

# DARA KAY COHEN

John F. Kennedy School of Government  
Harvard University  
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## CURRENT ACADEMIC POSITION

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### Harvard University

Cambridge, MA

Ford Foundation Associate Professor (without tenure), Harvard Kennedy School, July 2018-  
Associate Professor (without tenure), Harvard Kennedy School, July 2017-July 2018  
Assistant Professor, Harvard Kennedy School, July 2012-July 2017

## PREVIOUS ACADEMIC POSITION

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### University of Minnesota

Minneapolis, MN

Assistant Professor, Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, July 2010-July 2012  
Instructor, Hubert H. Humphrey School of Public Affairs, August 2009-June 2010

## EDUCATION

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### Stanford University

Stanford, CA

Ph.D. Political Science, June 2010

*Dissertation Title:* "Explaining Sexual Violence During Civil War"

*Dissertation Committee:* James Fearon (chair), Jeremy Weinstein, Scott Sagan

- Best Dissertation Award, Women and Politics Section, American Political Science Association (2011)

### Brown University

Providence, RI

A.B. Political Science and A.B. Philosophy, 2001

*Magna Cum Laude* (highest Latin honors), Honors in Political Science

## BOOKS

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*Lynching and Local Justice: The Political Economy of Legitimacy and Accountability in Weak States* (with Danielle Jung), forthcoming at Cambridge University Press, *Cambridge Elements: Political Economy* series, ed. David Stasavage

*Rape During Civil War* (Cornell University Press, August 2016)

- Theodore J. Lowi Best First Book Award, American Political Science Association (2017)
- International Security Studies Section Best Book Award, International Studies Association (2018)
- Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Section Best Book Prize, International Studies Association (2018)
- Finalist, Woodrow Wilson Award, American Political Science Association (2017)
- Honorable Mention, Conflict Research Society Book of the Year Prize (2018)

• Reviewed in *Journal of Politics* (January 2017); *Journal of Peace Research* (February 2017); *Foreign Affairs* (April 2017); *Revista CIDOB d'Afers Internacionals* (December 2017); *Monkey Cage* African Politics Summer Reading Spectacular (June 2018); *Perspectives on Politics*, Critical Dialogue series (Volume 16(3), September 2018); H-Diplo ISSF Roundtable (December 2018)

## ARTICLES

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"Rape Culture and Its Effects: Evidence from U.S. Newspapers, 2000-2013" (with Matthew Baum and Yuri Zhukov) *Quarterly Journal of Political Science* 13 (3): 263-289 (September 2018).

“The Ties That Bind: How Armed Groups Use Violence to Create Social Cohesion,” *Journal of Peace Research* 54(5): 701-714 (September 2017).

“Do States Delegate Shameful Violence to Militias? Evidence from Recent Armed Conflicts,” (with Ragnhild Nordås) *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 59(5): 877-858 (August 2015).

“Sexual Violence in Armed Conflicts: Introducing the SVAC Dataset, 1989-2009,” (with Ragnhild Nordås) *Journal of Peace Research* 51(3): 418-428 (May 2014).

“Explaining Rape During Civil War: Cross-National Evidence (1980-2009),” *American Political Science Review* 107(3): 461-477 (August 2013).

- Recipient of 2014 Heinz I. Eulau Award, presented annually for the best article published in the *APSR*

“Female Combatants and the Perpetration of Violence: Wartime Rape in the Sierra Leone Civil War,” *World Politics* 65(3): 383-415 (July 2013). (Lead article)

“Dueling Incentives: Sexual Violence in the Liberian Civil War and the Politics of Human Rights Advocacy,” (with Amelia Hoover Green) *Journal of Peace Research* 49(3): 447-460 (May 2012).

“Color Bind: Lessons from the Failed Homeland Security Advisory System,” (with Jacob Shapiro) *International Security* 32(2): 121-154 (Fall 2007).

“Crisis Bureaucracy: Homeland Security and the Political Design of Legal Mandates,” (with Mariano-Florentino Cuéllar and Barry R. Weingast) *Stanford Law Review* 59(3): 673-760 (December 2006).

