – intermediate
Turkish – advanced beginner
Swahili – advanced beginner

FIELDWORK

Lebanon (greater Beirut, Shouf, Aley) – 3+ years
Turkey (Istanbul, Gaziantep, Antakya) – 1+ year
Tunisia (Tunis, Shousha border refugee camp) – 1 month
Rwanda (Kigali) – 2 months
Democratic Republic of Congo – 6 months
Germany (Berlin) – 1 month

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Online Summer Institute, Center for Learning and Teaching, AUC, Summer 2020
Teaching Enhancement Certificate, Center for Learning and Teaching, AUC, Fall 2019
Digital Islamic Humanities: Textual Corpora and the Islamic Humanities, Brown University, 2014

Doctoral Dissertation Summer Workshop: Researching Lebanon, Arab Studies Institute
& Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, American University of Beirut,
2016

Intensive Turkish language study: Dilmer Language Teaching Center, Istanbul, Fall 2015.
Swahili language training, Amani Language Institute, Goma, DRC, Fall 2016.

PRESENTATIONS

- “How Bashar al-Asad Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the “War on Terror,”” APSA, 2020; AUC, November 4, 2019; MPSA 2019*; Durham University, June 2020* (canceled due to Covid-19)
- “Cohesion and Fragmentation in Syria’s Civil War,” Department of Political Science, University of Alabama, April 9, 2020* (canceled due to Covid-19)
- “Communities and Conflict in Lebanon and Syria: A Minority Report,” American University in Cairo, March 6, 2019.
- “Rojava: Tensions between Democratic Confederalism and State-Building in Northern Syria,” Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, American University of Beirut, November 8, 2018.
- “The Evolution of Rojava: Nation and State Building in Wartime Syria,” Serbest Kurdish Studies Conference, Buffett Institute for Global Studies, June 1-2, 2018
- “Minority Group Strategies in Times of Conflict,” ISA, April 2018 (San Francisco)
- “Minority Agency: Ethnic Institutions & Conflict Narratives in Syria and Lebanon,” International Conference on Middle Eastern and North African Studies: Dynamics of Inclusion and Exclusion in the MENA, March 10-12, 2018 (Marrakesh Morocco)
- “Minority groups in times of conflict: Civil war in Lebanon and Syria,” Midwest Political Science Association, 2014.
- “Navigating civil war: Sub-Saharan migrants in Libya,” Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, 2013.