

Justin Schon

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ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL POSITIONS

College of William and Mary, Senior Research Analyst, AidData, 2021-Present.

University of Virginia, Postdoctoral Researcher, Democratic Statecraft Lab, 2020-2021.
PI: David Leblang.

University of Florida, Postdoctoral Researcher, Department of Anthropology, 2018-2020.
Co-PI: Jeffrey C. Johnson.

EDUCATION

Ph.D. in Political Science, Indiana University, Bloomington, April 2018
Fields: International Relations & Comparative Politics
Dissertation Title: “Bullets, Bombs, and Conversations”
Committee: Karen Rasler (chair), Lauren M. MacLean, William R. Thompson, Jennifer N. Brass

Koc University, MiReKoc (Migration Research Centre), Istanbul, Turkey, 2016
Visiting Researcher

B.A. in Political Science & Economics, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, 2011
Senior Thesis awarded Highest Honors: *The Causes of Refugee Militarization*

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Books

2020. *Surviving the War in Syria: Survival Strategies in a Time of Conflict*, Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Podcast Episodes Discussing the Book:

POMEPS (<https://pomeps.org/surviving-the-war-in-syria-the-arab-spring-at-10-and-public-opinion-surveys-in-the-arab-world>)

WTJU Radio (<https://www.wtju.net/book-interview-surviving-war-syria-survival-strategies-time-conflict/>)

Scope Conditions (<https://www.scopeconditionspodcast.com/episodes/episode-11-surviving-the-syrian-civil-war-with-justin-schon>)

Articles

2021. “Why Physical Barriers Backfire: How Immigration Enforcement Deters Return and Increases Asylum Applications,” with David Leblang, *Comparative Political Studies*.

2021. "How location networks contribute to explanations of the causes, patterns, and consequences of migration," *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.
2021. "How fire patterns reveal uneven stabilization at the end of conflict: Examining Syria's unusual fire year in 2019," with Keren Mezuman, Robert D. Field, Alison Heslin, and Michael J. Puma, Accepted at *Environmental Research Letters*.
2021. "The Consequences of Internal Displacement on Conflict Dynamics: Evidence from Syria," with Adam Lichtenheld, Accepted with *Political Geography*.
2021. "Quantifying Migration Infrastructures: An Analysis of Refugee Flow Networks, 1991-2016," with Jeffrey C. Johnson, Accepted with *PLOS ONE*.
2020. "How pro-government militia ethnic relationships influence violence against civilians," with Yehuda Magid, *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*.
2020. "How narratives and evidence influence rumor belief in conflict zones: Evidence from Syria," *Perspectives on Politics*.
2020. "Spatial Analysis of Bureaucrats' Attempts to Resist Political Capture in a Developing Democracy: The Distribution of Solar Panels in Ghana," with Jennifer N. Brass, Lauren M. MacLean, and Elizabeth Baldwin, *Political Geography*.
2019. "Motivation and opportunity for conflict-induced migration: An analysis of Syrian migration timing," *Journal of Peace Research*, 56(1), 12-27.
2018. "Using ERGMs to Disaggregate Displacement Cascades," *Journal of Social Structure*, 19(1).
2018. "Introducing the African Relational Pro-Government Militias Dataset (RPGMD)," with Yehuda Magid, *International Interactions*, 44(4), 801-832.
2016. "The Centrality of Checkpoints for Civilians during Conflict." *Civil Wars*, 18(3): 281-310.
2015. "Focus on the Forest, Not the Trees: A Change-point Model of Forced Displacement." *Journal of Refugee Studies*, 28(4): 437-467.

NON-PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

- "Contentious migration: How states and migrants use evolving strategies to prevent and enable international migration respectively," APSA Comparative Politics Newsletter, Spring 2021.

2020. "Protecting Refugees in the Middle East from Coronavirus: A Fight against Two Reinforcing Contagions," *POMEPS Studies* 39.
2020. "How Seasonal Migration May Reduce Security Threats from Climate-Induced Migration," Invited Perspective Series, Strategic Multilayer Assessment.
2017. Book review of *A Right to Flee: Refugees, States, and the Construction of International Cooperation*, by Phil Orchard, *Perspectives on Politics*. 15(4): 1200-1201.

PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP

- "Violent Encounters and Social Status Shape the Conditions for Migrants Fleeing Civil War," invited for *Migration Information Source*, Migration Policy Institute, March 4, 2021. (<https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/conditions-migrants-flee-civil-war-syria>)
- "Q&A with Justin Schon on Water, Violence, and Migration," UVA Darden Global Water Blog, February 10, 2021. (<https://blogs.darden.virginia.edu/globalwater/2021/02/10/qa-with-justin-schon-on-water-violence-and-migration/>)
- "How Ghanaian civil servants sought to resist political pressure." with Jennifer N. Brass, Lauren M. MacLean, and Elizabeth Baldwin, *The Conversation*, November 11, 2019. (<https://theconversation.com/how-ghanaian-civil-servants-sought-to-resist-political-pressure-125029?fbclid=IwAR1kRH54zY0-cMBIHqOpIWIwmOIEqDCeeS5GfVpTrTidp346zl6LZnTghM>)
- "How Fires Threaten Syria's security." with Robert D. Field and Michael J. Puma, *New Security Beat*, October 15, 2019. (<https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2019/10/fires-threaten-syrias-security/>)
- "Let's be transparent about refugee and IDP statistics", *OECD Development Matters*, December 19, 2018. (<https://oecd-development-matters.org/2018/12/19/lets-be-transparent-about-refugee-and-idp-statistics/>)
- "Push-pull migration models have long dominated migration research. Here's why that's only half the story", *Political Violence @ a Glance*, October 17, 2018. (<http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2018/10/17/push-pull-migration-models-have-long-dominated-migration-research-heres-why-thats-only-half-the-story/>)
- "Another Escalation in Migrant-EU Contention", *Duck of Minerva*, October 10, 2016. (<http://duckofminerva.com/2016/10/another-escalation-in-migrant-eu-contention.html#more-29361>)
- "How Violence and Uncertainty Can Deter Displacement", *Political Violence @ a Glance*, 9-26-2016. (<https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2016/09/26/how-violence-and-uncertainty-can-deter-displacement/>)

“What new evidence from Somalia tells us about when civilians decided to flee war zones”, *The Monkey Cage*, February 23, 2016. (<https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/02/23/what-new-evidence-from-somalia-tells-us-about-when-civilians-decided-to-flee-war-zones/>)

“The Unintended Consequences of Closing and Restricting Jordan-Syria Border Crossings”, *Syria Comment*, August 14, 2014. (<http://www.joshualandis.com/blog/unintended-consequences-closing-restricting-jordan-syria-border-crossings-justin-schon/>)

“10 Things to Know About Refugees in Jordan”, *Syria Comment*, August 10, 2014. (<http://www.joshualandis.com/blog/10-things-know-refugees-jordan/>)

MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW OR SOON TO BE SUBMITTED

“Climate change and terrorism,” with Stephen Nemeth, Revise and Resubmit for special issue at *Terrorism and Political Violence*.

“Barriers to health care access and provider selection in Haiti,” with Molly B. Klarman, Stace Maples, and Eric J. Nelson, under review.

“Comparing refugee camp vulnerability to infectious disease: An analysis of Zaatari, Kakuma, Dadaab, and Cox’s Bazar,” with David Leblang and Ellen Bassett, under review for special issue at *Disasters*.

“Water, violence, and internal displacement: Evidence from Somalia, 2007-2018,” with Paulina Concha Larrauri and Upmanu Lall, Working Paper.

“How post-traumatic growth affects emotions,” with Jonathan Hall and Dennis T. Kahn, Working Paper.

INVITED TALKS

Princeton University, Princeton, NJ, April 2021 (Zoom).

Georgetown University, Washington, DC, March 2021 (Zoom).

University of Florida, Gainesville, FL, October 2020 (Zoom).

Memorial University, St. John’s, Newfoundland, Canada, August 2020 (recorded video).

European University Institute, Migration Policy Centre, Florence, February 2020.

Sabancı University, Istanbul, June 2018.