## **MANUSCRIPTS UNDER REVIEW**

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“Does More Equality for Women Mean Less War? Sex, Gender Inequality and Political Violence” (revise and resubmit)

“At War and At Home: How Women Dying in Combat Shapes Perceptions of Equality” (with Connor Huff and Robert Schub)

“Dilemmas of Desk Research: The Ethics of Secondary Sources in Political Violence Research” (with Amelia Hoover Green)

“(Sex) Crime and Punishment: How Legally Irrelevant Details Influence Rape Reporting and Sanctioning Decisions” (with Matthew Baum and Susanne Schwarz)

## **WORK IN PROGRESS**

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“Who Supports War and Why? Status Concerns as a Source of the Gender Gap” (with Danielle Jung)

“Does Membership Matter? How Armed Group Composition Influences Public Support” (with Danielle Jung)

“After the Quake: Political and Social Consequences of the 2010 Haitian Earthquake” (with Danielle Jung and Danielle Villa)

“Conflict-Related Sexual Violence” (with Ragnhild Nordås) (invited contribution, *Annual Review of Political Science*, to appear in Volume 24, May 2021)

## **AWARDS, HONORS AND FELLOWSHIPS**

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2019 International Security Studies Section Emerging Scholar Award to recognize scholars who have made (through their body of publications) the most significant contribution to the field of security studies, International Studies Association

2018 International Security Studies Section Best Book Award for the best book on any aspect of security studies that excels in originality, significance, and rigor, International Studies Association

- 2018 Feminist Theory and Gender Studies Best Book Prize for the best book published in the preceding two calendar years that excels in originality, impact, and rigor towards furthering feminist theory and gender studies within the discipline of international relations, International Studies Association
- 2018 Honorable Mention, Conflict Research Society Book of the Year Prize
- 2017 Theodore J. Lowi Award for the best first book in any field of political science, American Political Science Association
- 2017 One of seven finalists (of 150+ nominees) for the Woodrow Wilson Foundation Award for the best book on government, politics or international affairs, American Political Science Association
- 2014 Heinz I. Eulau Award for the best article published in 2013 in the *American Political Science Review*, American Political Science Association
- 2011 Best Dissertation Award, Women and Politics Section, American Political Science Association
- 2008-2009 Peace Scholar Dissertation Fellowship, United States Institute of Peace
- 2008-2009 Geballe Dissertation Prize Fellowship, Stanford Humanities Center (2008-2009) (Declined)  
• Awarded to eight Stanford graduate students per year in the School of Humanities and Sciences
- 2008-2009 Zukerman Fellowship and Predoctoral Fellowship, CISAC, Stanford University
- 2007 Morris J. Abrams Award for Dissertation Research in International Relations
- 2007-2008 Graduate Dissertation Fellowship, Clayman Institute for Gender Research, Stanford University
- 2005-2006 Predoctoral Fellowship, CISAC, Stanford University
- 2004-2005 Organizational Learning for Homeland Security Graduate Fellowship, CISAC, Stanford University
- 2001 Best Senior Honors Thesis in American Politics, Department of Political Science, Brown University

## **POLICY REPORTS AND ANALYSES**

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- 2013 “Wartime Sexual Violence: Misconceptions, Implications, and Ways Forward,” *USIP Special Report* (with Amelia Hoover Green and Elisabeth Wood), February.
- 2012 “Sexual Violence by African Militias,” *PRIO Policy Brief* (with Ragnhild Nordås), December.
- 2012 “Sexual Violence in African Conflicts, 1989-2009: What the Data Show,” *PRIO Policy Brief* (with Ragnhild Nordås), December.
- 2011 “Wartime Sexual Violence: Challenges and Opportunities for Data Collection and Analysis,” *PRIO Policy Brief* (with Ragnhild Nordås), February.

## **OP-EDS, BLOG POSTS & OTHER WRITING**

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- 2018 “The Way Kavanaugh’s Supporters Are Talking about Sexual Assault Allegations Can Be Dangerous, Our New Study Finds,” *Monkey Cage* blog post (with Matthew Baum, Susanne Schwartz and Yuri Zhukov), September 27.
- 2016 “Women’s Rights Are a National Security Issue,” *New York Times* op-ed (with Valerie Hudson), December 26.
- 2016 “Were 75% of Liberian Women and Girls Raped? No. So Why Does the UN Keep Repeating That Misleading Statistic?” *Monkey Cage* blog post (with Amelia Hoover Green), October 26.
- 2016 “Is Sexual Violence During War Exceptional—or a Continuation of Everyday Violence?” *International Studies Quarterly* symposium (online) (with Elisabeth Wood), July 12.
- 2015 “Governments Don’t Outsource Atrocities to Militias. Here’s What Really Happens,” *Monkey Cage* blog post (with Jessica Stanton and Ragnhild Nordås), December 22.
- 2015 “How to Counter Rape During War,” *New York Times* op-ed (with Elisabeth Wood), October 28.

