

Megan L. Becker

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Academic Appointments

2019- Assistant (Teaching) Professor of International Relations, University of Southern California
2016-18 Lecturer, School of International Relations, University of Southern California
2014-15 Visiting Lecturer, Department of Government, Dartmouth College
2013 Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Political Science, Tufts University
2012-14 Adjunct Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of California, San Diego

Affiliations

2020-22 Principal Investigator, NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program, "Data Science and the Political Economy of International Security," USC
2019-20 Faculty Fellow, Project on Teaching Integrity in Empirical Research (ProjectTIER)
2018- Catalyst, Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences
2017-19 Consultant, (Human) In the Loop Lab, University of California, San Diego
2016-19 Director, SIR Undergraduate Research Program, USC
2016- Principal Investigator, the Security and Political Economy (SPEC) Lab, USC

Education

2015 PhD, Political Science, University of California, San Diego
2008 MA, Political Science, University of California, San Diego
2006 BA, International Politics and Media Studies, Pennsylvania State University

Teaching Experience

Courses Taught at USC

Introduction to International Relations, International Relations: Approaches to Research, Historical Approaches to IR, Civil Wars, Africa in World Affairs, Introduction to International Security, International Negotiation and Conflict Resolution, Theories of War, Supervised Undergraduate Research Experience

Advising

Undergraduate Researchers Advised through USC Dornsife SOAR/SURF Program

2020-21: Jillian Glickman, Joseph Jocas, Sarah Orsborn, Hailey Robertson
2019-20: Srividya Dasaraju, Isabelle Nazha, Phuong Nguyen, Sarah Orsborn, Hailey Robertson
2018-2019: J. Benjamin Wu, Douglas Luo, Edith Conn, Isabelle Nazha, Srividya Dasaraju, Emily Wulf
2017-2018: Faizus Amin, Shawn Anderson, Taylor Dufour, J. Benjamin Wu, Emily Heuring
2016-2017: Lauren Cholakian, Naveen Dasari, Molly He, Rohit Madan, Jacob Tucker

Undergraduate Honors Theses Advised:

2021-22: Robert Scalia
2019-20: Srividya Dasaraju, Sarah Orsborn
2018-2019: Edith Conn, J. Benjamin Wu
2017- 2018: Sydney Grace Bandeen

Teaching Awards

2017 Craig L. Brians Award for Excellence in Undergraduate Research and Mentoring from the American Political Science Association
2021 CQ Press Award for Teaching Innovation from the American Political Science Association

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Refereed Publications

- 2021, "The Stewardship Model: An Inclusive Approach to Undergraduate Research" (with Ben Graham and Kelebogile Zvobgo [PhD Student]) in *PS: Political Science and Politics*
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096520001043>
- 2020, "Qualitative Replication as a Pedagogical Approach to Teaching Research Methods" in *PS: Political Science and Politics*
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096520000864>
- 2020, "Importing the Research Lab Model to the Social Sciences: Prospects for Improving Mentoring of Undergraduate Researchers" in *Journal of Political Science Education*
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15512169.2018.1505523>
- 2020, "Smoothing the Pipeline: A Strategy to Match Graduate Training with the Professional Demands of Professorship" (with Kelebogile Zvobgo [PhD Student]) in *Journal of Political Science Education*
<https://doi.org/10.1080/15512169.2019.1577141>

Non-Refereed Publications

- Forthcoming, "Course-based Undergraduate Research Book Review" in *Journal of Political Science Education*
- 2021, "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" in *Political Science Today* 1(1): 18.
- 2020, "A Semester Interrupted" in *H-Diplo/ISSF Roundtable: On Teaching International Relations Amid COVID-19*, <https://issforum.org/roundtables/PDF/Roundtable-XXI-57.pdf>
- 2020, "Redesigning the Undergraduate Political Science Major" in *PS: Political Science and Politics* (with Jeremy Bowling, Elsa Dias, Donald Gooch, and John Ishiyama)
- 2020, "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion" in *PS: Political Science and Politics*
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096519001859>
- 2019, "Simulations and Games" in *PS: Political Science and Politics* (with Lucy Goodhart)
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096518001920>
- 2018, "Disciplinary Curriculum and Assessment" in *PS: Political Science and Politics* (with Bobbi Gentry, Chad Kinsella, Erin Rowland, Kelebogile Zvobgo [PhD Student])
<https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096518000719>
- 2008, "Power-sharing and Peacebuilding in Burundi" (with Åschild Falch) *CSCW Paper*. Oslo: PRIO

