

SALLY SHARIF

Department of Political Science
The University of British Columbia
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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substantive: political violence; terrorism; international conflict management; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration; peacebuilding; civil war; post-conflict state consolidation; authoritarian politics

Methodological: Causal inference with observational data; natural experiments; instrumental variable estimation; difference in differences; machine learning

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

College of the Holy Cross (starting August 2025) **Worcester, MA**
Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics

Simon Fraser University (Sept. 2022 – Current) **Vancouver, BC**
Simons Foundation Canada Postdoctoral Fellow

University of British Columbia (Sept. 2023 – Current) **Vancouver, BC**
Lecturer in Political Science

University of Notre Dame (Sept. 2021 – Aug. 2022) **Notre Dame, IN**
Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

Universidad de los Andes **Bogota, Colombia**
Visiting Scholar, Department of Political Science (May–Aug. 2019)

EDUCATION

Graduate Center, City University of New York **New York, NY**
Ph.D. in Political Science, 2015-2021

Subfields: comparative politics, international relations

Dissertation: Demobilizing and Reintegrating Ex-Combatants:

Explaining Success and Failure on the National and Subnational Levels

Committee: Thomas G. Weiss, Till Weber, Mark Ungar

University of Leuven; Université Nanterre Paris X **Paris, France**
MPhil in Political Philosophy and Political Economy, 2013-2015, *Magna Cum Laude*

University of Leuven; Freie Universität Berlin **Berlin, Germany**
MA, Philosophy, 2011-2013, *Magna Cum Laude*

PUBLICATIONS

7. **Sharif, Sally.** 2023. "[How Wartime Bonds Affect Ex-Combatant Political Attitudes: A Natural Experiment with the FARC.](#)" *Terrorism and Political Violence* 35(5): 1106-1125.
6. **Sharif, Sally,** and Madhav Joshi. 2023. "[Territorial Consolidation After Rebel Victory: When does Civil War Recur?](#)" *Territory, Politics, Governance* (August).

5. Quinn, Jason M., T. David Mason, Mustafa Kirisci, and **Sally Sharif**. 2023. "[Proto-Insurgency, Repression-Driven Contagion, and Civil War Onset](#)." *Peace and Defense Economics* (March).
4. Overton, Kathryn, and **Sally Sharif**. 2023. "[Agents with Principles? Preventing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence with Human Rights Laws and Norms](#)." *Human Rights Quarterly* 45(3): 487-512.
3. **Sharif, Sally**. 2022. "[Can the Rebel Body Function without its Visible Heads? The Role of Mid-Level Commanders in Peacebuilding](#)." *International Peacekeeping* 29(5): 709-740.
2. **Sharif, Sally**. 2021. "[Predicting the End of the Syrian Conflict: From Theory to the Reality of a Civil War](#)." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 44(4): 326-345.
1. **Sharif, Sally**. 2018. "[A Critical Review of Evidence from Ex-Combatant Re-Integration Programs](#)." Politics of Return Project. London, UK: Social Science Research Council.

UNDER REVIEW

5. "Rebel Victory and Constitutional Change" (with Ilia Murtazashvili and Jennifer B. Murtazashvili)
Conditionally accepted
4. "Delegative Peacebuilding: Explaining Post-Conflict Selective Violence" (with Francy Carranza Franco)
Invited to revise & resubmit
3. "[Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration: Introducing the DDR-40 Dataset](#)"
2. "[Exploiting Non-Linearities: A Novel Approach to Strengthen Common Instrumental Variables](#)
(with Christopher Schwarz and Christian Oswald)
1. "Reintegrating Ex-Combatants in Deeply Divided Societies" (with Julio Zuluaga Jimenez)

BOOK PROJECTS

2. Beyond Disarmament: Why Armed Groups Return to War
Manuscript available upon request
1. Shadow Sovereignty: The Long-Term Impact of Mobilizing Militias and Paramilitaries
Data collection in progress – initial field research completed in Iran, southern Mexico, southern Chile

WORK IN PROGRESS

6. Networks of Mid-Level Commander Defection in Post-Conflict Transitions (with Dayron Monroy)
Manuscript and original dataset available upon request; paper presented at APSA 2023
5. Rebel Re-Governance: Explaining Post-Conflict Territorial Contestation (with Mark Ungar)
Survey data collection, interviews, and focus group discussions completed; paper presented at WPSA 2024
4. The Post-Conflict State as a Protection Racket (with Julio Zuluaga-Jimenez)
Survey data acquired and face-to-face interviews conducted; data analysis completed; writing in progress
3. Identification at Scale: Exploiting First Stage Heterogeneity in Instrumental Variables Designs (with Christopher Schwarz and Christian Oswald)
Replication data collected; analysis in progress
2. Rethinking Security: Civic Protection and the State's Role in Post-Conflict Peace
Global time-series data collected; analysis and writing in progress