- 2014 “Four Things Everyone Should Know About Wartime Sexual Violence,” *Monkey Cage* blog post (with Ragnhild Nordås and Elisabeth Wood), June 9.
- 2012 “Is Wartime Rape Declining On a Global Scale? We Don’t Know—And It Doesn’t Matter,” *Duck of Minerva* and *Political Violence at a Glance* blog posts, (with Amelia Hoover Green and Elisabeth Wood) November 1.  
 • Selected as Runner-up, 2013 Outstanding Achievement in International Studies Best Blog Post Prize
- 2012 “Ask the Experts: Preventing Sexual Violence,” Power, Politics, and Preventive Action Blog, *Council on Foreign Relations* (with Elisabeth Wood), June 11.
- 2011 “Rape Reporting During War: Why the Numbers Don’t Mean What You Think They Do,” *Foreign Affairs* (online) (with Amber Peterman, Tia Palermo and Amelia Hoover Green), August 1.

## **GRANTS (PREVIOUS TEN YEARS)**

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- 2018-2019 Folke Bernadotte Research Grant, UNSCR 1325 Program, “Women, Peace and Security: What Are the Mechanisms?” (with Danielle Jung)
- 2017 Timeshare Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS), “Uncovering Bias in the Adjudication of Rape Cases in the U.S.” (with Matthew Baum and Susanne Schwarz) (TESS-0871)
- 2016-2018 Folke Bernadotte Research Grant, UNSCR 1325 Program, “Violence, Security and Gender: Survey Evidence from Haiti” (with Danielle Jung)
- 2016-2017 Faculty Research Grant, David Rockefeller Center for Latin American Studies, Harvard University
- 2016-2017 Faculty Research Grant, Carr Center for Human Rights, Harvard Kennedy School
- 2016-2017 Distinguished Research Faculty Associate for Semester Leave, Weatherhead Center, Harvard University
- 2015-2017 Medium Grant for Faculty Research, Weatherhead Center, Harvard University
- 2014-2015 Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Exploratory Seminar Grant, “Women’s Participation in Violent Political Organizations”
- 2014-2015 Folke Bernadotte Research Grant, UNSCR 1325 Program, “Causes and Effects of Rape Culture: Global Evidence from News and Social Media” (with Matthew Baum and Yuri Zhukov)
- 2013-2014 Dean’s Research Fund Award, Harvard Kennedy School, “Causes and Consequences of Rape Culture”
- 2011-2014 National Science Foundation, “Sexual Violence in Armed Conflict” (SES-1123964) (\$245,000)  
 • Principal Investigator, part of a collaboration with researchers at PRIO and several other scholars
- 2011 European Studies Consortium Faculty Travel Grant (for travel to PRIO), University of Minnesota
- 2010-2012 Grant-in-Aid of Research, Scholarship and Artistry, University of Minnesota
- 2008-2009 O’Bie Shultz Dissertation Completion Grant, Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford University
- 2007 National Science Foundation, Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant (SES-0720440) (\$12,000)
- 2007-2008 O’Bie Shultz Dissertation Research Travel Grant, Freeman Spogli Institute, Stanford University
- 2007 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting Graduate Travel Grant

## **RECENT INVITED TALKS (PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS)**

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- 2020 Cornell University, Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, February 6 (planned).
- 2019 University of Michigan, Political Science Department, Rubin Speaker Series, March 11.
- 2018 Princeton University, Politics Department, Qualitative Research Colloquium, December 11.
- 2018 Duke University, Security, Peace and Conflict Workshop, April 26.

