

CURRENT POSITION

ESRC Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Department of Political Science and International Studies, University of Birmingham (October 2021–September 2022)

- Project: ‘Who rules where over whom when the fighting stop? Advancing research on war to peace transitions and post-war environments’

EDUCATION

DPhil (PhD) International Relations

Nuffield College, University of Oxford

- Thesis title: ‘Who Rules Where Over Whom When the Fighting Stops? Explaining State and Secessionist Strategies for Controlling Territory And People After Secessionist Wars’

MPhil Political Science (International Relations track), with distinction

Central European University (CEU)

MSc Global Politics, with distinction

Birkbeck, University of London

BA Philosophy, with Second Class Honours (First Division)

University of Bristol

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

- Research Assistant, Institute of Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict, Blavatnik School of Government, University of Oxford (August-October 2020)
 - Assisting with Dr Hugo Slim’s ‘Solferino 21’ project on the nature of the contemporary battlefield and humanitarian need and response; qualitative data collection, analysis and writing on incidents and trends in war, human needs and humanitarian action
- International Fellow, [Caucasus Research Resource Centre](#), Georgia (October-December 2019)
- Member, [Research School on Peace and Conflict](#) at the Peace Research Institute, Oslo
 - Visiting Research Fellow at PRIO (September 2018)
- Member, [TEL Graduate Workshop](#), University of Oxford
- Member, ECPR Research Network “Statehood, Sovereignty and Conflict”
- Visiting Scholar, Yale, Department of Political Science (January-June 2018)
- International field research experience:
 - Elite interviews in Georgia including Abkhazia: October-December 2016, April-June 2017; Serbia: October 2017; Kosovo: October-December 2017
 - Archival research, UN archives (New York): July 2017, June 2018
- Co-founder and co-convenor, [Workshop on Conflict Dynamics](#) (since 2017)
 - Responsible for the academic programme (presenters and discussants), fundraising, and organising expert roundtables (Policy Relevance and Conflict Research; Future Research Agendas; Ethics and Conflict Research)

- Founder and convenor (2016-18), [Working Group on Armed Conflict](#), part of the Changing Character of War Centre (University of Oxford)
- Co-convenor, Graduate Research Seminar in the Social Sciences, Nuffield College (2015-16)
- Research assistance experience: assistance with literature review of quantitative studies of peace duration (Professor Richard Caplan and Dr Anke Hoeffler)

TEACHING

- Oxford Summer Courses, 2021
 - Introduction to International Relations (seminars and tutorials for pre-university students)
- University of Oxford, 2018-20
 - International Relations core paper (tutorials and revision classes for undergraduates)
 - International Security and Conflict special paper (tutorials and revision classes for undergraduates)
 - Civil Wars: Causes, Consequences and Responses (bespoke course for visiting students)
- Central European University, 2012-13
 - Teaching assistant, 'Research Design and Methods in International Relations' (MA course with 50 students)
- Selected syllabi and teaching materials available here: <https://nicholasbarker.net/teaching/>

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Presenter (P), Discussant (D)

- Researching Conflict: Methodological Challenges and Opportunities, Online Workshop, 2020 (P)
- European Workshop in International Studies (Section: The International Dimensions of Unilateral Secession), Krakow, 2019 (P, D)
- Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, 2019 (P)
- CEEISA-ISA Joint International Conference, Belgrade, 2019 (P)
- ISA Annual Convention, Toronto, 2019 (P x2)
- Graduate Workshop: 'Challenges to Global Governance: Conflict, Contagion, and Citizens' Rights,' University College London, 2019 (P)
- Methodological Advances in the Study of Civil War and Political Violence, University of Birmingham, 2018 (D)
- Workshop on Intra-State Peace and Security, University of Mannheim, 2018 (P)
- PRIO Brown-Bag Seminar, Oslo, 2018 (P)
- ECPR General Conference (Section: Methodological Advances in the Study of Civil War and Political Violence), Hamburg, 2018 (P)
- ASN World Convention, Columbia University, 2018 (P)
- Harvard-MIT-Tufts-Yale Political Violence Workshop, Tufts University, 2018 (P)
- ISA Annual Convention, San Francisco, 2018 (P)
- Order, Conflict and Violence Program, Yale, 2018 (P, D)
- Tbilisi International Peace Conference, Tbilisi, 2017 (P)
- IR Research Colloquium, University of Oxford, 2017 (D)
- Global Justice Academy Summer School, University of Edinburgh, 2017 (P)
- OxPeace Annual Conference, St John's College, Oxford, 2016 (P)

