

HILARY MATFESS

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

United States Institute of Peace, Washington D.C.

September 2019 - June 2020

· Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar Fellow

EDUCATION

Yale University, Ph.D., Political Science

Spring 2021 (expected)

Dissertation: “*Women at War, Women at Peace: The Implications of Women’s Participation in Armed Conflict*”

Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies,

M.A., International Economics and African Regional Studies

2015

Johns Hopkins University, B.A., International Studies

2014

PUBLICATIONS

Women and the War on Boko Haram, Zed Books, (2017).

- Reviewed in *Africa, the Journal of Modern African Studies, Human Rights Quarterly, African Studies Review*, and *Global Africana*

“Part and Parcel? Examining Al Shabaab and Boko Haram’s Violence Targeting Civilians and Violence Targeting Women.” *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* (2020): 1-19.

“In Plain Sight: The Neglected Linkage between Brideprice and Violent Conflict.” *with Valerie Hudson International Security*, 42(1), 7-40.

- This article was included in the seventh edition of “Essential Readings in World Politics” by Mingst, Snyder, and McKibben.
- See also Hudson and Matfess’ “Response” to Cook and Theis in *Conflict Management and Peace Studies*.

“Suicide Squads: The Logic of Linked Suicide Bombings.” *Security Studies* 28, no. 1 (2019): 25-57, *with Jason Warner and Ellen Chapin*

“Boko Haram: History and Context.” In *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of African History*. 2017.

“Institutionalizing instability: The constitutional roots of insecurity in Nigeria’s Fourth Republic.” *Stability: International Journal of Security and Development* 5, no. 1 (2016).

“Rwanda and Ethiopia: Developmental Authoritarianism and the New Politics of African Strong Men.” *African Studies Review* 58, no. 2 (2015): 181-204.

MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

“How Insurgents Become Incumbents: A Case Study of the Legacies of Wartime Governance and the Repression of Civil Society in Ethiopia.” Under Review with *African Affairs*.

“COVID-19 and the Perceived Fairness of Household Division of Labor,” *with Sarah Khan and Annabelle Hutchinson*. Conditionally Accepted at *the Journal of Experimental Political Science*

“COVID-19 and Political Repression,” *With Travis Curtice, Melissa Pavlik, and Don Grasse*. Under Review.

“Grass that Suffers: The Relationship between Political Representation and Violence Targeting Women in Kenya” *with Marie E. Berry and Roudabeh Kishi*. Revise and Resubmit.

BOOK REVIEWS

“Thematic Review: *The Inclusion Calculation: Why Men Appropriate Women’s Representation*. By Melody E. Valdini and *Gender Quotas and Democratic Participation: Recruiting Candidates for Elective Offices in Germany*. By Louise K. Davidson-Schmich. *Forthcoming in Politics and Gender*.

“Ethnic Politics and State Power in Africa: The Logic of the Coup-Civil War Trap,” Phillip Roessler, Cambridge University Press. Reviewed in H-Diplo Roundtable 2019

“Boko Haram: the History of an African Jihadist Movement,” by Alex Thurston, Princeton NJ: Princeton University Press. Reviewed in *Africa* 89, no. 2 (2019): 409–11. doi:10.1017/S0001972019000172

“Strong NGOs and Weak States: Pursuing Gender Justice in the Democratic Republic of Congo and South Africa,” Milli Lake, Cambridge University Press. Reviewed in *African Affairs* 118 no. 470 (2019): 210-211.

“Searching for Boko Haram: A History of Violence in Central Africa,” Scott MacEachern, Oxford University Press. Reviewed in *Anthropological Quarterly* 92, no. 2 (2019): 587-590

“Security in Africa: A Critical Approach to Western Indicators of Threat,” Claire Metelits, Rowman Littlefield Publishers. Reviewed in *PRISM*, Vol. 6, No. 4, *The Struggle for Security in Africa* (2017)

SELECTED POLICY PUBLICATIONS

“Women and Rebel Legitimacy,” with Robert U. Nagel, in “Women and National Security Roundtable,” *Texas National Security Review*. Forthcoming.

“Brokers of Legitimacy: Women in Community Based Armed Groups (CBAGs) in East Africa,” *United States Institute for Peace*, June 2020.

“‘Terribly and Terrifyingly Normal’: Political Violence Targeting Women,” *ACLEDA*, May (2019), with Roudabeh Kishi and Melissa Pavlik.

“Power, elitism, and history: Targeted Killings in Nigeria 2000-2017,” *Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime*, 2018.

‘Child Soldiers in North East Nigeria,’ *Cradled by Conflict: Child Involvement with Armed Groups in Contemporary Conflict*, United Nations University (2017), with Graeme Blair and Chad Hazlett.