- 2018 Boston College, International Relations Speaker Series, April 17.
- 2018 Brown University, Taubman Center for American Politics and Policy Seminar, March 1.
- 2017 George Washington University, Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, Elliott School, October 16.
- 2017 University of Amsterdam, Amsterdam Research Centre for Gender and Sexuality, February 16.
- 2016 Yale University, International Relations Seminar, April 28.
- 2016 Purdue University, Sears Fellowship Lecture, March 3-5.
- 2016 Emory University, International Relations Seminar, February 25.
- 2015 McGill University, Centre for International Peace and Security Studies Seminar, October 23.
- 2015 Northeastern University, Security and Resilience Studies Lecture Series, October 6.
- 2015 University of Chicago, Program on International Security Policy, May 5.
- 2015 Georgetown University, International Theory and Research Seminar, May 4.
- 2015 University of Wisconsin-Madison, International Relations Seminar, April 30.
- 2015 Princeton University, Security Studies Colloquium, April 23.
- 2015 George Washington University, Virtual Workshop on Intrastate Conflict and Violence, January 22.
- 2014 University of Michigan, Ford School Security Seminar, December 4.
- 2014 Brown University, Watson Institute Security Seminar Series, September 11.
- 2014 German Institute of Global and Area Studies (GiGA), Hamburg, May 19.
- 2014 Uppsala University (Sweden), Department of Peace and Conflict Research Speaker Series, May 15.
- 2014 Northwestern University, Buffett Center for International and Comparative Politics, May 7.
- 2014 University of Pennsylvania, Christopher H. Browne Center for International Politics, May 1.

#### **ACADEMIC WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES (PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS)**

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- 2019 Invited faculty discussant, Empirical Studies of Gender workshop, Yale University, April 25-26 (planned).
- 2018 Invited presentation, The Welfare Non-State workshop, UCSD, June 7-9.
- 2018 Invited presentation, Ethics of Methods in Conflict Research workshop, London School of Economics, May 4.
- 2017 Invited presentation, University of Central Florida, “Gendered Dynamics of International Security,” February 3.
- 2017 Invited presentation, London School of Economics, “Researching Sexual Violence in Conflict: The Politics of Methods and Approaches,” January 27-28.
- 2016 Invited presentation, UNSCR 1325 Working Group Workshop, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Vienna, Austria October 4-6.
- 2016 Invited speaker, “Rape and War” conference, Brown University, April 15-16.
- 2016 Invited panelist, “Gender, Violence and Anti-Violence” conference, Princeton University, April 1-2.
- 2015 Invited presentation, “Bridging Comparative and IR Perspectives on Intrastate Conflict and Violence,” University of Mississippi, November 12.
- 2015 Invited presentation, “Gender, Violence and Coercion,” Arizona State University, October 16-17.
- 2015 Invited participant, “Workshop on Women in Combat Roles Data Project,” American University, June 25.
- 2014 Invited participant, “The Trauma of Perpetrators? The Politics, Ethics and Limits of its Representation,” Yale University, December 10-12.

2014 Invited presentation, “Socialization and Organized Political Violence,” Yale University, October 17-18.

## **POLICY PRESENTATIONS (PREVIOUS FIVE YEARS)**

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- 2019 Invited speaker, European Union External Action Service High Level Academic Roundtable on Women, Peace and Security, European Commission, Brussels, Belgium, June 25.
- 2018 Invited presentation, Measuring Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) in Humanitarian and Development Settings workshop, USAID, November 2.
- 2018 Invited presentation, Folke Bernadotte Academy, Stockholm, Sweden, May 3.
- 2018 Invited presentation, RAND, “Women, the Family and Insurgency,” Arlington, VA, January 17.
- 2016 Invited speaker, “Women and Foreign Policy: Is Everything We Know About Wartime Rape Wrong?” Public lecture, U.S. Department of State, February 19.
- 2015 Invited speaker, “Sexual Violence in Conflict: Why Rape Does Not Have to be a Weapon of War,” Internal briefing, U.S. Department of State, June 26.

## **ANNUAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION**

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American Political Science Association (2019, 2017, 2014, 2013, 2011, 2010, 2008, 2007, 2006, 2005)

International Studies Association (2019, 2018, 2015, 2014, 2013, 2012, 2009, 2006)

Peace Science Society (2018, 2012)

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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- 2013 International Policy Summer Institute, Bridging the Gap Project, American University, June 9-14.
- 2011 Teaching with Writing Faculty Seminar, University of Minnesota, August 22-26.
- 2010 America/Israel Academic Exchange, Tel Aviv and Jerusalem, Israel, July 27-August 3.
- 2007 Institute for Qualitative and Multimethod Research, Arizona State University, January 2-12.
- 2006 New Era Foreign Policy Conference, University of California, Berkeley, March 6-7.

