

Megan A. Stewart

Curriculum Vitae

University of Michigan
Ford School of Public Policy
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Academic Positions

Associate Professor, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy and Department of Political Science (joint), University of Michigan, 2022-Present

Interim Director, International Policy Center, University of Michigan, AY 2023-2024

Associate Professor (by courtesy), Political Science, University of Michigan, 2022-2026

Assistant Professor, School of International Service, American University, 2017-2022

Fellow, John Sloan Dickey Center, Dartmouth College, 2020-2021

Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Politics Department, University of Virginia, 2016-2017

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow, Brookings Institute, 2015-2016

Education

Ph.D., Government, Georgetown University, 2016.

Dissertation: "The Determinants of Rebel Public Goods Provision."

Recognition and Awards: Defended with Distinction (Georgetown); 2018 Winner for Walter Isard Best Dissertation in Peace Science (Peace Science Society)

Committee: Daniel Byman (Chair), Desh Girod, Daniel Nexon

M.A. in passing, Government, Georgetown University, 2012

B.A., *magna cum laude*, Politics and Journalism, New York University, 2010

Peer-Reviewed Publications

BOOKS

Megan A. Stewart. *Governing for Revolution: Social Transformation in Civil War.* 2021. Cambridge University Press.

Recognition: Winner of APSA's Conflict Processes Section Best Book Award (2024); Honorable Mention for International Security Studies Section Best Book Award (2023); Short-listed for Conflict Research Society Book of the Year (2022)

Reviewed in: Perspectives on Politics (Laia Balcells); *H-Diplo Roundtable* (Melissa Lee, Katherine Sawyer, Paul Staniland), *Civil Wars* (Daniel Rincón Machón), *Journal of Development Studies* (Ulaş Erdoğan)

PAPERS

Megan A. Stewart and Karin E. Kitchens. "Redistribution after War: Evidence from the U.S. Civil War." Accepted. *American Journal of Political Science*.

Megan A. Stewart. "Revolutionizing Time, Reforging Social Orders: Statebuilding Success and the Enforcement of Symbolic Programs in Revolutionary France." Forthcoming, *International Organization*.

Megan A. Stewart and Karin E. Kitchens. 2024. "Explaining Variation in Political Officeholding by Marginalized Groups: Evidence from Contraband Camps." *Journal of Politics*. 86(4): 1260-1276.

Megan A. Stewart. 2023. "Foundations of the Vanguard: The Origins of Leftist Rebel Groups." *European Journal of International Relations*. 29(2): 398-426.

Conrad, Justin, Liana Reyes-Reardon and **Megan A. Stewart**. "Revisiting Opportunism in Civil Conflict: Natural Resource Extraction and Health Care Provision." 2022. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 66(1): 91-114

Megan A. Stewart and Karin E. Kitchens. 2021. "Social Transformation and Violence: Evidence from U.S. Reconstruction." *Comparative Political Studies*. 54(11): 1939-1983.

Zachariah Mampilly and **Megan A. Stewart**. 2021. "A Typology of Rebel Political Institutional Arrangements." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 65(1): 15-45.

Dani Nedal, **Megan A. Stewart**, and Michael Weintraub. 2020. "Urban Concentration and Civil War." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 64(6): 1146-1171.

Megan A. Stewart. 2020. "Rebel Governance: Military Boon or Military Bust? (Isard Award Article)." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 37(1): 16-38.

Megan A. Stewart. "Civil War as State-Making: Strategic Governance in Civil War." 2018. *International Organization*. 72(1): 205-226.

Honorable Mention: Best Paper Award (2016), APSA Conflict Processes Section

D.J. Flynn and **Megan A. Stewart**. "Secessionist Social Services Reduce the Public Costs of Civilian Killings: Experimental Evidence from the United States and United Kingdom." 2018. *Research & Politics*. 5(4): 1-10.

Megan A. Stewart and Yu-Ming Liou. "Do Good Borders Make Good Rebels? Foreign Territorial Control and Civilian Casualties." 2017. *Journal of Politics*. (79)1: 284-301.

Desh Girod, **Megan A. Stewart** and Meir R. Walters "Mass Protests and the Resource Curse: The Politics of Demobilization in Rentier Autocracies." 2018. *Conflict Management and Peace Science*. 5(5): 503-522.

In Review or Revision

Claire Brunel and **Megan A. Stewart**. "The Distributional Politics of Inventing: Evidence from Women's Labor Force Participation in World War II."

