

SEAN LEE

Department of Political Science
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

07/19 – present **The American University in Cairo** Cairo, Egypt
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

EDUCATION

2019 **PhD – Political Science**
NORTHWESTERN UNIVERSITY: Evanston, IL
Dissertation: *Minorities in Times of Conflict: Civil War in Lebanon and Syria*
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**
UNIVERSITÉ DE LA SORBONNE-NOUVELLE – PARIS III: Paris

2001 **Bachelor of Arts – Psychology, Philosophy and French**
MERCER UNIVERSITY: Macon, GA

BOOK PROJECT

Minority Communities in Times of Conflict: Civil War in Lebanon and Syria (book manuscript in preparation)

REFEREED ARTICLE

“How Bashar al-Asad Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the ‘War on Terror’” (forthcoming, *International Studies Quarterly*)

WORKING PAPERS

“The Ethical and Methodological Consequences of Coding for Identity” (special issue, *Conflict, Security & Development*)
“The Genocide of Others: Making Christians by force in Lebanon.”
“Insurgent Narratives and Insurgent Realities” (with Romain Malejacq and William Reno)

OTHER ARTICLES & BOOK CHAPTERS

2022. "One State, Two Regimes: Israeli Subnational Authoritarianism." *MENA Politics*. Vol 5. No. 1.
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.
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.

REVIEWS

2023. Review of *Armenians Beyond Diaspora: Making Lebanon their Own* by Tsolin Nalbantian. *Mediterranean Politics*, Vol 28, No. 3.
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.

TEACHING

American University in Cairo

- HIST 4188: The History and Politics of Civil War (co-taught with Mark Deets)
- POLS 5251: Comparative Politics of Africa (graduate seminar)
- POLS 5201: Comparative Theory (graduate seminar)
- POLS 5130: Politics of Majorities and Minorities in the Middle East (seminar)
- POLS 4435: State and Society (undergraduate seminar)
- POLS 4405: Comparative Politics of Contemporary Africa (undergraduate seminar)
- POLS 4000: Critical Theory and the Discipline (undergraduate honors seminar)
- POLS 3401: Introduction to Comparative Politics (undergraduate)
- POLS 2401: Introduction to Research Methods in Political Science (undergraduate)

POLS 2096: Political Science Fiction

POLS 1001/2003: Introduction to Political Science (undergraduate)

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

CVSP 208V: Man's Inhumanity to Man: Violence in the 20th century

GRADUATE ADVISING

AUC, Political Science (M.A.)

University of Tübingen & AUC, Comparative & Middle East Politics and Society (M.A.)

FELLOWSHIPS & GRANTS

2022	AUC Faculty Research Grant
2021	APSA MENA Travel Grant
2020	APSA 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 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)

AFFILIATIONS

AUB Center for Arab and Middle East Studies – 2017-2019; 2021-2023

APSA MENA Fellow - 2020

Doctoral Fellow - Max Weber Stiftung, Orient-Institut Beirut – 2018-2019

Graduate Affiliate – Buffett Institute for Global Studies, Northwestern University, 2014-2019

SERVICE

AUC Faculty Senate Representative for Political Science (2021-2023)
AUC Senate, Faculty Affairs Committee (2021-2023)
Multi-Section Coordinator, POLS 1001/2003, AUC (2020 & 2021)
Graduate Committee, Department of Political Science, AUC
Core Curriculum Advisory Committee, AUC
Library Committee, AUC
Annual Political Science Conference Committee, AUC
Peer reviewer for *Arab Studies Journal*, *International Studies Quarterly*; *Comparative Politics*
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

APSA MENA methods seminar, 2021
Online Summer Institute, Center for Learning and Teaching, AUC, 2020
Teaching Enhancement Certificate, Center for Learning and Teaching, AUC, 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, AUB, 2016
Intensive Turkish language study: Dilmer Language Teaching Center, Istanbul, 2015.
Swahili language training, Amani Language Institute, Goma, DRC, 2016.

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

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

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS

- “The Ethical and Methodological Dilemmas of Coding for Identity,” CRS workshop, King’s College, 2023
- “The Genocide of Others: Making Christians by Force in Lebanon” IAGS 2023, AUB summer institute 2023, CRS, King’s College 2023
- “A One-State Reality: Israeli Subnational Authoritarianism” ISA 2022
- “Wars of Secession and Cold War Politics,” invited lecture HIST 2301 Colonial & Postcolonial Africa, April 2021, AUC.
- “Warlord Rebels in Africa,” invited lecture HIST 3302 Violence, War, and Conflict in Modern Africa, April 2021, AUC.
- “Insurgent Narratives and Insurgent Realities,” (with Romain Malejacq) ISA 2021; ISA 2022; CRS King’s College, 2023.
- “How Bashar al-Asad Learned to Stop Worrying and Love the “War on Terror,”” APSA, 2021, 2020; AUC, Nov. 2019; MPSA 2019; Durham University, Dec. 2021; College of Charleston; Western Washington University, Centre College.
- “Communities and Conflict in Lebanon and Syria: A Minority Report,” American University in Cairo, March, 2019.
- “Rojava: Tensions between Democratic Confederalism and State-Building in Northern Syria,” Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies, American University of Beirut, November 2018.
- “The Evolution of Rojava: Nation and State Building in Wartime Syria,” Serbest Kurdish Studies Conference, Buffett Institute for Global Studies, June 2018
- “Minority Group Strategies in Times of Conflict,” ISA 2018
- “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, 2018 (Marrakesh Morocco)
- “Minority groups in times of conflict: Civil war in Lebanon and Syria,” MPSA 2014.
- “Navigating civil war: Sub-Saharan migrants in Libya,” Program of African Studies, Northwestern University, 2013.