1. “Measuring Selectorate Theory” (with Christopher Schwarz)

POLICY BRIEFS AND OP-EDS

6. **Sharif, Sally**. 2022. “[Ethiopia’s Peace May Depend on Post-Conflict Plans for Tigray Soldiers.](#)” *The Washington Post* (18 November).
5. **Sharif, Sally**, and Madhav Joshi. 2022. “[Can Peace Agreements Alone Maintain Peace After Rebel Victory?](#)” Peace Accords Matrix (PAM) Policy Brief Series.
4. **Sharif, Sally**. 2022. “[How to Canton Ex-Combatants: Inclusive Peacebuilding with the FARC.](#)” Peace Accords Matrix (PAM) Policy Brief Series. [link](#)
3. Quinn, Jason M., and **Sally Sharif**. 2022. “[Patterns of Armed Conflict Recurrence among Peace Agreement Signatories.](#)” Peace Accords Matrix (PAM) Policy Brief Series.
2. **Sharif, Sally**. 2020. “[How Robust is the Authoritarian Social Contract? Social Dissent during Iran’s COVID-19 Outbreak.](#)” *POMEPS Studies* 39.
1. **Sharif, Sally**, and Dayron Yegrail. 2019. “[The Art of Winning a Peace Agreement: The Case of the FARC.](#)” *Political Violence at a Glance* (16 September).

TEACHING

As Instructor of Record at the University of British Columbia

- Quantitative Methods in Political Science (Spring 2025)
[\[syllabus\]](#)
- Problems in International Relations: Conflict Processes (Spring 2024)
[\[syllabus\]](#) [\[student evaluations\]](#)
- Issues in International Conflict Management (Spring 2024)
[\[syllabus\]](#) [\[student evaluations\]](#)
- Political Violence, State Fragility, and State-Building (Fall 2023)
[\[syllabus\]](#) [\[student evaluations\]](#)

As Instructor of Record at Simon Fraser University

- Research Methods in International Studies (Fall 2023)
[\[syllabus\]](#) [\[student evaluations\]](#)
- State Failure and Reconstruction (Summer 2023)
[\[syllabus\]](#) [\[student evaluations\]](#)

As Teaching Assistant at the University of Michigan’s ICPSR Summer Program

- Causal Inference for the Social Sciences (Jake Bowers and Thomas Leavitt), 2023
- Causal Inference for the Social Sciences II (Sebastian Calonico and Gonzalo Vazquez-Bare), 2023
- Regression III – Advanced Methods (David Armstrong), 2022
- Simultaneous Equation Models (Sandy Marquart-Pyatt), 2021
- Causal Inference (Jake Bowers), 2020
- Maximum Likelihood Estimation (Robert Lupton), 2020

AWARDS

- 2023 US Permanent Residency in recognition of research merit and impact (National Interest Waiver), the US Government
- 2023 Mitacs Globalink Research Award for Social and Scientific Innovation, Government of Canada
- 2022 American Political Science Association (APSA) First Generation Scholar Award
- 2021 Joseph Murphy Award for best conference paper, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2019 Canadian Permanent Residency in recognition of research experience and language skills, Government of Canada
- 2019 Ivo Duchasek Award for best publication, CUNY Graduate Center

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 Start-Up Package, College of the Holy Cross (\$17,000)
- 2024 Seed Grant Initiative, University of British Columbia (\$2,000)
- 2023 Mitacs Globalink Research Support (\$6,000)
- 2023 APSA Centennial Center Research Grant (\$2,500)
- 2020 Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics & Statecraft Fellowship (\$7,500)
- 2020 Center for Place, Culture, and Politics Dissertation Fellowship (\$10,000)
- 2020 Provost's Digital Innovation Implementation Grant, CUNY Graduate Center (\$6,000)
- 2020 Doctoral Student Research Grant, CUNY Graduate Center (\$1,000)
- 2020 Dissertation Year Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center (\$15,000)
- 2020 Open Pedagogy Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center (\$2,000)
- 2019 Scholarship for Political Science Research, ICPSR, University of Michigan (\$5,200)
- 2019 Travel grant, Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies, CLACLS (\$900)
- 2018 Doctoral Student Research Grant, CUNY Graduate Center (\$1,000)
- 2018 Provost's Digital Innovation Training Grant, CUNY Graduate Center (\$1,000)
- 2018 EITM Certification Scholarship (\$8,200)
- 2018 Doctoral Student Research Grant, CUNY Graduate Center (\$1,000)
- 2017 NASP Young Investigator Training Program in Political Studies (€4,000)
- 2016 Dissertation Research Travel grant, CLACLS (\$1,000)
- 2015 Five-Year Doctoral Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center (2015-2020)

