

RACHEL M. STEIN

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

George Washington University

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science (2012-present)

EDUCATION

Stanford University

Ph.D. in Political Science (2012)

Fields: International Relations, Comparative Politics

The University of Chicago

B.A. in International Studies with honors (2005)

RESEARCH

Dissertation

Title: Crime, Punishment, and War

Committee: Michael Tomz (Chair), Kenneth Schultz, Gary Segura

What explains public support for war? I argue that citizens draw on their beliefs about the morality of retribution to form opinions about the use of force by the state. I focus on retribution, the idea that violence ought to be repaid with violence, because previous studies in the fields of psychology, sociology, and criminology have shown that retribution is the primary determinant of public support for harsh criminal punishments in the United States. Using original survey data, I show that individuals who favor retributive justice are more likely to support the use of force by the state both domestically (in the form of law enforcement) and internationally (in the form of military action). This perspective also produces new insights into the conditions that make interstate conflict more likely. Retributiveness varies not only across individuals but also across societies. Using cross-national data on the legality of the death penalty, I find that democracies that retain the death penalty are more likely to engage in militarized disputes than democracies that have abolished the death penalty.

Additional Working Papers

“Casualty Insensitivity: Does Moral Conviction Lead Citizens to Disregard the Human Costs of War?”

“Interest Groups and Territorial Conflict: The Role of White Settlers in Post-1945 Decolonization.”

“Honor among Elites: Self-Defense, Retribution, and Support for War” (with Jim Golby).

“Moral Disgust or Religious Conviction? Opposition to Gay Rights in America” (with Ali A. Valenzuela).

Research Interests:

- The domestic sources of international conflict
- Public opinion on foreign policy
- The role of culture and norms in political processes
- Experimental methods in Political Science

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

Graduate Research Opportunity Grant, Stanford University (2011)

Department of Political Science Graduate Fellowship, Stanford University (2006-2011)

Adlai Stevenson Prize for best thesis in International Studies, University of Chicago, (2005)

SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Casualty Insensitivity: Does Moral Conviction Lead Citizens to Disregard the Human Costs of War?” Presented at the 2013 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

“Interest Groups and Territorial Conflict: The Role of White Settlers in Post-1945 Decolonization.” Presented at the 2013 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

“Meeting Violence with Violence: The Connection between Retributive Criminal Justice and Interstate Conflict.” Presented at the 2011 Meeting of the American Political Science Association and the 2012 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

“Honor among Elites: Self-Defense, Retribution, and Support for War” (with Jim Golby). Presented at the 2011 Meeting of the American Political Science Association and the 2011 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

“War as Punishment: Retributive Justice and Public Support for the Use of Force.” Presented at the 2011 Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association.

“Moral Disgust or Religious Conviction? Opposition to Gay Rights in America” (with Ali A. Valenzuela). Presented at the 2011 Meeting of the Western Political Science Association and the 2011 Meeting of the Politics of Race, Ethnicity, and Immigration Consortium in Davis, CA.

“Values and Violence: Are Southerners More Likely to Support War?” Presented at the 2010 Meeting of the American Political Science Association.

TEACHING

Undergraduate and graduate courses:

Public Opinion and U.S. Foreign Policy (undergraduate, graduate)

Other teaching:

Head Facilitator, Stanford University Summer Institute in Political Psychology (Summer 2010)

Facilitator, Stanford University Summer Institute in Political Psychology (Summer 2009)

Instructor, Geographical Information Systems (GIS) for the Social Sciences, Stanford University
2-week course (Summer 2008, Summer 2009)

SKILLS

Software: ArcGIS, GeoDa, STATA, R, Qualtrics

Languages: French (high proficiency), Russian (basic proficiency), Polish (basic proficiency),
Spanish (basic proficiency)

UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer for Time Sharing Experiments in the Social Sciences (TESS), *The Journal of Politics*,
International Interactions.

REFERENCES

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