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EDUCATION

Ph.D. Political Science
McGill University, expected 2012.

Dissertation: "Aiding and Abetting: Foreign Aid and State Coercion."

Fields: International Relations & Comparative Politics (Post-Communist Countries/Southeast Asia)

Committee: Stephen M. Saideman (chair), T.V. Paul, and Juliet Johnson.

M.A. Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies
University of Texas at Austin, 2006.

Thesis: "Terrorism in Authoritarian Regimes: Defining the Cycle of Repression and Violence in Uzbekistan."

B.A. International Development and Russian Studies (Joint Honours)
McGill University, 2004.

Other. Centre of Russian Language and Culture
St. Petersburg State University, Summer 2005.

DISSERTATION

Aiding and Abetting: Foreign Aid and State Coercion.

This study demonstrates the effect of US foreign policy on the internal security dynamics of aid recipient states. I draw upon the international security and contentious politics literatures to analyze how US foreign assistance affects the ability of recipient countries to employ violence against their citizens. I argue that as a consequence of fungibility—the diversion of aid for use as a general government resource—foreign aid may increase the likelihood of state violence through its effect on the state's coercive capacity. I further hypothesize that the coercive effects of foreign aid are conditioned by the political institutions of the recipient state and its past history of conflict. I test this argument through multiple case studies and a time-series cross-national dataset of annual US bilateral foreign aid and various measures of state violence and repression for approximately 110 developing countries during the period of 1976 to 2008. This research links the study of political violence with the changing nature of international relations and provides considerable insight into international influences on intrastate conflict. Additionally, I provide an explanation for why failing states persist, despite the high levels of international assistance they receive, and further suggest that foreign aid undermines development by creating conditions propitious to increased political violence in recipient countries.

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed

- In Stéfanie von Hlatky and Jessica N. Trisko. "Sharing the Burden of the Border: Layered Press. Security Cooperation and the Canada-US Frontier." *Canadian Journal of Political Science*.
- 2005 Jessica N. Trisko. "Coping with the Islamist Threat: Analysing Repression in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan." *Central Asian Survey* Vol. 24, No. 4: 373-389.
- 2004 Jessica N. Trisko. "Transforming the NGO Sector: Legal Reform in Kazakhstan." *Journal of Central Asian Studies* Vol. 8, No. 2: 21-37.

Edited Volumes and Reviews

- 2011 Jessica N. Trisko. Review of *The Spectacular State: Culture and National Identity in Uzbekistan*, by Laura L. Adams. *Canadian Slavonic Papers* Vol. 53, No. 1: 131-132.
- 2010 Stéfanie von Hlatky and Jessica N. Trisko. "La frontière américaine du Québec: la sécurité avant tout?," in *Le Destin américain du Québec : Américanité, américanisation et anti-américanisme*, ed. Guy Lachapelle, 225-244. Québec, QC: Presses de l'Université Laval.
- 2008 Stéfanie von Hlatky and Jessica N. Trisko. "Is the Best Defence a Good Offence? Bush's Foreign Policy Legacy." *McGill Foreign Affairs Review* Vol. 1, No. 1.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- 2010-2012 *Visiting Fellow*, The Program on Order, Conflict and Violence, Yale University
- 2010 *Security and Defence Forum Doctoral Scholarship*, Department of National Defence: \$20,000
Visiting Fellow (Summer), The Maureen and Mike Mansfield Foundation
- 2009 *Best Paper Award*, McGill-Université de Montréal Research Group in International Security Annual Graduate Student Conference
Israel Young Scholars Fellowship, Canadian Council for Israel and Jewish Advocacy
- 2007 *Joseph-Armand Bombardier Canada Graduate Scholarship* (3 years), Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council: \$105,000
McGill Major Fellowship (3 years), McGill University: \$45,000 - declined
- 2006 *Canada Study Grants for Female Doctoral Students* (3 years), Government of Canada: \$9,000
Recruitment Excellence Fellowship, McGill University: \$5,000
Best Paper Award, Association of Central Eurasian Students Conference
- 2004 *Henry Chapman Prize for Studies in Modern Languages* (Russian), McGill University

RESEARCH AND TRAVEL GRANTS

Centre for International Peace and Security Studies: \$2,950 (2011), \$1,700 (2010), \$1,200 (2009)