“Exploding Stereotypes: The Unexpected Operational and Demographic Characteristics of Boko Haram’s Suicide Bombers,” *West Point Combating Terrorism Center*, (2017), with Jason Warner.

“Boko Haram’s Campaign Against Women,” *Linking the Security of Women and the Security of States*, *Futures Without Violence*, (2017).

SELECTED GENERAL AUDIENCE PUBLICATIONS

“Autocratic governments are using coronavirus as a pretext to clamp down on opponents,” with Travis Curtice, Melissa Pavlik, and Don Grasse. *The Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog*

“Repression in Mozambique Is Stoking an Islamist Insurgency, Risking Wider Unrest,” With Alex Noyes. *World Politics Review*, June 4, 2020.

“COVID and Cooperation: The Latest Canary in the Coal Mine,” With Rebecca Wolfe. *Lawfare*, May 3, 2020.

“What Explains the Rise of Communal Violence in Mali, Nigeria and Ethiopia?” *World Politics Review*, September 11, 2019.

“Why Ethiopia Sailed While Zimbabwe Sank,” With Alexander Noyes, *Foreign Policy*, September 6, 2019.

“Counterproductive Counterinsurgency: Is Mozambique Creating the Next Boko Haram?” With Alexander Noyes, *Lawfare*, September 1, 2019.

“Can Abiy Keep Reforming?” *Lawfare*, July 14, 2019.

“What’s behind Ethiopia’s recent political violence?” *Washington Post Monkey Cage Blog*, July 15, 2019.

“Fixing Ethiopia Requires More Than a New Prime Minister,” *Lawfare*. April 22, 2018.

“No Justice, No Peace: Why Justice Sector Reform is A Critical Part of Counter-Terrorism,” *Stratfor*, February 12, 2018.

FELLOWSHIPS, RESEARCH GRANTS AND AWARDS

Fellowships

Peace Scholar Fellow, United States Institute of Peace, September 2020-June 2021 \$20,000

Research Grants

Folke Bernadotte Academy (DNR 20-00255), 2020-2021 SEK 396,000
(with Jason Lyall, Travice Curtice, and Mara Revkin)

Program on Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Humanitarian Responses Research Grant (2018, 2019) \$4700

MacMillan Pre-Dissertation Fellowship (2018, 2019) \$4500

Lindsay Fellowship for Research in Africa (2018) \$2800

Affiliations

Bridging the Gap New Era Workshop Participant 2020 (deferred due to COVID-19)

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research attendee 2020 (deferred due to COVID-19)

Member of the Folke Bernadotte Academy’s (FBAs) Research Working Groups (RWGs)

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Pre-Doctoral Fellow and Senior Research Associate

- *Center for Global Engagement*
International Republican Institute February 2020 - Present
- Completed desk research and remote interviews for research projects on political party adaptation to digital democracy and political party strategies to adapt to closing space

- Provided editorial and research support to US-government funded projects on democracy and governance
- Liaised with country teams and help manage contractors work streams for long-term projects

Research Analyst

- *Armed Conflict Location and Event Data Project (ACLED)* August 2018 - November 2019
- Produced weekly analysis of conflict trends in Africa and the Middle East
- Contributed to South Sudan, Sudan, and Sahel portions of ACLED's "10 Conflicts to Watch in 2019" report.
- Represented ACLED in interviews with the BBC, the Center for Strategic and International Studies, and other media outlets.

Freelance Short-Term Consultant

- For the Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime, I created dataset of targeted killings in Nigeria from 2000-2017 with more than 1600 observations and produced a policy-relevant report on targeted killings in Nigeria
- For the United States Institute for Peace, I produced a report on women's participation in community based armed groups in East Africa.
- For ORB International, I helped design survey questionnaires for conflict affected communities in North East Nigeria
- For CRS, I helped train local enumerators to conduct Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) and such conducted interviews in North East Nigeria. I also helped produce a report on the impact of conflict on livelihoods in North East Nigeria.
- For the Center for Democracy and Development - West Africa, I assisted with their deradicalization and countering violent extremism projects, in addition to providing editorial support.

Research Analyst

- *Institute for Defense Analyses* June 2016 - January 2017
- Researched and wrote weekly analysis of political, economic, and social developments in sub-Saharan Africa for *Africa Watch*
- Served as a lecturer at the Foreign Service Institute on non-state actors, humanitarian crises, and counter- insurgency/counter-terrorism efforts across the continent

Research Analyst

- *Center for Complex Operations at the National Defense University* May 2015 - May 2016
- Co-edited *Beyond Convergence: World Without Order*, a volume on transnational threats to global security. Co-authored an introductory chapter with Michael Miklaucic and a chapter on alternative governance paradigms with Francis Fukuyama
- Conducted independent research related to women in peace and security, illicit networks, and governance, with a particular emphasis on Sub-Saharan Africa, including fieldwork on conflict and reconciliation. Field work included trips to North East Nigeria

- Assisted with the editing and production of PRISM, a policy journal dedicated to exploring issues related to development, defense, and diplomacy
- Wrote the Africa portion of the 2016 INSS Strategic Assessment for the incoming administration, addressing American strategic priorities in Sub-Saharan Africa

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

“Grass that Suffers: The Relationship between Political Representation and Violence Targeting Women in Kenya,” FBA Folke Research Working Group on Women Peace and Security, January 22 - 24, 2020.

