

RENARD SEXTON

CONTACT INFORMATION Department of Political Science, Emory University
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APPOINTMENTS **Emory University**

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2019 –

Council on Foreign Relations

International Affairs Fellow, 2022 – 2023

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

PUBLICATIONS

9. Grasse, Donald, **Renard Sexton** and Austin Wright. 2024 “[Courting Civilians in Conflict: Evidence from Taliban courts in Afghanistan](#)” Accepted, *International Organization*
8. **Sexton, Renard** and Christoph Zuercher. 2023. “[Aid, Insurgency and Attitudes: Evidence from Northern Afghanistan](#)” Forthcoming (on Early View), *American Journal of Political Science*
7. **Sexton, Renard**. 2022. “[The Unintended Effects of Bottom-Up Accountability: Evidence from a Field Experiment in Peru](#)” *Quarterly Journal of Political Science*, 17, pp. 223–257
6. Ravanilla, Nico, **Renard Sexton** and Dotan Haim. 2022. “[Deadly Populism: How Local Political Outsiders Drive Duterte’s War on Drugs in the Philippines.](#)” *Journal of Politics.*, 84(2), pp. 1035–1056
5. Haim, Dotan, Nico Ravanilla and **Renard Sexton**. 2021. “[Sustained government engagement improves subsequent pandemic risk reporting in conflict zones](#)” *American Political Science Review*, 115(2), pp. 717–724.
4. **Sexton, Renard**. 2020. “[Unpacking the Local Resource Curse: How Externalities and Governance Shape Social Conflict.](#)” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 64(4), pp. 640–673.
3. Christensen, Darin, Mai Nguyen and **Renard Sexton**. 2019. “[Strategic Violence during Democratization: Evidence from Myanmar.](#)” *World Politics*, 71(2), pp. 332–366.
2. **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.
1. **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.

WORKING
PAPERS

Dotan Haim, Nico Ravanilla and **Renard Sexton**. 2023. “Winning “hearts and minds” in moments of crisis? Evidence from the Philippines” (under review)

Umberto Mignozzetti and **Renard Sexton**. 2023. “[Predatory Elections: How norms of democracy and the rural economy incentivize electoral violence and fraud](#)” (under review)

Nico Ravanilla and **Renard Sexton**. 2024. “Audience Cost or Posturing Premium? When Empty Threats Can Benefit Leaders”

WORK IN
PROGRESS

“Weapons of a Weak Nation” Book Project (based in part on “South China Sea Data Initiative”)

“Measuring and testing interventions to change resilience and will-to-fight in Taiwan” (with Hans Tung, Eddy Yeung and Yumin Wang)

“Unintended side effects of agricultural modernization in conflict zones: Evidence from Southern Thailand” (with Donald Grasse & Austin Wright)

“What drives support for peace in Afghanistan? Three wave panel survey” (with Christoph Zuercher, Don Grasse, Zinab Attai)

EXTERNAL
GRANTS

Charles Koch Foundation, (2022) “South China Sea Data Initiative: Seeking an Endgame in Southeast Asia,” \$90,000

Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation, (2022) “Ground-Truthing Fishing Conflicts in the South China Sea,” \$14,885

Woodrow Wilson Center, (2021-2022) “Using Data to Decipher Chinas South China Sea Strategy,” \$20,000

National Science Foundation, (2020-2022) “Collaborative Research: Using Big Data to Analyze Maritime Conflict,” \$278,439

Carnegie Corporation of NY, (2020-2022) “For the South China Sea Data Initiative,” \$170,500

Project on Resources, Development and Governance, (2018) \$70,000

Innovations for Poverty Action, Peace and Recovery, (2018) “Evaluating Normalization Programs for Former MILF Fighters in the Philippines,” \$10,000

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Philippine National Economic Development Agency, (2018) for “evaluate the government’s flagship program to expand development services to conflict affected areas (PAMANA).” \$300,000

Colciencias (Colombia), (2018-2022) “Barriers to formalization of mining,” \$200,000

Economic Development and Institutions, (2018) \$30,000

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

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

Project on Resources, Development and Governance, (2017) \$10,000

International Growth Centre, Myanmar, (2016-2017) \$33,000

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

Jameel-Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL) Governance Initiative, (2015-2016) Pilot Experimental Study Grant, \$49,992