## **TEACHING**

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*Kennedy School, Harvard University*

- IGA-227 Insurgents, Terrorists and Violence: Causes and Consequences of Civil War (Spring 2013; 2015; 2016; 2018 and Fall 2018)
- Recipient of the HKS Teaching Excellence Award (“Dinner on the Dean”) (2015; 2016; S2018; F2018)
- IGA-229 Sex, Violence and Global Politics (Fall 2014, 2015, 2017; Spring 2020)
- Recipient of the HKS Teaching Excellence Award (“Dinner on the Dean”) (2014; 2015; 2017)
- IGA-150Y International and Global Affairs PAC (Policy Area of Concentration) Seminar (AY 2018-19; 2019-20)

*Humphrey School, University of Minnesota*

- PA 5822 International Security (Spring 2010, 2011, 2012)
- PA 5041 Qualitative Research Methods (Fall 2010; Spring 2012)

- PA 5801 Global Public Policy (Spring 2010, 2011)  
 PA 5841 Women, Violence and Armed Conflict (Fall 2009)

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

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### *Kennedy School*

- 2019-2020 Politics Junior Faculty Search Committee, Kennedy School  
 2019 State of the Field Review, Cross-cutting Issues Committee, International & Global Affairs Area  
 2012-2016; 2017-2019 PhD Admissions Committee, Kennedy School  
 2018, 2019 MPP Core Reform Workshop Retreat, Kennedy School  
 2017-2018 Politics Junior Faculty Search Committee, Kennedy School  
 2017-2019 Coordinator, HKS Gender & Security Seminar Series  
 2014-2015 Chair, Security Teaching Review Committee, International & Global Affairs Area, Kennedy School  
 2013 Internship Funding Selection Committee, International & Global Affairs Area, Kennedy School

### *Harvard University*

- 2018 Foreign Language Study Grants Selection Subcommittee, Weatherhead Center  
 2014-2015 Radcliffe Institute 2015 Annual Conference Organizing Committee  
 2013-2014 Mentor, Harvard BLISS (Behavioral Laboratory in the Social Sciences) summer program  
 2012 Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellowships Committee, Harvard College

### *Humphrey School, University of Minnesota*

- 2011-2012 Convener, Political Science/Humphrey School joint seminar series, "Civil War and Political Order"  
 2010-2011 Stassen Chair Search Committee, Humphrey School/Political Science, University of Minnesota  
 2010-2012 Awards and Honors Committee, Humphrey School, University of Minnesota

## **CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS ORGANIZED**

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- 2018 "Peace, War and Governance in Haiti," Peace Science Society Pre-Conference Workshop, University of Texas-Austin, November 8.  
 2014 "Women's Participation in Violent Political Organizations," Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study, Harvard University, September 18-19.  
 2014 "Sexual Violence and Armed Conflict: New Research Frontiers," Harvard Kennedy School, September 2-3.

## PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

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### *Peer Reviewer/Referee*

*African Affairs; American Journal of Political Science; American Political Science Review; British Journal of Political Science; Comparative Politics; Cornell University Press; Civil Wars; Conflict Management and Peace Science; European Journal of International Relations; Geopolitics; International Criminal Justice Review; International Feminist Journal of Politics; International Organization; International Security; International Studies Quarterly; International Studies Review; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Journal of Global Security Studies; Journal of Peace Research; Journal of Politics; Journal of Women's History; The Lancet; National Science Foundation; Perspectives on Politics; Political Studies; Politics and Gender; Security Studies; Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada; Terrorism and Political Violence; Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS); United States Institute for Peace; Violence Against Women*

### *Service to the Profession*

- 2019 APSA, Victoria Schuck Book Award committee  
2016-17 APSA, International Security and Arms Control Dissertation Prize committee  
2018 Book manuscript workshop, Costantino Pischetta, *Conflict Among Rebels*, Princeton, November 16.

### *Policy-oriented Service*

Council on Foreign Relations Advisory Committee on Conflict-Related Sexual Violence  
Research Associate, Sexual Violence During Armed Conflict (SVAC) Project, PRIO  
Steering Committee Member, “The Missing Peace—Sexual Violence in Conflict and Post-Conflict” Conference, United States Institute for Peace  
Expert reviewer, *Women Under Siege Project* and *Human Security Report Project*

## RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

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- 2003 Summer Intern, Economic Policy Section, U.S. Embassy, London, U.K.  
2001-2003 Paralegal Specialist, Outstanding Scholars Program, Counterterrorism Section, U.S. Department of Justice, Washington D.C.

## FIELDWORK

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- Haiti March 2017; May 2017; Fall 2019 (planned)  
Sierra Leone July-August 2006; April-July 2007; March-April 2008  
Timor-Leste January-February 2008; June-August 2012  
El Salvador March-April 2009

*Last updated: August 19, 2019*