

## Mark A. Toukan

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Perry World House  
University of Pennsylvania  
3803 Locust Walk  
Philadelphia, PA 19104

✉ [mtoukan@wisc.edu](mailto:mtoukan@wisc.edu)  
☎ (614) 581-8783  
🌐 [marktoukan.com](http://marktoukan.com)

**Academic Appointment**      **University of Pennsylvania**      2017-  
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Perry World House, Program on Identity and  
Conflict

**Education**      **University of Wisconsin-Madison**      Ph.D., 2017  
International Relations, Comparative Politics  
**University of Wisconsin-Madison**      M.A.  
Political Science  
**University of Chicago**      M.A.  
International Relations      Honors  
**Ohio State University**      B.A.  
French and Middle East Studies      *magna cum laude*

**Dissertation**      *“International Politics by Other Means: Interstate Rivalries and the Escalation of Civil Conflicts”*  
Committee: Andrew Kydd (chair), Jon Pevehouse, Jonathan Renshon, Scott Straus, Jessica Weeks

Dissertation summary: My dissertation argues that we cannot understand variation in the occurrence of civil wars across space and time if we don't account for how conflict and cooperation between states shapes the incentives of actors in civil conflicts to escalate or compromise. I provide a systematic account of how conflict between interstate rivals increases the risk of civil war in nearby states. I use a formal model of intrastate bargaining with two potential interveners to generate predictions that I test using novel data on the spatial distribution of interstate conflict and rivalry. I present two Middle-Eastern case studies—Lebanon in 1958 and Syria in 2011—that explore in greater detail how geopolitical conflict can increase states' risk of civil war.

**Works in progress**      “International Politics by Other Means: External Sources of Civil War.”  
*Under review.*

– Winner of the Patricia Weitsman Award for best graduate student paper in security studies at the 2016 International Studies Association Annual Conference.

“Torn Between Enemies: Interstate Competition and Rebel Group Fragmentation”

“Peace or Profit? Civil War Settlements and Rebel Group Funding”, with

Nicholas Barnes

“Remittance Dependence and the Duration of Civil Wars.”

- Invited Talks** “International Politics by Other Means: Interstate Rivalries and the Onset of Civil Conflicts”, University of Pennsylvania, March 2017
- Presentations** American Political Science Association, 2014, 2015, 2016, 2017  
European Political Science Association, 2016  
Midwest Political Science Association, 2015, 2016, 2017  
International Studies Association, 2016  
UW-Madison International Relations Colloquium, 2013  
Guest lecture, “Connecting theory to analysis,” UW-Madison, 6/13/2015  
Guest lecture, “The political economy of civil war,” UW-Madison, 12/8/2014
- Teaching** Teaching Assistant, Terrorism, Fall 2015  
Teaching Assistant, Analysis of IR (introductory game theory), Spring 2015  
Teaching Assistant, Social Science Research Design (Applied economics), Summer 2015  
Teaching Assistant International Political Economy, Fall 2014, Summer 2016, 2017  
Teaching Assistant, Global Governance, Summer 2014  
Teaching Assistant, Nuclear Weapons and World Politics, Fall 2012  
Teaching Assistant, U.S. Foreign Policy, Summer 2011, Spring 2012  
Teaching Assistant, Introduction to International Relations, Fall 2010; Spring and Fall 2011; Spring 2013
- Awards and Honors** ISA Patricia Weitsman Award, best graduate student paper in security studies, 2016  
UW Vilas travel award, 2016  
UW Political Science Summer Initiative, 2014, 2015, 2016  
Departmental Teaching Award, 2012  
Trustees Scholarship, Ohio State, 2002–2006  
Phi Beta Kappa
- University and Professional Service** Reviewer, *International Organization*, *American Journal of Political Science*  
Discussant, American Political Science Association 2013, 2016  
Graduate student mentor, UW-Madison Visiting International Student Program, 2015, 2016  
Co-Coordinator, UW International Relations Colloquium, 2014–2015

Coordinator, UW Big Data and Death Conference, 2014

**Research** Project assistant for Lisa Martin, 2014

**Assistance** Project assistant for Jon Pevehouse, 2013

**Employment** Project assistant, *International Organization*, 2014–present

Research Assistant, Institute for Palestine Studies, 2006–2007

**Languages and Skills** Software: R, STATA, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X. Languages: French (advanced proficiency), Arabic (beginning proficiency)

**References** Andy Kydd, (chair), UW-Madison, [kydd@wisc.edu](mailto:kydd@wisc.edu)

Jon Pevehouse, UW-Madison, [jcpevehouse@wisc.edu](mailto:jcpevehouse@wisc.edu)

Scott Straus, UW-Madison, [sstraus@wisc.edu](mailto:sstraus@wisc.edu)

Mark Copelovitch, UW-Madison, [copelovitch@wisc.edu](mailto:copelovitch@wisc.edu)