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

Development Innovation Lab/USAID, (2017), \$5,000

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

Rockefeller Brothers Fund, (2012). “Afghanistan natural resources and conflict”, \$50,000

AWARDS	<p>International Affairs Fellowship (2022-23), Council on Foreign Relations</p> <p>Distinguished Scholar (2022), Harry Frank Guggenheim Foundation</p> <p>Wilson China Fellowship (2021-2022), Kissinger Institute on China and the United States</p> <p>APSA Southeast Asian Politics Related Group (2020), Best Paper Award for “Deadly Populism”</p> <p>Luce-Mansfield Asia Scholars Fellowship (2020)</p> <p>Visiting Fellowship, Research School of Social Sciences, Australia National University, 2020 (delayed to 2022/23)</p> <p>Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG): Young Southeast Asia Fellow, 2019</p>
INTERNAL GRANTS	<p>Emory University Research Council (2020-2021) “South China Sea Data Initiative,” \$30,000</p> <p>Emory Program to Enhance Research and Scholarship (2019) for “Deescalating Conflict in the Philippines,” \$10,000</p> <p>Emory Hightower Speaker Funds, (2019) for “2020 Election Speaker Series,” \$12,000</p> <p>University of California, San Diego, (2018) for “Deescalating Conflict in the Philippines,” \$15,000</p> <p>Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Princeton University (2018) for “Deescalating Conflict in the Philippines,” \$3,500</p> <p>NYU Graduate Research Institute, Paris, (2015), \$8,900</p> <p>George Downs Research Grant, New York University, 2014 \$4,000, 2015 \$4,000, 2016 \$4,000</p> <p>Robert Holmes Fellowship, Africa House, New York University, (2014), \$2,500</p>
TEACHING	<p>Conflict in Asia (Undergraduate): Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2021, Fall 2024 (<i>scheduled</i>).</p> <p>Political Economy of Development (PhD): Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Fall 2023.</p> <p>Political Economy of Development (Undergraduate, Research Seminar): Fall 2020, Fall 2024 (<i>scheduled</i>).</p> <p>Comparative Political Economy (Undergraduate): Fall 2023.</p> <p>Introduction to Comparative Politics (Undergraduate): Spring 2015</p> <p>Quantitative Methods I (PhD): Fall 2014</p> <p>Introduction to International Politics (Undergraduate): Fall 2013</p>
PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP	<p>“Afghans want peace. New data show they’re open to a surprising number of options.” <i>Washington Post</i> 30 March 2021.</p> <p>“Winning the Fight Against COVID-19 in Conflict Zones” <i>The Diplomat</i> 11 March 2021.</p> <p>“The Local Politics of Policing: The Case of Duterte’s Drug War” <i>Political Violence at a Glance</i> 11 Jan 2021.</p> <p>“Strategic Violence after Democratic Transitions in ASEAN” <i>Kyoto Review of Southeast Asia</i> 2 Sep 2019.</p> <p>“Reactions to Terrorism Can Bring Serious Harm.” <i>Political Violence at a Glance</i> 2 May 2019.</p> <p>“How expansive responses to terrorism can cost civilian lives.” <i>Axios</i> 22 February 2019.</p> <p>“Central Americans are fleeing violence. Could Guatemala’s judicial reform model help people feel safer?” <i>Washington Post (the Monkey Cage)</i>. 13 November 2018.</p> <p>“Saving Guatemala’s Fight Against Crime and Impunity” <i>International Crisis Group</i>. 24 October 2018. (Spanish Version)</p> <p>“A new resource curse is fueling riots around the world” <i>Washington Post (the Monkey Cage)</i>. 26 April 2018.</p> <p>“Did U.S. aid win hearts and minds in Afghanistan? Yes and no.” <i>Washington Post (the Monkey Cage)</i>. 6 January 2017.</p>

[“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](#)

INVITED
PRESENTATIONS

2024: Cornell University; New York University; Gakushuin University (JSQPS); Princeton University.

2023: Georgia Tech; Australian National University; Academia Sinica; University of Hawaii; Asia Pacific Center for Strategic Studies; Foreign Service Institute; American Political Science Association; Duke University; George Washington University.

2022: University of Chicago; MIT; Australian National University; Empirical Studies of Conflict (UC Berkeley); Singapore Management University.

