

KAITLYN ROBINSON

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Rice University, Houston, TX July 2023 - Present
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science

Duke University, Durham, NC August 2022 - July 2023
Department of Political Science
America in the World Consortium Postdoctoral Fellow

EDUCATION

Stanford University, Stanford, CA September 2016 - September 2022
M.A., Political Science
Ph.D., Political Science

Dissertation: Organizing for Violence: The Politics of Militant Group Formation and Fragmentation in Armed Conflict

University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI September 2011 - April 2015
Highest Distinction (equivalent to *summa cum laude*)
B.A., Political Science, Highest Honors
B.A., History

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Kaitlyn Robinson. "Rebel Purges and Leader Survival: Maintaining Power through Purges in Rebel Organizations." *Journal of Peace Research* (2026). [\[link\]](#)

Kaitlyn Robinson and Iris Malone. "Militant Splinter Groups and the Use of Violence." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 68, no. 2-3 (2024): 404-430. [\[link\]](#)

Kaitlyn Robinson, Iris Malone, and Martha Crenshaw. "Countering Far-Right Anti-Government Extremism in the United States." *Perspectives on Terrorism* 17, no. 1 (2023): pp. 73-87. [\[link\]](#)

Andrew Lokay, Kaitlyn Robinson, and Martha Crenshaw. "The Oath Keepers." *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict* 4, no. 2 (2021): 160-178. [\[link\]](#)

WORKING PAPERS AND PROJECTS

Book project: “Raising Rebellion: How Foreign States Organize and Shape Civil Wars”

“The Mapping Militants Project: A Resource for Studying Militant Group Dynamics and Networks” (with Martha Crenshaw, *Revise and Resubmit*)

“Foreign State-Sponsored Rebel Formation and Violence in Civil War”

“Fending off Fragmentation: How Rebel Leaders Manage Internal Splits”

“From Local to Transnational: When Rebel Violence Travels Across Borders” (with Martha Crenshaw)

RESEARCH GRANTS

National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center, U.S. Department of Homeland Security Grant Award Number 20STTPC00001.

- 2026: Principal Investigator (\$68,833)
- 2024-2025: Principal Investigator (\$217,706)
- 2023-2024: Co-Principal Investigator (with Martha Crenshaw, \$200,121)

Research Data Grant Award, Institute for Research in the Social Sciences, Stanford University. Grant for archival work at the Ronald Reagan Presidential Library. 2022.

International Growth Centre Small Projects Grant for fieldwork in Thailand and Myanmar. 2020.

National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship Program (NSF GRFP). 2018-2021.

ORIGINAL DATA COLLECTION

Martha Crenshaw and Kaitlyn Robinson (2025). **Mapping Militants Project**. <https://doi.org/10.25613/G0K4-WF70>.

Principal investigator on this project since 2023. Qualitative long-form profiles on 130+ militant groups that document their formation, development, and behavior. Profiles can run 20+ pages in length and include hundreds of footnotes with cited sources. Also includes quantitative data on relationships among militant groups in select conflict zones. Data can be visualized with a custom application. See Robinson, K., Crenshaw, M., Gardin Franco, U. E., & De Castro Sousa, B. (2025). Mapping Militants Project Network Visualization. Rice University. <https://doi.org/10.25613/GP8N-MH95>.

Foreign Foundations Dataset. Quantitative dataset that codes the nature and extent of external state involvement in armed group formation for 500+ armed groups established around the world

between 1946-2019. Includes a bibliography of sources and a qualitative summary of each group's formation and the nature of state involvement.

Rebel Splintering and Leader Change in Myanmar. Quantitative dataset that records instances of splintering and leadership change in 43 armed groups operating in Myanmar between 1939-2019. Includes 150+ pages of qualitative information about how leaders entered office and exited office, as well as why and how groups splintered. Also contains a bibliography of sources for each group.

Rebel Leader Purging and Exit in Asia. Quantitative dataset that records when and how rebel leaders exited their leadership positions, as well as if they used any purging in their organizations, for 72 rebel groups in Asia active between 1989-2011.

POLICY REPORTS AND OPINION PUBLICATIONS

Martha Crenshaw and Kaitlyn Robinson. "Transnational Ties Between Selected US and Foreign Violent Extremist Actors: Evidence from the Mapping Militants Project." National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE). June 2023. [\[link\]](#)

Invited to contribute to "In Brief: The Resistance in Myanmar." War on the Rocks, November 15, 2023. [\[link\]](#)

Kaitlyn Robinson. "To Support Democracy in Myanmar, Engage with Ethnic Armed Organizations." War on the Rocks, January 19, 2022. [\[link\]](#)

Lauren Sukin and Kaitlyn Robinson. "Pandemic Politics: Why the U.S. police should read 'just war' theory." International Affairs Blog, August 20, 2020. [\[link\]](#)

Pat Paterson and Kaitlyn Robinson. "Measuring Success in the War on Drugs." U.S. Department of Defense, William J. Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, *Perry Center Occasional Paper* (2014): 1-24.

TEACHING

Graduate courses:

Civil War and Terrorism. Rice University. Spring 2024.

Undergraduate courses:

Introduction to International Relations. Rice University. Fall 2024, Fall 2025.

Civil War and Terrorism. Rice University. Spring 2024, Fall 2024, Fall 2025.

Understanding War and Peace. Rice University. Spring 2026.

AWARDS

Career Champion Award, Rice University. 2025.

World of Excellence Award, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, U.S. Department of Defense. 2016.

William Jennings Bryan Leadership Prize, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan. 2015.

Frank Grace Award, Department of Political Science, University of Michigan. 2015.

INVITED TALKS AND WORKSHOP PRESENTATIONS

Political Economy of Conflict Workshop, Vanderbilt University. 2026.

Department of International Affairs Seminar, University of Georgia. 2025.

Terrorism and Civil Wars Workshop, University of Houston. 2025.

Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs Security Seminar, Brown University. 2025.

Statistical Training and Research Techniques at Rice University (STaRT@Rice). 2024.

Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University. 2024.

Partners, Proxies, and Peer Competition: The Downstream Consequences of Security Cooperation, Triangle Institute for Security Studies. 2022.

Countering Violent Extremism Roundtable, The Washington Institute for Near East Policy. 2022.

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2019, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2025.

Peace Science Society (International) Annual Meeting, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024.

Empirical Studies of Conflict Annual Meeting. 2025.

International Studies Association Annual Meeting. 2019, 2022, 2024, 2025.

Texas Triangle International Relations Conference. 2024, 2025.

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting. 2022.

International Security Seminar, United States Military Academy. 2023.

SERVICE

Global Affairs Major Advisory Board, Rice University, 2025.

Graduate Studies Committee, Rice University, 2024-2025, 2025-2026.

International Relations Search Committee, Rice University, 2024-2025.

Hudspeth Speaker Series Committee, Rice University, 2023-2024, 2024-2025.

Coordinator, International Relations Workshop, Rice University, 2024-2025.

Judge, School of Social Sciences Undergraduate Research Symposium, 2024.

Open Field Senior Search Committee, Rice University, 2023-2024.

Comparative Politics Search Committee, Rice University, 2023-2024.

Coordinator, International Relations Security Working Group, Stanford University, 2021-2022.

Reviewer: *International Organization, Security Studies, International Interactions, Terrorism and Political Violence, Civil Wars*

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic Assistant, August 2015 - July 2016

U.S. Department of Defense, Perry Center for Hemispheric Defense Studies, Washington, D.C.