Department of Political Science, McGill University: \$6,000 (2011), \$5,700 (2010), \$700 (2009)

Graduate Student Research Award, Faculty of Arts, McGill University: \$3,500 (2011)

Graduate Student Travel Award, Faculty of Arts, McGill University: \$2,000 (2010)

International Studies Association: \$400 (2010), \$350 (2009)

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2010- Research Assistant for Jason Lyall, *CIVCAS* and *Changing Patterns of War* Datasets,
2011 Yale University

2010 Expert Coder for Southeast Asia, *Ethnic Power Relations (EPR) Dataset*, ETH Zurich and UCLA

2006- Research Assistant for T.V. Paul, Eric Belanger and Juliet Johnson, McGill University
2010

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2011 Teaching Fellow, *Foundations and Evolution of the International System* (Graduate Course),
Jackson Institute for Global Affairs, Yale University

2010 Instructor, *American Foreign Policy*, Political Science, McGill University

2007 Teaching Assistant, *Post-Communist Transitions*, Political Science, McGill University

2006 Teaching Assistant, *Russian and Soviet Politics*, Political Science, McGill University

2004- Teaching Assistant, Undergraduate courses in Russian, East European and Eurasian Studies,
2006 University of Texas at Austin

ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

2011 "Aiding Repression: Theorizing Foreign Aid and Political Violence." *American Political Science Association Conference*.

"Buying Power? Government Stability and US Foreign Aid Policy." *ISA Annual Convention*.

"The Political Economy of Repression: Is US Foreign Aid Funding Human Rights Violations in Asia?" *ISA Annual Convention*.

- 2010 “Buying Stability? Foreign Aid and US Grand Strategy Post-9/11.” *ISSS/ISAC Conference*.
 “Testing Theories of American Foreign Aid in the Post-Cold War Years.” *ISA Annual Convention*.
 “Crisis on Two Fronts: The Future of U.S.-Japan Security Relations.” *ISA Annual Convention*.
- 2009 “The Future of Quebec-U.S. Border Security: Does Thicker Mean Safer?” *ISSS/ISAC Conference*
 “American Foreign Aid to Asia (1991-2005): The Price of Stability?” *McGill-Université de Montréal Research Group in International Security (REGIS) 7th Annual Graduate Student Conference*.
 “Buying Stability? U.S. Foreign Aid to Indonesia and the Philippines.” *ISA Annual Convention*.
- 2007 “The Power of the Word: Internet Reporting on Terrorism in Uzbekistan.” *Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) Convention*.
- 2006 “Terrorism in Authoritarian Regimes: Defining the Cycle of Violence.” *Association of Central Eurasian Students Conference*.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS

- 2011 “Aiding Freedom or Fear? The Effect of Foreign Assistance on State Violence.” *The Jackson Institute for Global Affairs International Relations Workshop*, Yale University. (November 30)
 “Counting Bodies, Counting Lives: What We Learn from Documenting Civilian Casualties in Times of War.” With Izabela Steflja. *The Program on Order, Conflict and Violence Speaker Series*, Yale University. (September 28)
 “Burden Sharing through Other Means: American, Japanese and Korean Foreign Aid to Asia.” *Harvard Project for Asian and International Relations 2011 Conference*, Seoul, South Korea.
- 2010 “Aiding Repression: Theorizing the Domestic Effects of International Aid.” *The Program on Order, Conflict and Violence Speaker Series*, Yale University.
 “Sharing the Burden of the Border: Layered Security Cooperation and the Canada-US Frontier.” With Stefanie von Hlatky. *Canada Institute at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars*, Washington, DC.

EMPIRICAL TRAINING

- 2011 *Pooled Time-Series Cross-Sectional Analysis*, Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis
- 2010 *Short Course on Multi-Method Research*, American Political Science Association
Time-Series: Applications and Advances, Essex Summer School in Social Science Data Analysis
Structural Equation Modeling, Concordia University Workshop Series on Social Research
- 2009 *Introduction to R and Survival and Event History Analysis in R*, ECPR Summer School in Methods
- 2007 *Advanced Empirical Methods (Quantitative Analysis)*, McGill University

REFERENCES

STEPHEN M. SAIDEMAN

Canada Research Chair in International Security and Ethnic Conflict

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