Under Review

- "Research for All: Incorporating Research Experiences Across the Political Science Curriculum"
Revise and Resubmit at *PS: Political Science and Politics*
- "Replicating the Resource Curse: A Qualitative Replication of Ross 2004" with Jonathan Markowitz, Sarah Orsborn (UG Student), Isabelle Nazha (UG Alum), Srividya Dasaraju (UG Alum), Lindsay Lauder (UG Alum)
Recipient of the Kendra Koivu Award for Best Paper in Qualitative Methods Presented at APSA 2019
Revise and Resubmit at *International Studies Quarterly*
- "Transparency, Reproducibility, and Replication in International Relations Research"
Under consideration for inclusion in the *Handbook of Research Methods in International Relations*
- "Codebook Critique: Teaching Measurement and Operationalization with Publicly Accessible Data"
Under Review at *Journal of Political Science Education*

Working Papers

“Data Collection as Pedagogical Practice”

Presented at APSA 2020

“Civil-Military Relations and the US Military’s Use of Social Media”

Presented at Annotation for Transparent Inquiry Workshop 2018 and ISA 2019

"Military Privatization and Coup-proofing in Sub-Saharan Africa, 1990-2010"

Presented at ISA 2018

In Preparation

“Fueling Conflict: Natural Resources and the Duration of Civil War” with Sarah Orsborn (UG alum)

“Case Selection and Medium-N Qualitative Research Design: Lessons from a Universe of Cases”

“Start It Up: How the Exploitation of Natural Resource Wealth Leads to Civil Conflict”

with Sarah Orsborn (UG alum)

“Show Your Work: Teaching Research Transparency in an Undergraduate Methods Course”

“School is Out, Research is In: Creating Meaningful Summer Research Experiences for Undergraduates”

with Alix Ziff (PhD Student)

Grants

2020-22, NSF Research Experiences for Undergraduates Program, “Data Science and the Study of the Political Economy of International Security and Development” with co-PI Ben Graham: \$312,967

2020-21 Dornsife Dean of Undergraduate Studies Undergraduate Research Funds (with Ben Graham):

2020: \$18,000, 2021: \$15,000

2020, USC Center for International Studies Undergraduate Research Grant: \$3,000

2019-20, USC Ahmanson Lab Collaboratory Grant, “Climate Change, Natural Resources, and Pathways to Conflict”: \$10,000

2019-20, Faculty Fellowship, Project on Teaching Integrity in Empirical Research (ProjectTIER): \$7,500

2019, USC Center for International Studies Undergraduate Research Grant: \$3,000

2019, International Studies Association Travel Grant: \$500

2019, Center for the Improvement of Mentored Experiences in Research Training Grant: \$500

2018, USC Center for Excellence in Research Workshop Grant: \$1,500

2018, Research Transparency and Reproducibility Training Grant, Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences: \$1,500

2017-20, USC Undergraduate Research Associates Program, “Sustaining the Security and Political Economy Lab” with co-PIs Ben Graham and Jonathan Markowitz, 2017: \$7,000; 2018: \$10,000;

2019: \$8,000; 2020: \$6,000

2017-18, USC Zumberge Diversity and Inclusion Grant, “Fixing the Pipeline Problem: The Impact of Undergraduate Research Experience on First-Generation and Students of Color” with co-PIs Ben Graham and Ange-Marie Hancock-Alfaro: \$30,000

Teaching Workshops Facilitated

2021, “Working Effectively with Undergraduate Researchers,” APSA Annual Meeting

2021, “Managing Research Teams,” Women in Conflict Studies Professional Development Series

