

# Averell Schmidt

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## Academic Appointments

**Harvard University**; Cambridge, MA

Transitional Justice Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, 2023-2024

Fellow, International Security Program, Belfer Center for Science & International Affairs, 2020-2023

**Notre Dame University**; South Bend, IN

Hans J. Morgenthau Fellow, Notre Dame International Security Center, 2022-2023

## Education

**Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University**; Cambridge, MA

Ph.D., *Public Policy*, May 2024 (expected)

Dissertation: *Essays on the Politics of International Law*

Committee: Christina Davis, Kosuke Imai, Kathryn Sikkink

M.P.P., *International & Global Affairs*, 2014

**Lewis & Clark College**; Portland, OR

B.A., *International Affairs*, May 2007

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

**Averell Schmidt**, “**Damaged Relations**: How Treaty Withdrawal Impacts International Cooperation,” *American Journal of Political Science*, Early View.

**Averell Schmidt**, “**Treaty Withdrawal and the Development of International Law**,” *The Review of International Organizations*, Accepted.

– *Awarded*: Lawrence S. Finkelstein Prize, International Studies Association, 2024.

**Averell Schmidt** and Kathryn Sikkink, “**Breaking the Ban?** The Heterogeneous Impact of US Contestation of the Torture Norm,” *Journal of Global Security Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (January 2019), pp. 105-122.

**Averell Schmidt** and Kathryn Sikkink, “**Partners in Crime**: An Empirical Evaluation of the CIA’s Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation Program,” *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 16, No. 4 (December 2018), pp. 1014-1033.

– *Featured in*: “**Covert Collaboration**,” *Nature Human Behaviour*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (February 2019), p. 110.

## Manuscripts Under Review

Kathryn Sikkink, Helen Clapp, Daniel Marin-Lopez, and **Averell Schmidt**, “Gender and Transitional Justice: Explaining Global Trends,” *Revise & Resubmit*, *International Journal of Transitional Justice*.

**Averell Schmidt**, Kathryn Sikkink, Aroop Mukharji, and Federica D’Alessandra, “Peace through Law? International Law, Norms, and the Decline in Interstate Wars”

## Research In Progress

**Averell Schmidt**, “Constructive Criticism: Reciprocity in the International Human Rights Regime”

**Averell Schmidt**, “Amnesties and Public Pressure: Experimental Evidence from the United Nations Human Rights Council”

Ruofan Ma and **Averell Schmidt**, “Adaptation and Socialization Across International Organizations”

Kathryn Sikkink, Geoff Dancy, and **Averell Schmidt**, “Is the Justice Cascade Over?”

Geoff Dancy, **Averell Schmidt**, and Oskar Timo Thoms, “The Demand and Supply of Justice: Introducing the Human Rights Accountability Index”

## Book Chapters

**Averell Schmidt**, “Torture during the War on Terror: A Story of Norm Contestation and Resistance” in Jan Eckel and Daniel Stahl, eds., *Embattled Visions: Human Rights since 1990* (Göttingen, Germany: Wallstein Verlag, 2022), pp. 229-247.

## Policy Publications & Engagement

“**Brief of Coalition of Human Rights Scholars as *Amicus Curiae* in Support of Respondents.**” 2021. Filed with the Supreme Court of the United States in *United States v. Zayn Al-Abidin Muhammad Husayn, AKA Abu Zubaydah, et al.* No. 20-827.

**Averell Schmidt** and Kathryn Sikkink, “**This is what will happen if Trump brings back secret prisons,**” *Monkey Cage, The Washington Post*, February 9, 2017.

Douglas A. Johnson, Alberto Mora, and **Averell Schmidt**, “**The Strategic Costs of Torture:** How Enhanced Interrogations Hurt America,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 95, No. 5 (September/October 2016), pp. 121-132.

## Original Datasets

**United Nations Treaty Series** – 71,463 treaties, over 1.1 million pages of treaty text, and the timing of 276,821 ratifications, withdrawals, signatures, and other legal actions taken by states with respect to all bilateral and multilateral treaties during the 1873 to 2020 period, as recorded by the League of Nations and the United Nations registries.

**Returned Peace Corps Volunteers** (*in progress*) – data acquired through the Freedom of Information Act on all 239,479 United States Peace Corps volunteers serving from 1961 to 2020 including their name, sector, post, and start/end dates. To be merged with all 55,905 LinkedIn profiles citing Peace Corps service.