2021: University of Texas, Austin; Florida State University; Rice University; Empirical Studies of Conflict (online); UN University, World Institute for Development Economics Research, Finland (online); U.S. Department of State (online); APSA; Asia Pacific Center for Strategic Studies; Pacific Forum; APSA.

2020: Australian National University (online); Princeton University (online); Households in Conflict Network (online); Peace Science Society (online); (others cancelled due to Covid).

2019: 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.

2018: 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.

2017: Yale University (PELA); Universidad de Pacifico (Lima, Peru); University of Wisconsin (Polmeth); APSA; Princeton University; New York University; Emory University; Texas A & M; University of Texas, Austin.

2016: 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.

2015: Oxford University, AALIMS Graduate Workshop; Contemporary African Political Economy Research Seminar, NYU (discussant); Universidad Catolica San Pablo, Arequipa, Peru; MPSA.

2014: 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.

2013: Northeastern Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS); Heinrich Boell Stiftung, Berlin; MPSA

2012: 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.

2011: Universidad para la Paz, San Jose, Costa Rica; Universidad Nacional de Rosario, Argentina; University of California, Irvine, Center for Unconventional Security Affairs

AFFILIATIONS	<p>Advisor, International Crisis Group, Economics of Conflict Program.</p> <p>Southeast Asia Fellow, Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG)</p> <p>Convener, Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science (SoWEPS)</p> <p>Academic Member, Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP)</p> <p>Special Invitee, Governance Initiative, Jameel Poverty Action Lab (J-PAL)</p> <p>Affiliated Researcher, Innovations for Poverty Action</p> <p>Research Affiliate, International Growth Centre</p> <p>Junior Fellow, Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies</p>
PROFESSIONAL SERVICE	<p>Peer Review: American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Asian Security, Comparative Political Studies, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Empirical Studies of Conflict, Environmental Science and Policy, European Economic Review, Genocide Research, Government & Opposition, International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, Minerva Research Initiative, National Science Foundation, PLOS One, Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences, PS: Political Science, Quarterly Journal of Political Science, Review of Economics and Statistics, Security Studies, Social Science & Medicine, Sojourn, The Asia Foundation, World Politics</p> <p>Mentor, Research in Color Foundation</p> <p>University Service:</p> <p>Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science Honor Society) Faculty Advisor (2019 – present)</p> <p>Emory College Honor Council (Spring 2020 – present)</p> <p>Graduate Program Policy Committee (2019–2021)</p> <p>Comparative Politics Search Committee (Fall 2021)</p> <p>Emory 2020 Election Speaker Series, co-organizer</p> <p>Conference Organization:</p> <p>Host, Southeast Asia Research Group link</p> <p><i>Organized conferences:</i> Fall 2021, Emory</p> <p>Founder and Co-convener, Southern Workshop in Empirical Political Science link</p> <p><i>Organized conferences:</i> Fall 2019, Emory</p> <p>Founder and Co-convener, Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science link</p> <p><i>Organized conferences:</i> Fall 2013, Fall 2014, Fall 2015</p> <p>Founder and Co-organizer, NYU Graduate Political Economy Seminar, 2013 - 2014 link</p>
FIELD EXPERIENCE	<p>Specializing in Southeast Asia, Afghanistan and Andean Latin America. Experience in 40+ countries; most extensively in Afghanistan, Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Philippines, Myanmar, Sierra Leone, Vietnam.</p>
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> <p>Evaluasi LLC</p>
WORK EXPERIENCE	<p>Senior Advisor, China and Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Division, CNA. 2024 – present</p> <p>Senior Advisor, USINDOPACOM J5 (Policy and Plans), U.S. Department of Defense. 2022 – 2023</p> <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>

International Affairs Columnist, FiveThirtyEight/New York Times. 2009 – 2012

Visiting Researcher, Afghanistan Watch, Kabul, Afghanistan. 2012

R&D Associate, Fundacion Futuro Latinoamericano, Quito, Ecuador. 2010 – 2011

Project Advisor, United Nations Environment Programme, Post-Conflict and Disaster Management Branch, Geneva, Switzerland. 2008 – 2010.

ADDITIONAL
SKILLS

Languages: English (native); Spanish (professional); French (intermediate), Vietnamese (basic)