

## RENARD SEXTON

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- CONTACT INFORMATION** Department of Political Science, Emory University  
1555 Dickey Drive Atlanta, GA 30322, USA  
renard.sexton@emory.edu – [renardsexton.com](http://renardsexton.com)
- APPOINTMENTS** **Emory University**  
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2019 –  
**International Crisis Group**  
Economics of Conflict Fellow, 2018 – 2019  
**Princeton University**  
Postdoctoral Fellow, Empirical Studies of Conflict, 2018 – 2019  
Postdoctoral Fellow in Regional Political Economy, Niehaus Center, 2017 – 2018
- EDUCATION** **New York University**  
Ph.D., Politics. 2012 – 2017  
**University of Maryland, College Park**  
B.A., Government and Politics (*High Honors, Cum Laude*). 2006 – 2008
- RESEARCH INTERESTS** Conflict, Development, International Relations, Comparative Politics, Quantitative Methods, Experimental Methods
- PUBLICATIONS** **Sexton, Renard.** 2016. “[Aid as a Tool against Insurgency: Evidence from Contested and Controlled Territory in Afghanistan.](#)” *American Political Science Review*, 110(4), pp. 731–749.  
**Sexton, Renard,** Rachel Wellhausen and Michael Findley. 2019. “[How Government Reactions to Violence Worsen Social Welfare: Evidence from Peru.](#)” *American Journal of Political Science.*, 63(2), pp. 353–367.  
Christensen, Darin, Mai Nguyen and **Renard Sexton.** 2019. “[Strategic Violence during Democratization: Evidence from Myanmar.](#)” *World Politics*, 71(2), pp. 332–366.  
**Sexton, Renard** “[Unpacking the Local Resource Curse: How Externalities and Governance Shape Social Conflict.](#)” Forthcoming, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.
- WORKING PAPERS** “[The Unintended Consequences of Bottom-Up Accountability: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Peru](#)” (under review)  
“[Deadly Populism: How Local Political Outsiders Drive Duterte’s War on Drugs in the Philippines](#)” (with Nico Ravanilla and Dotan Haim; under review)  
“Aid, Insurgency and the Public Perceptions Mechanism: Evidence from German Projects in Northern Afghanistan” (with Christoph Zuercher; pre-analysis plan filed with EGAP in October 2018)
- WORK IN PROGRESS** “Deescalating Conflict in the Philippines through Community leader engagement in NPA-held regions” (with Nico Ravanilla and Dotan Haim)  
“South China Sea Big Data Initiative” (with Nico Ravanilla)  
“Evaluating Normalization Programs for Former MILF Fighters in the Philippines” (with Sarah Daly, Ben Oppenheim and Yuhki Tajima)  
“Unpacking the Malay-Muslim insurgency in Southern Thailand: A data-driven approach”  
“Predatory Elections: How norms of democracy and the rural economy incentivize electoral violence and fraud” (with Umberto Mignozetti)

“The strategy and impacts of rebel public services provision: Evidence from Taliban courts in Afghanistan” (with Austin Wright)

“Legalizing informal mining in Colombia: Impediments and Implications” (w/ Santiago Saavedra)

“A meta-analysis of post-conflict peacebuilding interventions” (with Mike Findley and Susanna Campbell)

#### GRANTS AND AWARDS

Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG): 2019 Young Southeast Asia Fellowship

University of California, San Diego, for “Deescalating Conflict in the Philippines,” 2018 \$15,000 (w/ Dotan Haim and Nico Ravanilla)

Project on Resources, Development and Governance, 2018 \$70,000 (w/ Graeme Blair and Darin Christensen)

Innovations for Poverty Action, Peace and Recovery (with Yuhki Tajima, Sarah Daly and Ben Oppenheim) for “Evaluating Normalization Programs for Former MILF Fighters in the Philippines,” 2018 \$10,000

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Philippine National Economic Development Agency (NEDA) (with Dotan Haim, Yuhki Tajima) for “value the governments flagship program to expand development services to conflict affected areas (PAMANA).” 2018 \$300,000