## Fellowships & Awards

Finkelstein Best Paper Award, International Organization Section, International Studies Association, 2024

Transitional Justice Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School, 2023–2024

Hans J. Morgenthau Fellowship, Notre Dame University, 2022-2023

The Weatherhead Center Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University, 2022-2023

Research Fellow, International Security Program, Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School, 2020-2023

Graduate Student Associate, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 2020-2023

Dissertation Writing Grant, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 2022

Distinction in Student Teaching, Harvard Kennedy School, 2020

Graduate Student Affiliate, Institute for Quantitative Social Science, Harvard University, 2019–2024

Fellow, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy, Harvard Kennedy School, 2014–2017  
Dean's Scholar, Lewis & Clark College, 2003–2007

## Research Grants

Weatherhead GSA Grants (three totaling \$8.7k), 2020–2022  
Open Society Policy Center (with D. Johnson and A. Mora), Grant (\$100k), 2016–2017  
Open Society Foundation (with D. Johnson and A. Mora), Grant (\$225k), 2016–2017  
Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, Grant (\$1.1k), 2014  
Ash Center for Democratic Governance, Grant (\$2.4k), 2014  
Belfer Center for Science & International Affairs, Grant (\$5k), 2013  
Middle East Initiative, Grant (\$1.5k), 2013

## Research Presentations

### *Professional Conferences*

- APSA: 2020 (paper), 2022 (paper), 2024 (roundtable)
- ISA: 2016 (pre-conference), 2021 (paper), 2023 (paper)
- MPSA: 2020 (paper; cancelled due to Covid-19)
- NPSA: 2016 (paper)
- PEIO: 2023 (paper)

### *Invited Presentations*

- John Quincy Adams Society, Washington, DC, 7/2023
- Junior IO Scholars Workshop, 10/2022
- Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, 3/2021
- Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University, 1/2021
- Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania, 3/2020 (cancelled due to Covid-19)
- Fritz Thyssen Foundation, Cologne, Germany, 5/2019
- International Relations Speaker Series, Harvard University, 4/2019
- Strategic Consequences of Torture Conference, Harvard University, 10/2016
- US Military Academy, West Point, New York (moderator), 3/2016
- European Stability Initiative, Berlin, Germany, 7/2015

## Conferences Organized

The Strategic Consequences of Torture, Harvard University, 10/2016  
International Affairs Symposium, Lewis & Clark College, 4/2007

## Research Experience

*Research Assistant*, Professor Erica Chenoweth; Cambridge, MA, Summer 2019  
*Research Assistant*, Professor Kathryn Sikkink; Cambridge, MA, Summer 2018–Summer 2019, Summer 2020  
*Fellow*, Carr Center for Human Rights Policy; Cambridge, MA, Summer 2014– Summer 2017  
*Research Intern*, Project on Middle East Democracy; Cairo, Egypt, Summer 2013  
*Research Assistant*, Georgian Found. for Strategic and Int'l Studies; Tbilisi, Georgia, Summer 2008  
*Research Assistant*, Institute for National Security Studies; Tel Aviv, Israel, Spring 2008  
*Research Assistant*, Centre for Policy Alternatives; Colombo, Sri Lanka, Winter 2008

## Teaching Experience

<i>Teaching Fellow</i> , IGA-103/HLS-2100: Global Governance; HKS/HLS Professor Kathryn Sikkink	Fall Term 2021
<i>Teaching Fellow</i> , API-201: Quantitative Analysis and Empirical Methods; HKS Professors Dan Levy, Theodore Svoronos, and Jonathan Borck	Fall Terms 2019, 2021
<i>Teaching Fellow</i> , IGA-150: International and Global Affairs Seminar; HKS Professor Dara Kay Cohen	Academic Year 2019-2020
<i>Teaching Fellow</i> , API-202Z: Empirical Methods II (advanced section); HKS Professor Theodore Svoronos	Spring Term 2020
<i>Teaching Fellow</i> , IGA-211/Gov-1796: American National Security, Strategy, and the Press; HKS Professors Graham Allison, David E. Sanger, and Derek Reveron	Fall Term 2019

## Other Experience

Harvard Journal of Middle Eastern Politics and Policy <i>Editor-in-Chief</i> , Harvard Kennedy School; Cambridge, MA	2012–2014
United States Peace Corps <i>Community Health Educator</i> ; Tirnest, Morocco	2010–2012
Sawtooth National Forest <i>Wildland Firefighter</i> ; Burley, ID	2007

## Languages & Service

<b>Arabic</b>	Advanced Moroccan Arabic Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic
<b>Software</b>	R; Python; ArcGIS
<b>Reviewer</b>	<i>The Journal of Politics</i> , <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> , <i>European Journal of International Relations</i> , <i>Journal of Global Security Studies</i> , <i>The Review of International Organizations</i> , <i>World Politics</i>
<b>Memberships</b>	APSA, ISA

## References

**Christina Davis**, Professor of Government  
Department of Government, Harvard University  
Edwin O. Reischauer Professor of Japanese Politics  
Susan S. and Kenneth L. Wallach Professor, Radcliffe Institute for Advanced Study  
E-mail: cldavis@harvard.edu

**Kosuke Imai**, Professor of Government and Statistics  
Departments of Government and Statistics, Harvard University  
E-mail: imai@harvard.edu

**Kathryn Sikkink**, Ryan Family Professor of Human Rights Policy  
Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University  
E-mail: kathryn\_sikkink@hks.harvard.edu