

NICHOLAS BARKER

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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 Stops? Advancing Research on War to Peace Transitions and Post-War Environments’

EDUCATION

DPhil 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*

MSc Global Politics, with distinction, *Birkbeck, University of London*

BA Philosophy, with Second Class Honours (First Division), *University of Bristol*

CURRENT PROJECTS

Book project

- Who Rules Where Over Whom When The Fighting Stops: How States and Secessionists Control Territory and People After Separatist Wars (currently under review with an academic press)

Articles in preparation

- ‘New Minorities’ and the Consequences of Separatist Wars: Comparing Gali and North Kosovo’
- ‘Political Order in the Making After Separatist Wars: A Theory of State and Secessionist Post-War Strategies’
- ‘Peacekeeping and Security in Abkhazia and the Caucasus: The Role of the United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia’
- ‘Researching Civil Wars: Aligning Theory, Methods, And Evidence’

Impact Projects

- ‘Research on separatist conflict and lessons for security in Europe and Beyond’, funded by the ESRC Impact Accelerator Account (Follow on Fund), University of Birmingham, starting October 2022
- Mentoring Impact Scheme, funded by the ESRC Impact Accelerator Account, University of Birmingham

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/>

ACADEMIC ACTIVITIES

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

Invited talks:

- 'Expert Accounts of International Conflict: The Russian invasion of Ukraine', Institute for Conflict, Cooperation and Security (University of Birmingham), May 2022

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

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)

CONFERENCES AND WORKSHOPS

Presenter (P), Discussant (D)

Tartu Conference on Russian and East European Studies, 2022 (P)

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)

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)

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)

RESEARCH METHODS TRAINING

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University, 2017

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

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 University, 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, 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, Central European University (Hungary), 2013

ACADEMIC AFFILIATIONS AND VISITING FELLOWSHIPS

Fellow, Civil War Paths project, Centre for the Comparative Study of Civil War, University of Sheffield (since 2021)

Member, ECPR Research Network “Statehood, Sovereignty and Conflict” (since 2020)

International Fellow, Caucasus Research Resource Centre, Georgia (October-December 2019)

Member, Research School on Peace and Conflict at the Peace Research Institute, Oslo (2016-2020)

Visiting Research Fellow at PRIO (September 2018)

Visiting Scholar, Yale, Department of Political Science (January-June 2018)

OTHER WORK EXPERIENCE AND EMPLOYMENT

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 blog posts

‘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

References available on request