Megan A. Stewart. "Revolution Reconsidered: An Alternative Approach to Understanding Revolutions."

Works in Progress

Megan A. Stewart. *TBD: Explaining the Success of Radical Projects to Transform the Social Order.* Book manuscript with data collection underway.

Sara M. Polo, Liana Eustacia Reyes, **Megan A. Stewart**, and Jessica Braithwaite. "Two Sides of the Same Coin? Examining the Use of Terrorism by Governing Rebels."

Editor Reviewed

Megan A. Stewart, Jon Petkun, and Mara Revkin. "The Progressive Case for American Power." *Foreign Affairs*. July/August 2024.

Megan A. Stewart. "One Perspective on the Evolution of Civil Wars Research." 2023. *Civil Wars* 25 (2-3): 208-228.

Megan A. Stewart. "Identity, Networks, and Learning in the Study of Rebel Governance." Conclusion for special issue in *Small Wars and Insurgencies*. January 2023.

Megan A. Stewart. "The Islamic State as a Revolutionary Rebel Group: IS' Governance and Violence in a Global Historical Context." Book Chapter for *Oxford Handbook of Politics in Muslim Societies* Edited by Melani Cammett and Pauline Moore.

Book Reviews

Review of "Good Rebel Governance: Revolutionary Politics and Western Intervention in Syria" by Dipali Mukhopadhyay and Kimberly Howe. *Ethics & International Affairs*. 1 January 2024.

Review of "Confronting Saddam Hussein" by Melvyn Leffler. *H-Diplo Roundtable*. September 2023.

Review of "On Dangerous Ground: A Theory of Bargaining, Border Settlement, and Rivalry" by Toby Rider and Andrew Oswiak. *Political Science Quarterly*. January 2022.

Review of "Crippling Leviathan" by Melissa Lee. *International Studies Review*. November 2021.

Review of "Strategic Targeting of Terrorist Organizations" by Jenna Jordan. *Texas National Security Review*. November 2021.

Review of "Return of the Barbarians: Confronting Non-State Actors from Ancient Rome to the Present" by Jakub Grygiel. *H-Diplo, H-Net Reviews*. January 2019.

"Comparing International Systems in World History: Anarchy, Hierarchy, and Culture." *International Studies Quarterly* Symposium. November 2017.

Policy and Media Publications

"Advancing the Progressive Vision during Opposition." *Blue Blaze*. 20 July 2025.

"What's at stake if Turkey invades Syria, again ." *Middle East Institute*. 7 December 2022.

"Warnings of 'Civil War' Risk Harming Efforts Against Political Violence." *War on the Rocks*. 18 January 2022.

"America's reputation and local actors in a trust vacuum." *Middle East Institute*. 20 October 2021.

"What's next in Afghanistan? The prospects for future political violence." *Middle East Institute*. 19 August 2021.

"US history shows that progress towards racial equity has been met with violent backlash from whites trying to keep power." *London School of Economics U.S. Public Policy Blog*. 13 April 2021.

"In Search of Recruits, Neo-Nazis Turn to Islamists' Social Service Provision." *Political Violence at a Glance*. 30 January 2018.

"Beyond the State: Ordering as a Scalable Process." *International Studies Quarterly Online Symposium on: Comparing International Systems in World History: Anarchy, Hierarchy, and Culture*. (2017).

"The Islamic State: Caliphate Interrupted, but not Defeated." *Sustainable Security*. Oxford Research Group. 25 August 2017.

"The Legacy of Reconstruction and Occupation After the US Civil War." *Political Violence at a Glance*. 15 August 2017.

"THE GOVERNANCE NEXUS: Surveying the Research on Violent Extremism, Governance Failures, and the Quest for Political Legitimacy." *United States Institute of Peace*. Resolve Network. (2017)

"Trump's plan for Syria safe zones could put civilians at even more risk." *Washington Post's The Monkey Cage* blog. 23 February 2017.

"The Global-Theater Security Cooperation Management Information System: Assessment and Implications for Strategic Users." *RAND Report RR-1680-DSCA*.

"Why the Islamic State is so Bad at Being a State." *Political Violence at a Glance*. 22 December 2015.

"What's So New About the Islamic State's Governance?" *Project on Middle East Political Science, POMEPS Studies* 9, October, 2014. Also featured in an October 7, 2014 post on the *Monkey Cage*.

"Case Study on Rwandan Genocide," Political Instability Task Force Casebook on Genocide.

"Case Study on Haitian Political Violence (1991-1994)," Political Instability Task Force Casebook on Genocide.