FIELD RESEARCH AND SKILLS

Languages: English (native speaker); Persian (native speaker); German (fluent); French (fluent); Spanish (fluent); Classical Arabic (intermediate); Urdu (conversational)

International Field Research: Mexico (Feb. 2024); Chile (Dec. 2023-Jan. 2024); Colombia (Jan. 2023; March 2022; April-Aug. 2019; Jan. 2018; Jan. 2017); Bolivia (Nov. 2019); Iran (Jan. 2022; May – June 2018)

Software: R, SPSS, QGIS, LaTeX

INVITED TALKS

- 2023 Blalock Lecture (in honor of Tad Blalock) at the University of Michigan: “Methodological Opportunism in the Study of Conflict”
- 2023 Panel Speaker at the roundtable “Are Militaries and Military Institutions Inherently Dysfunctional” at Simon Fraser University, Canada
- 2022 Guest Lecturer for the seminar “When are Conflicts Ripe for Resolution? Timing, Interests, and Spoilers” at Leiden University, the Netherlands
- 2022 Presenter at the School for International Studies Colloquium at Simon Fraser University, Canada
- 2021 Panelist at Paz Territorial: A 5 Años de Implementación del Acuerdo de Paz del Teatro Colón [Territorial Peace: Five Years after the Implementation of the Colombian Peace Accord] at the Universidad de los Andes, Colombia
- 2021 Presenter at the Kroc-Kellogg Peace, Conflict, Crime and Violence Workshop at the University of Notre Dame
- 2016 Keynote speaker at “Reading Terror: Representations and Resistance” conference at the Graduate Center, City University of New York

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024 Western Political Science Association (WPSA) – Rebel Re-Governance
- 2023 American Political Science Association (APSA) – Community-Based Peacebuilding: Bringing the State Back In
- 2023 International Studies Association (ISA) – More Murder After War? Exploring Homicide Rates Before, During, and After Civil Conflict
- 2023 ISA – Rebel Defection in Transitions from Civil Conflict: Why do Mid-Level Commanders Rearm?
- 2023 Latin American Peace Science Society – Violent Peace After Civil War? The Logic of Collective Self-Protection Against Post-Conflict Crime
- 2022 APSA – When Does Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Fail to Keep Peace? Introducing DDR-40 Dataset
- 2022 ISA – When does Civil War Recur after Rebel Victory
- 2021 ISA – How Wartime Bonds Affect Ex-Combatant Political Attitudes: A Natural Experiment with the FARC
- 2020 APSA – Why are Some Demobilization and Reintegration Camps more Successful than Others? A Subnational Theory of DDR with the FARC
- 2020 Four Corners Conflict Network – Agents with Principles? The Role of Domestic Human Rights in Stopping Conflict-Related Sexual Violence
- 2019 APSA – What Makes Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Programs Successful? Introducing the DDR-18 Dataset (1980-2018)

- 2018 Annual Political Science Graduate Student Conference, CUNY Graduate Center – DDR and CVE, A Match Made in Heaven or False Friends in Combat? The Case of Somalia
- 2017 Annual Political Science Graduate Student Conference, CUNY Graduate Center – Predicting the End of the Syrian Civil War: From Theory to Reality of a Civil War

POLICY POSITIONS

Social Science Research Council (SSRC) New York, NY

Consultant in Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (Feb.–April 2017)

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) New York, NY

Political Affairs Intern (May–Sept. 2016)

Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies New York, NY

Research Assistant (Aug. 2015–May 2016)

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

Reviewer for:

Journal of Politics; World Politics; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Conflict Management and Peace Science; Conflict, Security & Development; Peace & Change; Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict; Revista de Estudios Sociales

Reviewer for Palgrave Macmillan Books

Discussant and Chair for the “Conflict” panel at the 2024 WPSA conference

Discussant and Chair for the “Vulnerable Populations and Conflict Processes” panel at the 2023 ISA conference

Host for the New Books in Political Science podcast

Elected member of Diversity Promotion Committee, Graduate Center, CUNY (2019-2020)

Elected member of Student Committee, Graduate Center, CUNY (2017-2018)

Mentor for incoming PhD students, Graduate Center, CUNY (2016-2021)

Organizer of the Annual Political Science Graduate Student Conference, The Graduate Center, CUNY (2016)

Discussant at the Comparative Politics Workshop, The Graduate Center, CUNY (2016-2021)

Discussant at the Peace, Conflict, Crime, and Violence Workshop at the University of Notre Dame (2021-2022)

CITIZENSHIP / PERMANENT RESIDENCY

Iran / Canada – The United States