RESEARCH METHODS TRAINING

- ‘Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research’ (Syracuse University), 2017
- ‘Introduction to GIS’ (Online course, University of Oxford), 2016
- ‘Advanced Qualitative Methods’ (University of Oxford), 2016
- ‘Statistical Methods in the Social Sciences’ (University of Oxford), 2015
- ‘Quantitative Methods in International Relations’ (University of Oxford), 2015
- ‘Research Design and Methods’ (University of Oxford), 2015
- ‘Process Tracing – Guidelines and Practice Methodologies of Case Studies’ (ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques, University of Ljubljana), 2013
- ‘Methodologies of Case Studies’ (ECPR Summer School in Methods and Techniques, University of Ljubljana), 2012

OTHER COURSES, TRAINING AND SUMMER SCHOOLS

- ‘Gender, Peace and Conflict’ (PRIO), 2019
- ‘Conflict Trends’ (PRIO), 2018
- ‘Political Violence’ (Yale), 2018
- ‘Governance, Identity, and War’ (PRIO), 2017
- Russian language training (Daugavpils University, Latvia), 2017
- Cyprus Course on Peace and Conflict (PRIO Cyprus Centre), 2016
- Russian language training (Center of Russian & Ukrainian as Second Languages, Odessa National Polytechnic University, Ukraine), 2016
- Olympia Summer Academy, ‘Conflict and Political Violence’ cycle, 2016
- ‘Prospects for Democracy, Stability and Europeanization in Ukraine: What Lessons from the Baltic Experience?’ (University of Tartu, Estonia), 2015
- ‘Geopolitics of the Wider Black Sea Area’ (Centre International de Formation Européenne/Georgian Foundation for Strategic and International Studies, Georgia), 2015
- ‘Dynamics of Civil War’ (PRIO), 2013
- ‘Conflict Resolution and Negotiation in South Caucasus’ (CEU), 2013
- ‘Power and Dynamics of Civil Resistance’ (CEU, led by the International Center on Nonviolent Conflict), 2011

WORK EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT

Academic Expert, AcademiaOne, December 2020 – present

Contributing Analyst, Wikistrat, December 2014 – October 2015

- Europe, Russia and Central Asia desks

European Voluntary Service (Gori, Georgia), December 2014 – August 2015

- Working for a local peacebuilding NGO (“Kartlosi”) in conflict-affected region
- Conducted research project, ‘Peace and Security in Shida Kartli’, investigating local experiences of security issues in villages on the Administrative Boundary Line with South Ossetia, through semi-structured interviews with residents (available at <https://wp.me/a7g3az-v>)
- Other responsibilities: identifying international partners and networks in the field of peacebuilding and conflict resolution; writing articles and publicity material to promote Kartlosi’s work; teaching English

Researcher, Survation (London, UK), February 2014 – August 2014

- General research within a political and social research company, including the preparation and analysis of opinion polls, background research for projects, writing articles for the website and other online content, and briefing and producing reports for clients

English teacher, Speed School of English (Bielsko-Biala, Poland) January 2011 – July 2011

- English classes in a private language school for all ages and levels of ability

WRITING

Partial list of published blog posts and articles:

‘Georgia’s Foreign Policy Trilemma: Balance, Bandwagon, or Hedge?’ [Part 1](#) and [Part 2](#), Caucasus Research Resources Blog, January 2020

[‘Who believes Georgia will regain its territorial integrity?’](#), Caucasus Research Resources Blog, December 2019

[‘The Importance of Local Peacebuilding in Georgia’](#), Insight on Conflict, August 2015

[‘Georgia: Why local peacebuilding matters’](#), Eastbook.eu, May 2015

[‘Why foreign policy needs more attention this election’](#), Brit Politics, April 2015

[‘Who will rule in Syria? Fragmented sovereignty and the problems of transition’](#) Strife Blog, March 2014

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

Foreign Languages: Russian (elementary [A2])

References available on request