New College of Florida, Sarasota, January 2018.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “The time-inconsistency problem of border enforcement,” with David Leblang, Presented at:
University of Pennsylvania Borders and Boundaries workshop, April 2021.
International Studies Association Annual Meeting, April 2021.
- “Water, violence, and internal displacement: Evidence from Somalia, 2007-2018,” with Paulina Concha Larrauri and Upmanu Lall, Presented at:
UCLA Luskin Center Climate Adaptation Conference, September 2020.
Southeastern Regional Seminar on African Studies (SERSAS), January 2020.
- “How physical barriers *increase* refugee flows,” with David Leblang, Presented at:
Southern Workshop on Empirical Political Science (SoWEPS), October 2019.
American Political Science Association Annual Convention, August 2019.
- “The consequences of internal displacement on conflict dynamics: Evidence from Syria,” with Adam Lichtenheld, Presented at:
“Negotiating Displacement: New Perspectives in War, Migration, and Refugee Studies,”
Amsterdam, December 2019.
American Political Science Association Annual Convention, August 2019.
International Studies Association Annual Convention, March 2019.
- “How pro-government militia ethnic relationships influence violence against civilians,” with Yehuda Magid, Peace Science Society Conference, November 2018.
- “Motivation and opportunity for conflict-induced migration,” invited presentation for Violence, Trauma, and Refugees Workshop in Hamburg, Germany, May 2018.
- “Learning during conflict-induced migration: A spatial analysis of geo-coded migration routes for Syrian refugees,” International Studies Association Annual Convention, April 2018.
- “Power to the people, or the MPs? Explaining the manipulation of internal geographic unit boundaries in Ghana”, with Lauren M. MacLean and Jennifer N. Brass, Data-Driven Development in Africa Workshop, State College, PA, May 2017.
- “The Strength of Strong Ties: How Rumor Affects the Coordination of Conflict-Induced Migration,” Conflict and the Migration Cycle Workshop, Hamburg, Germany, April 2016.
- “The Conflict Information Network,” International Studies Association Annual Convention, March 2016.
- “Introducing the African Pro-Government Militia Database”, with Yehuda Magid, International Studies Association Annual Convention, March 2016.

“State Repression and Refugees,” Peace Science Society Conference, November 2015.

“Barriers to Information Diffusion During Conflict: Why Civilians Don’t Share Information with Weak Ties and Can’t Distinguish Signals from Noise,” International Studies Association Annual Conference, February 2015.

“Does Violence Actually Increase Displacement? Uncovering Civilian Security Calculations,” Conflict Consortium Virtual Workshop (Invited Paper), February 2015.

“Surviving Conflict: How Foreign Intervention Affects Displacement Patterns,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, April 2014.

TEACHING

Instructor of Record, University of Virginia, Department of Politics
Migration Politics (Spring 2021)

Instructor of Record, Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Political Science
The Politics of International Development (Spring 2017)

Associate Instructor, Indiana University, Bloomington, Department of Political Science
Research Design (Spring 2016)
Introduction to American Politics (Fall 2014 & Spring 2015)
Introduction to Law (Spring 2013)
American Political Controversies (Fall 2012)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Grant to field survey in Niger, Spring 2021: \$12,500

Benjamin Most Research Award
Summer 2015: \$1000
Summer 2018: \$1000

John Gillespie Research Award
Summer 2015: \$500
Summer 2018: \$500

College of Arts and Sciences Dissertation Completion Fellowship (AY 2017-2018): \$25,000

Ostrom Workshop Research Award
Summer 2014: \$5000
Summer 2016: \$8000

POMEPS Research Award (Summer 2016): \$3000

Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship
AY 2013-2014: \$15,000
Summer 2014: \$5,000

ADDITIONAL METHODOLOGICAL TRAINING

Economic Epidemiology, virtual mini-course, September 2020

Web-Scraping and Data Cleaning in Python, virtual due to COVID-19, August 2020

Network Modelling for Epidemics, virtual due to COVID-19, August 2020

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), Ann Arbor, MI, 2013
Coursework: Time Series Analysis, Maximum Likelihood Estimation, Survival Models

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE & SKILLS

Languages: French (reading, conversational), Arabic (reading), Swahili & Chichewa (basic)

Software: Stata, R, UCINET, ArcGIS, GeoDa, Python

Fieldwork Experience: Turkey (2015 & 2016), Kenya (2015), Jordan (2014), Malawi (2011)

REVIEWER SERVICE

Manuscript Reviews:

- Political Science journals: *American Political Science Review*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *International Security*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *International Interactions*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Comparative Political Studies*
- Interdisciplinary journals: *Nature: Human Behaviour*, *Political Geography*, *Peace and Conflict Studies*, *Third World Quarterly*, *PLOS ONE*, *International Journal of Communication*, *Journal of Hydrology: Regional Studies, Environment and Planning B: Urban Analytics and City Science*, *Journal of Development Studies*, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, *Social Networks*

Grant Reviews: National Science Foundation

CONFERENCE SERVICE

Panel Discussant: ISA 2021, “Disaggregating Conflict-Induced Migration.”

Chair of Full Panel: APSA 2019, “Violence, Integration, and Return.”

Co-organizer, Data Driven Development in Africa Workshop 2018.

Panel Chair: APSA 2017, “The Determinants of Conflict Escalation.”

Panel Discussant: APSA 2017, “Understanding the Dynamics of the Syrian Civil War.”

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

Great Decisions Lecture Series, Columbus, Indiana
Syrian refugee crisis (2015)
Global migration (2016)

REFERENCES

Available upon request