Colciencias (with Santiago Saavedra) for “Barriers to formalization of mining,” 2018 \$200,000

Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Princeton University for “Deescalating Conflict in the Philippines,” 2018 \$3,500

Economic Development and Institutions (with Graeme Blair and Darin Christensen), 2018 \$30,000

Project on Resources, Development and Governance, 2018 \$10,000

Innovations for Poverty Action, Peace and Recovery (with Nico Ravanilla and Dotan Haim) for “Deescalating Conflict in the Philippines,” 2017 \$10,000

Project on Resources, Development and Governance (with Graeme Blair and Darin Christensen), 2017 \$10,000

International Growth Centre, Myanmar, (with Darin Christensen and Mai Nguyen), 2016-2017. \$33,000

National Science Foundation (NSF) Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant, 2016-2017. \$18,894

Jameel-Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Governance Initiative (Pilot Study Grant), 2015-16. \$49,992

Jameel-Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Governance Initiative (Travel/Proposal Development Grant), 2015. \$9,980

Development Innovation Lab/USAID grant, \$5,000, 2017, (with Darin Christensen and Graeme Blair)

NYU Graduate Research Institute (Paris), 2015. \$8,900

Antamina S.A. Pilot Grant, 2015. \$8,000

George Downs Research Grant, New York University, 2014 \$4,000, 2015 \$4,000, 2016 \$4,000

Robert Holmes Fellowship, Africa House, New York University (for South Sudan), 2014. \$2,500

Heinrich Boell Stiftung, Travel Grant (for Afghanistan), 2013. \$3,000

Henry H. McCracken Fellowship, New York University, 2012. PhD funding and support (5 years)

Rockefeller Brothers Fund, Research Grant (for Afghanistan natural resources and conflict), 2012. \$50,000

#### TEACHING

Conflict in Asia (Undergraduate), Fall 2019

Political Economy of Development (PhD), Fall 2019

Introduction to Comparative Politics (Undergraduate), Spring 2015

Quantitative Methods I (PhD), Fall 2014

Introduction to International Politics (Undergraduate), Fall 2013

POLICY WRITING AND COMMENTARY “Strategic Violence after Democratic Transitions in ASEAN” *Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia* 2 Sep 2019.

“Reactions to Terrorism Can Bring Serious Harm.” *Political Violence at a Glance* 2 May 2019.

“How expansive responses to terrorism can cost civilian lives.” *Axios* 22 February 2019.

“Central Americans are fleeing violence. Could Guatemalas judicial reform model help people feel safer?” *Washington Post (the Monkey Cage)*. 13 November 2018.

“Saving Guatemalas Fight Against Crime and Impunity” *International Crisis Group*. 24 October 2018. (Spanish Version)

“A new resource curse is fueling riots around the world” *Washington Post (the Monkey Cage)*. 26 April 2018.

“Did U.S. aid win hearts and minds in Afghanistan? Yes and no.” *Washington Post (the Monkey Cage)*. 6 January 2017.

“What does informed consent mean when conducting a field experiment?” *Washington Post (the Monkey Cage)* 14 April 2015.)

“The spoils of peace in Afghanistan.” *Washington Post (the Monkey Cage)* 26 September 2014.

“Examining Afghanistan’s electoral results.” *Heinrich Boell Stiftung* 7 August 2014.

“How to win an Afghan election.” *Heinrich Boell Stiftung* 10 February 2014.

“Natural Resources and Conflict in Afghanistan: Seven Case Studies, Major Trends and Implications for the Transition.” *Afghanistan Watch/Rockefeller Brothers Fund* July 2012.

Twelve articles for the Guardian (2010-2012) [link](#)

Five articles for FiveThirtyEight at the New York Times (2010-2011) [link](#)

Approximately 90 total articles for FiveThirtyEight (2009-2010) [link](#)

AFFILIATIONS Advisor, International Crisis Group, Economics of Conflict Program.