2020, “Promoting Transparency, Reproducibility and Replication in Undergraduate Research” with

Richard Ball, National Meeting of the Council on Undergraduate Research

2020, “Mentoring Undergraduate Researchers,” Gettysburg College Department of Political Science

2019, “Teaching Experimental Methods to Undergraduates” with Cheryl Boudreau, James Druckman, Daniel

Nielson, and Jaime Settle, APSA Annual Meeting

2019, “Mentoring Undergraduate Researchers,” WPSA Annual Meeting

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- 2019, “Mentoring Undergraduate Researchers,” Vanderbilt University Department of Political Science
- 2018, “Building Research Labs in the Social Sciences” with Ben Graham,
USC Center for Excellence in Research
- 2018, “Starting an Undergraduate Research Laboratory Outside of the Laboratory Sciences,”
National Meeting of the Council on Undergraduate Research
- 2018, “Bringing International Policy Issues into the Classroom,” Council on Foreign Relations’ University
Educators’ Workshop
- 2018, “From Data Consumers to Producers: Crowdsourcing as a Tool for Research In and Out of the
Classroom,” APSA Teaching and Learning Conference (TLC)
- 2018, “The Stewardship Model: An Inclusive Approach to Undergraduate Research” with Ben Graham,
USC Dornsife Diversity and Inclusion Week
- 2017, “Pedagogy Workshop for PhD Students” with Maureen Feeley, APSA Annual Meeting

Other Invited Presentations and Roundtables

- 2021, “Creating a Curriculum Centered on Reproducible Research,” moderator, Project on Teaching Integrity
in Empirical Research Spring Symposium
- 2020, “Replicating the Resource Curse,” invited talk, University of Georgia Center for International Trade and
Security
- 2020, “Mentorship during the Era of Covid-19,” invited roundtable participant, ISA-Midwest
- 2020, “Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in Political Science Education,” moderator, TLC at APSA Annual
Meeting
- 2018, “Qualitative Replication,” invited talk, Berkeley Initiative for Transparency in the Social Sciences
Annual Meeting

Professional Development

- 2019, *Entering Research* Facilitators’ Workshop, University of Wisconsin
- 2018, Research Transparency and Reproducibility Training, Berkeley Initiative for Transparency
in the Social Sciences
- 2017, Council on Undergraduate Research *Dialogues* Grant Writing Workshop
- 2016, Council on Undergraduate Research Pre-ISSOTL Workshop
- 2016 and 2018, Council on Foreign Relations’ University Educators Workshop

School of International Relations Service

- 2018-19, School of International Relations Advisory Committee
- 2017-19, Director of Undergraduate Research Program

University Service

- 2019- present, Fulbright Mentor
- 2019, Diversity, Inclusion, and Access Jumpstart Program Mentor
- 2017-present, Campus Boren Scholarship Committee
- 2016-present, Campus Fulbright Committee
- 2016-present, Trustee Scholarship Committee

Disciplinary Service

- 2022, Selection Committee for the Kendra Koivu Award, Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Section,
APSA
- 2021-2022, President, Active Learning in International Affairs Section, ISA
- 2021, Selection Committee for the Craig L. Brians Award, Political Science Education Section, APSA

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2020-21, Vice President, Active Learning in International Affairs Section, ISA
2020, Program Committee for the Teaching and Learning Mini-Conference, APSA
2019-22, Executive Committee, Political Science Education Section, APSA
2019-21, Program Chair, Active Learning in International Affairs Section, ISA
2019-21, Taskforce for Re-designing the Undergraduate Political Science Major, APSA

Outreach

2017, Moderator, Pacific Council on International Policy Panel on US Military Engagement in Africa
2017, Faculty Director for the SIR International Strategic Crisis Negotiation Exercise
2016, Faculty Lecturer for the SIR International Strategic Crisis Negotiation Exercise

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association
International Studies Association
Peace Science Society
Council on Undergraduate Research