

DONALD GRASSE

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political violence (insurgency, state repression, communal conflict, legacies of violence), Comparative Political Economy (historical political economy, development).

APPOINTMENTS

University of Chicago Assistant Instructional Professor, Political Science	<i>Present</i>
Cornell University Visiting Assistant Professor, Government	<i>July 2024</i>
University of Chicago Executive Educational Instructor, MSCAPP	<i>October 2023</i>
University of Southern California Political Economy of Security Postdoctoral Scholar	<i>August 2022</i>

EDUCATION

Emory University PhD, Political Science	<i>August 2017 - August 2022</i>
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PUBLICATIONS

- [1] **Donald Grasse**, “State Terror and Long-run Development: The Persistence of the Khmer Rouge” *American Political Science Review* (2024) 118 (1): 195 - 212
- Media Coverage: [The Economist](#). “Cambodia’s Genocide is Still Hurting its People”; [Political Science Now](#) “The Economic Legacies of Repression.”
- [2] **Donald Grasse**, Renard Sexton, and Austin Wright, “Courting Civilians During Conflict: Evidence from Taliban Courts in Afghanistan” *International Organization* (2024) 78(1).
- [3] **Donald Grasse**, “Oil Crops and Social Conflict: Evidence from Indonesia” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* (2022) 66 (7-8):1422–1448
- [4] **Donald Grasse**, Melissa Pavlik, Hilary Matfess and Travis Curtice “Opportunistic Repression: Patterns of civilian targeting by the state in response to COVID-19” *International Security* (2021) 46 (2): 130–165.
- Public Scholarship: **Don Grasse**, Melissa Pavlik, Hilary Matfess and Travis Curtice. “Autocratic governments are using coronavirus as a pretext to clamp down on opponents” [The Monkey Cage](#). July 31, 2020.
- [5] Pearce Edwards, Jennifer Gandhi, and **Donald Grasse**, “Fixing the Past: The Effects of Human Rights Trials on Political Attitudes in Argentina” *British Journal of Political Science* 55 (2025): e26.
- [6] Pearce Edwards, Jennifer Gandhi, **Donald Grasse**, “Is Transitional Justice Blind? The Link between Culpability and Prosecution in Argentina’s Human Rights Trials” (*Accepted, Journal of Politics*)

WORKING PAPERS

- [1] **Donald Grasse** and Melissa Pavlik “Climate Change, Conservation, and Conflict: Evidence from Nigeria”
- [2] “Support for Peace and Gender Identity: Evidence from the War in Afghanistan ” with Zinab Attai, Renard Sexton, Christoph Zuercher

WORKS IN PROGRESS

- [1] “Atrocity Exhibition: Social Incentives and Violence Against Civilians During Conflict”
- [2] “Plunder and Coups: Evidence from Myanmar” with Renard Sexton
- [3] “Gang Territory and Labor Market Access: Evidence from Chicago” with Austin Wright
- [4] “Aerial Bombing and Insurgent Recruitment: Evidence from the Khmer Rouge” with Austin Wright
- [5] “Does Environmental Peacebuilding Work?” with Melissa Pavlik

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

- [1] Laney Graduate School Outstanding Scholarly Research Award in the Social Sciences (2022)
- [2] American Political Science Association Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant (DDRIG), (2021), \$ 14,886 (Declined)
- [3] Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG) Fellow (2021)
- [4] Crum Award for best Political Science research paper in any field, University of Kentucky (2016)

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Empirical Studies of Conflict Project (ESOC) Annual Meeting, 2022, 2024
Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes (VWAR), 2021
Southeast Asia Research Group (SEAREG), 2021
Midwestern Political Science Association, 2019, ~~2020~~ 2021, 2022, 2023
American Political Science Association, 2021, 2023

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor:

- GOVT 6000, Advanced Regression Analysis (PhD Methodology Course) Cornell University, Spring 2025
- GOVT 3000, Controversies in Security Studies, Cornell University, Spring 2025
- GOVT 4000, Climate Change and International Security, Cornell University, Fall 2024
- Databases and Database Management (for Decision Support Center Graduate Development Program), University of Chicago, Fall 2023
- POLS 120 - Introduction to Comparative Politics (Emory University) - Fall 2020, 2021

Tutor or Teaching Assistant:

- POLS 585, Design & Analysis of Experiments (Graduate), Emory University, Spring 2022
- POLS 111, Principles of Political Science, Emory University, Spring 2021
- POLS 300, Research Design for Political Science, Emory University, Spring 2020

MENTORSHIP

Thesis Advising:

- Molly Goldstein, Cornell University, 2025

Undergraduate Coaching:

- Maxine Wade Fellow - Barkely Forum, Emory University, 2017-2019
 - Coached undergraduate policy debate, working closely with undergraduate students on constructing arguments. Two former students have gone on to pursue Ph.D.s in political science.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Referee: **2025** *International Organization* (2), **2024** *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *British Journal of Political Science* **2023** *American Journal of Political Science*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science* **2022** *Journal of Politics*, **2021** *International Interactions*

Discussant: **2024** Virtual Workshop on Authoritarian Regimes; **2023** Midwestern Political Science Association Annual Meeting; **2022** American Political Science Association Annual Meeting

Last updated: September 2, 2025