

# Sarah R. Maxey

Perry World House • University of Pennsylvania

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

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2017-2018 Post-Doctoral Fellow, Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania

## EDUCATION

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2017 Ph.D., Government, Cornell University  
International Relations (major), Comparative Politics (minor)  
*Committee:* Matthew Evangelista (chair), Peter Enns, Sarah Kreps, Christopher Way

2015 M.A., Government, Cornell University

2009 B.A., Government and Sociology, Georgetown University, *Summa Cum Laude*

## BOOK MANUSCRIPT

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### **The Humanitarian Discourse of Force: Explaining U.S. Presidents' Justifications for Military Intervention**

Conventional wisdom assumes that national security justifications are the most effective way to bolster support for military action and uniformly persuade the domestic audience. Using an original dataset of justifications for all potential U.S. interventions, 1990-2013, I show that contrary to these expectations U.S. presidents employed humanitarian justifications in every military intervention of the past 25 years. Why are humanitarian justifications prevalent, even in popular, security-driven interventions? To what extent do these justifications facilitate the use of military force?

Combining content analysis, survey experiments, and archival research, I focus on the domestic audience to argue that humanitarian justifications are necessary to build a coalition of support from a public with diverse foreign policy beliefs. As a result of their broad appeal, presidents have an incentive to emphasize humanitarian claims as often as possible; however, the same constituents that make humanitarian justifications necessary also constrain their use. Specifically, individuals with cooperative internationalist values are uniquely influenced by humanitarian claims, but punish leaders who misuse humanitarian explanations. The findings have implications for whose support matters most in the build-up to military interventions and the conditions under which presidents can use moral appeals to obtain this support.

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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“Mechanisms of Morality: Sources of Support for Humanitarian Intervention” with Sarah Kreps, Forthcoming, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*

“Teaching Students to Engage with Evidence: An Evaluation of Structured Writing and Classroom Discussion Strategies” with Steffen Blings. 2017. *Journal of Political Science Education* 13(1): 15-32.

## UNDER REVIEW

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“Knowing Your Audience: Domestic Coalitions and Justifications for Military Intervention”

“Deception and Democratic Accountability: When and How the Public Punishes Leaders Who Lie About Military Action”

## **WORKING PAPERS**

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“Words of Mass Destruction: The Role of Humanitarian Justifications in the Iraq War, 2002-2008”

“Measuring Justifications: A New Approach to Evaluating Presidents’ Attention to Foreign Crises, 1990-2013”

“War of Words: How Presidential Rhetoric and Anti-War Messages Compete for Public Opinion” with Stephen Roblin

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

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“Moral Obligations and Military Intervention” with Sarah Kreps. 26 September 2017. *East West Institute* and *The Diplomat*.

## **GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS**

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2016            Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation

2016            Jesse F. and Dora H. Bluestone Peace Studies Fellowship, Cornell University

2016            American Studies Research Grant, Cornell University

2015            PREPARE Writing Assessment Fellowship, Cornell University

2014-15        Graduate Fellow, Judith Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies

2014            Institute for Social Sciences Small Grant, Cornell University, with Sarah Kreps

2014            Houston I. Flournoy Grant, Cornell University

2011-12        Sage Fellowship, Cornell University

Conference Travel Grants: 2013, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

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Recipient of Campus-Wide 2015 Deanne Gebell Gitner '66 Family Annual Prize for Teaching Assistants, Cornell University

Advisor, Student Fellow Policy Project, Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania (2017-18)

Instructor, Cornell University

AMST 1145    U.S. Foreign Policy Today, First-Year Writing Seminar (Fall 2015)

GOVT 1101    Humanitarian Intervention, First-Year Writing Seminar (Spring 2015)

Math Camp    Department of Government (Summer 2014)

Teaching Assistant, Department of Government, Cornell University

GOVT 3877    Nuclear Security in a Changing World, with Sarah Kreps (Fall 2014)

GOVT 3837    The Cold War, with Matthew Evangelista (Spring 2014)

GOVT 3937    Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies, with Richard Maass (Fall 2013),  
Sarah Kreps (Fall 2012)

GOVT 3867    Causes of War, with Christopher Way (Spring 2013)

## **PROSPECTIVE COURSE OFFERINGS**

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Introduction to International Relations	Public Opinion and Foreign Policy
Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies	Virtue and War
American Foreign Policy	Emerging Security Threats
International Security	Human Rights
International Law	Peace Operations
International Organizations	Politics of Terrorism
Domestic Politics and International Relations	Research Methods

## **CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

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### American Political Science Association Annual Meeting