Grants, Scholarships, and Other Awards

Institute of Social Research Grant for research on Open Migration (2025)

Best Book Award, Conflict Processes Section, American Political Science Associate (2024)

Honorable mention for best book of the year, International Security Studies Section, International Studies Association (2023)

Shortlist for best book of the year, Conflict Research Society (2022)

SIS Outstanding Scholarship, Research, and Creative Activities, American University (2021)

Ostrom Fund Centennial Center Research Grant [with Karin Kitchens], American Political Science Association (2020)

Walter Isard Dissertation Award, Peace Science Society (2018)

Dean's Summer Research Award, American University (2017)

Honorable Mention, Best Paper Award, APSA Conflict Processes Section (2016)
 Graduate School Dissertation Research Travel Grant, Georgetown University (2015)
 Behavioral Research Grant [with DJ Flynn], Qualtrics
 Edwin J. Beinecke, Jr. Scholarship in International Affairs, Harry Truman Foundation (2015-2016)
 Summer Research Award, Georgetown University (2014)
 Summer Methods Training Grant, Georgetown University (2012)
 Phi Beta Kappa (2010 Inductee)
 John Peter Zenger Excellence in Writing Award, New York University (2010)
 June Schlesinger Katz International Research Scholar Award, New York University (2010)
 Presidential Honors Scholar, New York University (2007-2010)

Invited Presentations

2026: Virginia Tech
 2025: Ohio State University, Radboud University, Institute of Advanced Study Toulouse, Oxford University, Université de Montréal
 2023: Dartmouth College, University of Maryland
 2021: Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas, Dartmouth College, Vanderbilt University, George Washington University
 2020: University of Virginia
 2019: Cornell University, University of Maryland, UC Santa Barbara
 2018: Upsalla University
 2017: Online Peace Science Consortium, SUNY Binghamton, DC-Area International Relations Workshop, University of Virginia
 2016: Georgetown University, Notre Dame, Yale University
 2015: Geneva Call and Protect Education in Insecurity and Armed Conflict

Conference Presentations

American Political Science Association: 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2024, 2025
International Studies Association: 2013, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2019, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2025, 2026 [Planned]
Peace Science Society-International: 2016, 2018, 2020, 2022, 2023, 2024
European Political Science Association: 2019, 2023
ISSS-IS Annual Conference: 2017, 2019
Conflict Research Society: 2018
New York University Alexander Hamilton Center Graduate Student Conference: 2015
Midwest Political Science Association: 2013, 2014

Teaching

University of Michigan

- "Conflict and Security Pro-Seminar," Doctoral-level (F25)
- "Politics of Public Policy," Masters-level (F22, F23, F24, F25)
- "Values and Ethics of Foreign Policy" Undergraduate-level (F22, F23, F24, F25)
- "Global Security," Undergraduate/Masters-level (W24)

American University

- "Advanced International Relations," Doctoral-level (S20)
- "International Affairs Statistics and Methods," Masters-level (S18-S20; F21-22)
- "Strategies of Rebellion: From Mao to ISIS," Undergraduate-level (F17, S18, S19, F19)
- "Statebuilding and Intervention in Civil War," Undergraduate-level (S19)

Georgetown University

- "Introduction to International Relations," Undergraduate-level (Summer 2013, 2014).

Service

Professional

Board Member: Correlates of War, Peace Science Society, Women in Conflict Studies

Section Chair: Democracy and Autocracy Section, Foreign Policy Processes Section, APSA

Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *World Politics*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *International Security*, *International Organization*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Journal of Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Security Studies*, *International Theory*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *International Studies Review*, *International Interactions*, *World Development*, *Economic History*

Departmental

University of Michigan: Director of the International Policy Center; Masters Program Committee

American University: Faculty Action Committee, Beyond Student Evaluation of Teaching Committee, Ph.D. Committee, Complex Governance Speaker Series Chair, Olson Scholar Mentor

Georgetown: Women's Caucus At-Large Member, Chair of Georgetown Quantitative Methods Working Group, Vice Chair of Georgetown Quantitative Methods Working Group, Vice President of the Graduate Political Science Association, Treasurer of the Graduate Political Science Association

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, Peace Science Society, Women in Conflict Studies

Research and Technology Skills

Languages: Media-level Arabic, proficient in Spanish and French.

Research Skills: Archival data, lab and survey experiments, statistical analysis, field research experience in Egypt and Lebanon.

Technology Skills: R, Stata and L^AT_EX

Last updated: July 19, 2026