

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 Confederation 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.
2020. “Teaching the Middle East in the Middle East.” *Middle East Studies Pedagogy Initiative Newsletter*. Vol 1., No. 3, October.
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: State violence in Egypt and Syria” (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

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

- Comparative Politics of 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 (TA)

- 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) – advanced proficiency
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.