“Same Tune, Different Verse: Al Shabaab and Boko Haram’s Violence Targeting Women,” ISSS-IS Joint Annual Conference, October 19 2019.

“From the Front Lines to the Home Front: Gendering Rebel to Party Transitions,” at the Swedish Folke Bernadotte Academy’s Politics after War: Rebel-to-Party Transformation and Beyond in Stockholm, April 18-19, 2019.

“Backlash to Women’s Empowerment: The Personal is Political,” The American Political Science Association’s Annual Conference, August 30 - September 2, 2018.

“In Plain Sight: The Neglected Role of Brideprice in Catalyzing Instability and Violent Conflict,” the International Studies Association’s Annual Conference, April 4-7, 2018.

“Brideprice and Social Stability,” International Studies Association Annual Conference, April 2018.

“The Boko Haram Insurgency: A mixed methods approach” with Peter Lewis and Nate Allen, the American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 3-6, 2015.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND INTERVIEWS

“Women in Community Based Armed Groups,” United States Institute for Peace RESOLVE network, November 13, 2019.

“Executive Analytic Exchange on the Republic of Nigeria,” United States Department of State, September 27, 2019.

“Does America Need Trade Deals?” *Vox’s The Weeds Podcast*, August 23, 2019.

“Women, War, and Agency,” George Washington University Delta Phi Epsilon Chapter, September 26, 2019.

“Using Body Map Panels to Discuss Sensitive Subjects: A Case Study of South Sudanese Refugees in Uganda,” Yale Council on African Studies and Yale Program on Refugees, Forced Displacement, and Humanitarian Responses, 2019.

“Decoding the Continent,” *CSIS Into Africa Podcast*, January 13, 2019.

Center for Global Development, “Women and the War on Boko Haram,” May 30, 2018.

Ralph Bunch Library Speaker Series at the Department of State, “Women and the War on Boko Haram,” May 24, 2018.

AFRICOM. “Women, Peace, and Security Conference” in conjunction with Operation Flintlock,” April, 2018.

Futures Without Violence, “Implementing Women, Peace, and Security Legislation,” March 2018.

Interview regarding Boko Haram’s Use of Female and Underage Suicide Bombers, *CNN*, August 2017.

“New Research Finds a Link Between the Cost of Getting Married and the Outbreak Violent Conflict,” *Global Dispatch Podcast*, August 2017.

“A conversation with Hilary Matfess on women and Boko Haram.” *Ufahamu Africa Podcast*, November 19, 2017.

AFRICOM, “Gender and Insurgency in Nigeria,” May 2017.

Futures Without Violence. “Linking the Security of Women and the Security of States.” April 27, 2017.

Africa Research Institute. “History and Memory in Boko Haram,” October 5, 2016.

FIELD WORK

Nigeria (multiple trips between 2014-2017); Rwanda 2014; Uganda 2018; Ethiopia (multiple trips between 2018-2020).

TEACHING

Discussion Leader and Teaching Assistant — Introduction to African Politics.

Yale University, Spring 2020

- Held weekly sections to review course material and supplementary activities designed to supplement lectures
- Facilitated in-section debates about relevant topics like structural adjustment programs and helped students prepare materials for a mock peace negotiation modeled after South Sudan
- Helped pivot classes to an entirely online format, working to provide asynchronous learning options for students around the globe

Writing Intensive Teaching Assistant — Sex, Markets, and Power.

Yale University, Fall 2019

- Held weekly sections to review course material on gendered political economy, including topics such as sex work, division of labor in the home, and women’s participation in politics
- Offered undergraduate students instruction in how to write a social science research paper, offering written and one-on-one feedback on their research proposals, first drafts, and final products
- Discussed with students how to identify, assess, and analyze primary and secondary data sources as social scientists

Teaching Assistant — Comparative National Systems.

Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies, Fall 2014 Spring 2015

- Held weekly sections to review foundational concepts in comparative politics, organized exam review sessions, and graded final exams

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Member of the Research Working Groups (RWG), Folke Bernadotte Academy, Stockholm Sweden.

Student Coordinator of the Comparative Politics Workshop 2018-2019.

Student Organizer of the Boston-Area Working Group in African Political Economy 2019 Conference at Yale University

Reviewer, *European Journal of International Security*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Global Society*, *Critical Studies on Terrorism*, and *African Studies Review*