Young Southeast Asia Fellow, Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG)

Special Invitee, Governance Initiative, Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)

Affiliated Researcher, Innovations for Poverty Action

Research Affiliate, International Growth Centre

Junior Fellow, Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE **Peer Reviewer:** American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Politics, International Organization, World Politics, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, Comparative Political Studies, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Government & Opposition, National Science Foundation, The Asia Foundation, Empirical Studies of Conflict.

**University Service:**  
Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society) Faculty Advisor  
Graduate Program Policy Committee

**Conference Organization:**  
Founder and Co-convener, Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science [link](#)  
*Organized conferences:* Fall 2019, Emory

Founder and Co-convener, Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science [link](#)  
*Organized conferences:* Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015

Founder and Co-organizer, NYU Graduate Political Economy Seminar, 2013 - 2014 [link](#)

INVITED PRESENTATIONS	<p><b>2019:</b> University of Chicago (Harris); UC San Diego (ESOC annual meeting); University of British Columbia (SEAREG annual meeting); University of the Philippines School of Economics; APSA; Philippine National Police.</p> <p><b>2018:</b> Princeton University; American University Beirut (WESSI); MPSA; Empirical Studies of Conflict Annual Meeting; Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG); UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations; UN Foundation; PeaceCon (Alliance for Peacebuilding); USIP; Philippine National Police.</p> <p><b>2017:</b> Yale University; Universidad de Pacifico (Lima, Peru); University of Wisconsin (Polmeth); APSA; Princeton University; New York University; Emory University; Texas A &amp; M; University of Texas, Austin.</p> <p><b>2016:</b> University of Texas, Austin; APSA; Princeton, ESOC working group; Empirical Studies of Conflict Annual Meeting (discussant); Northeastern Workshop in Empirical Political Science, Harvard; MPSA; ISA.</p> <p><b>2015:</b> Oxford University, AALIMS Graduate Workshop; Contemporary African Political Economy Research Seminar, NYU (discussant); Universidad Catolica San Pablo, Arequipa, Peru; MPSA.</p> <p><b>2014:</b> APSA; NYU, Alexander Hamilton Center Conference on Political Economy; NYU, Contemporary African Political Economy Seminar (discussant); MPSA; George Mason University, Advances in Public Policy Conference; NYU/Columbia Political Economy of Latin America; NY State Political Science Association.</p> <p><b>2013:</b> Northeastern Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS); Heinrich Boell Stiftung, Berlin; MPSA</p> <p><b>2012:</b> World Policy Institute, New York; Open Society Foundations, New York; Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C.; United Nations Working Group on Conflict and Corruption, Kabul.</p> <p><b>2011:</b> Universidad para la Paz, San Jose, Costa Rica; Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina; University of California, Irvine, Center for Unconventional Security Affairs</p>
FIELD EXPERIENCE	Specializing in Southeast Asia, Afghanistan and Andean Latin America. Experience in 40+ countries; most extensively in Afghanistan, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Philippines, Myanmar, Sierra Leone.
CONSULTING	<p>Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (Germany)</p> <p>The Asia Foundation</p> <p>Heinrich Boell Stiftung</p> <p>United Nations Environment Programme</p>
WORK EXPERIENCE	<p>Editorial Assistant for The Monkey Cage, Washington Post. 2014 – 2015</p> <p>Advisor, Afghanistan Program, Heinrich Boell Stiftung. 2012 – 2014</p> <p>Research Assistant, Cyrus Samii and Dana Burde, 2013</p> <p>Visiting Scholar, Center for Strategic and International Studies. 2012</p> <p>International Affairs Columnist, FiveThirtyEight/New York Times. 2009 – 2012</p> <p>Visiting Researcher, Afghanistan Watch, Kabul, Afghanistan. 2012</p> <p>Research &amp; Development Associate, Fundacion Futuro Latinoamericano, Quito, Ecuador. 2010 – 2011</p> <p>Project Advisor, United Nations Environment Programme, Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, Geneva, Switzerland. 2008 – 2010.</p>
ADDITIONAL SKILLS	Languages: English (native); Spanish (professional); French (intermediate), Vietnamese (basic)