

## Mark A. Toukan

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### 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.  
Middle East Studies and French *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.” (Revise and resubmit at *Journal of Peace Research*).

- 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.”

*Under review.*

“The International System and the Rise of Rebellion: How Constraints on Interstate War Increased the Prevalence of Civil War.”

“Peace or Profit: Civil War Settlements and Rebel Group Funding.” With Nicholas Barnes.

### **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 Assistance**

Project assistant for Lisa Martin, 2014

Project assistant for Jon Pevehouse, 2013

### **Employment**

Project assistant, *International Organization*, 2014–2017

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,

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Jon Pevehouse, UW-Madison,

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Scott Straus, UW-Madison,

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Mark Copelovitch, UW-Madison,

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