- 2017 “Knowing Your Audience: How U.S. Presidents Justify Military Interventions”
- 2016 “Teaching Students to Engage with Evidence: An Evaluation of Structured Writing and Classroom Discussion Strategies”
- 2015 “Mechanisms of Morality: Sources of Support for Humanitarian Intervention” with Sarah Kreps
- “Measuring Justifications: A New Approach to Evaluating Presidents’ Attention to Foreign Crises, 1990-2013”
- 2014 “Free to Do Good?: Humanitarian Justifications for Force and Perceptions of Norm Abuse in Iraq, 2003-2008”

### International Studies Association Annual Convention

- 2018 “Persuading Isolationists: The Mechanisms and Limits of Opposition to Military Action” (scheduled)
- “Finding the Water’s Edge: When National Identity Trumps Partisanship in Foreign Policy Attitudes” (scheduled)
- 2017 “Knowing Your Audience: How U.S. Presidents Justify Military Interventions”
- “Deception and Democratic Accountability: The Limits of Justifications for War”
- 2016 “How U.S. Presidents Use Humanitarian Justifications in Contemporary Interventions”
- “Mechanisms of Morality: Sources of Support for Humanitarian Intervention” with Sarah Kreps

### Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting

- 2015 “Distinctly Humanitarian?: Sources of Change and Consistency in U.S. Presidents’ Use of Humanitarian Justifications”
- 2014 “Good Intentions or Empty Rhetoric: Humanitarian Justifications and the U.S. War in Iraq”
- 2013 “Where There’s a Will, Is There a Way?: Domestic Constraints on State Participation in Humanitarian Intervention”

### Other Conferences

- 2014 “Mechanisms of Morality: Why the U.S. Public Supports Humanitarian Interventions” with Sarah Kreps, Workshop on Survey Experiments in Peace Science
- 2009 “Informing and Transforming Peace: Cambodia’s Information Programs as a Source of United Nations Conflict Transformation,” James Madison University Conflict Transformation Conference (Recipient of Top Paper Award)

### **INVITED TALKS & PRESENTATIONS**

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- 2017 “Knowing Your Audience: Domestic Coalitions and Justifications for Military Intervention,” Harvard International Security Conference, Center for Government and International Studies, Harvard University (scheduled)
- 2016 “The Humanitarian Discourse of Force,” Emerging Scholars in Grand Strategy Conference, Notre Dame International Security Center, University of Notre Dame
- “The Experience of Experiments: Some Logistics and the Utility of Mediation and Moderation Analysis in Survey Experiments” April 2016, Methods Brownbag Colloquium, Cornell University
- 2015 “Teaching Students to Engage with Evidence: An Evaluation of Structured Writing and Classroom Discussion Strategies” with Steffen Blings, May 2015, Classroom Research and Teaching Symposium, Cornell University
- 2014 “Humanitarian Discourse and the Use of Force,” October 2014, International Studies in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century: Development, Cooperation, and Security, Stockholm University

### **AWARDS & HONORS**

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- 2015 Deanne Gebell Gitner ’66 Family Annual Prize for Teaching Assistants, Cornell University
- 2009 Karl Cerny Award in Comparative Government, Georgetown University
- 2009 Top Paper Award, Conflict Transformation Conference, James Madison University
- 2009 Elise Boulding Award for Best Student Paper, First Runner-Up, Kent State University
- 2008 Phi Beta Kappa, Delta Chapter of the District of Columbia

### **ADDITIONAL TRAINING AND RESEARCH**

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- 2015 International Laws of War Institute, Cornell University, The Hague
- 2015 Teaching as Research Seminar, Center for Teaching Excellence, Cornell University
- 2014 Teaching Writing Seminar, Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University
- 2014 Writing in the Majors, Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University
- 2014 Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University
- 2013 ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan
- 2008-09 Researcher, Project DC Urban Internship, DC Youth & Government, Washington, DC
- 2006-09 Research Assistant, Center for Social Justice, Research, and Teaching, Washington, DC

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE**

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- 2013-15 Co-facilitator, Graduate Student Research Colloquium, Department of Government, Cornell University
- 2012-15 Graduate Advisor, Cornell International Affairs Review, Cornell University
- 2012-16 Discussant, International Law and International Relations Colloquium, Cornell University
- 2015 Co-facilitator, Pedagogy and Professional Development Group, Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University
- 2014 Founding Instructor, Government Department Math Camp, Cornell University

Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *International Organization*, *Journal of Politics*

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

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American Political Science Association, International Studies Association

## **RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE**

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- 2009-11 Program Director, The Shalom Project, Inc., Winston-Salem, NC
- 2006-09 Staff Assistant, Center for Social Justice, Research, and Teaching, Washington, DC
- 2008 Intern, Office of Congressman Mike McIntyre, Washington, DC

## **REFERENCES AVAILABLE UPON REQUEST**