

SALLY SHARIF

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Substantive: political violence; civil war; international conflict management; disarmament, demobilization, and reintegration; post-conflict state consolidation; authoritarian politics

Methodological: causal inference with observational data; natural experiments; instrumental variable estimation; difference in differences; machine learning

ACADEMIC POSITIONS

College of the Holy Cross (Incoming) Worcester, MA
Assistant Professor in Comparative Politics

University of British Columbia (Sept. 2023–current) Vancouver, BC
Lecturer in Political Science

Simon Fraser University (Sept. 2022–2024) Vancouver, BC
Simons Foundation Canada Postdoctoral Fellow

University of Notre Dame (Sept. 2021–Aug. 2022) Notre Dame, IN
Post-Doctoral Research Associate, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies

Universidad de los Andes (May–Aug. 2019) Bogota, Colombia
Visiting Scholar, Department of Political Science

EDUCATION

Graduate Center, City University of New York New York, NY
Ph.D. in Political Science, 2015–2021
Subfields: comparative politics, international relations
Dissertation: *Demobilizing and Reintegrating Ex-Combatants: Explaining Success and Failure on the National and Subnational Levels*
Advisor: Thomas G. Weiss

University of Leuven; Université Nanterre Paris X Paris, France
MPhil in Political Philosophy and Political Economy, 2013–2015, Magna Cum Laude

University of Leuven; Freie Universität Berlin Berlin, Germany
MA, Philosophy, 2011–2013, Magna Cum Laude

University of Leuven Leuven, Belgium
BA, Philosophy, 2011, Magna Cum Laude

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

12. Sharif, Sally. Forthcoming in 2026. “Why do Armed Groups Return to War After Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration? Introducing the DDR-40 Dataset (1980–2020).” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. [Working Paper]

11. Sharif, Sally, and Julio Zuluaga-Jimenez. Forthcoming in 2026. “When Reintegration of Ex-Combatants Turns Deadly: The State’s Role in Preventing Post-Conflict Homicides.” *International Interactions*.

10. Schwarz, Christopher, Sally Sharif, and Christian Oswald. Forthcoming in 2026. “Sharpening Blunt Instruments: Exploiting Non-Linearities to Enhance Identification.” *International Studies Quarterly*. [Working Paper]

9. Sharif, Sally, and Francy Carranza-Franco. 2025. “Delegative Peacebuilding: Explaining Post-Conflict Selective Violence.” *Conflict Management and Peace Science*. [Replication files]

8. Sharif, Sally, and Madhav Joshi. 2025. “Territorial Consolidation After Rebel Victory: When does Civil War Recur?” *Territory, Politics, Governance* 13(7), 920–940. [[Replication files](#)]
7. Sharif, Sally, Iliia Murazashvili, and Jennifer Brick Murtazashvili. 2025. “Rebel Victory and Constitutional Change.” *Public Choice* (February). [[Working paper](#)] [[Replication files](#)]
6. Quinn, Jason M., T. David Mason, Mustafa Kirisci, and Sally Sharif. 2024. “Proto-Insurgency, Repression-Driven Contagion, and Civil War Onset.” *Peace and Defense Economics* 35(5): 601–621.
5. Sharif, Sally. 2023. “How Wartime Bonds Affect Ex-Combatant Political Attitudes: A Natural Experiment with the FARC.” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 35(5): 1106–1125.
4. Overton, Kathryn, and Sally Sharif. 2023. “Agents with Principles? Preventing Conflict-Related Sexual Violence with Human Rights Laws and Norms.” *Human Rights Quarterly* 45(3): 487–512.
3. Sharif, Sally. 2022. “Can the Rebel Body Function without its Visible Heads? The Role of Mid-Level Commanders in Peacebuilding.” *International Peacekeeping* 29(5): 709–740.
2. Sharif, Sally. 2021. “Predicting the End of the Syrian Conflict: From Theory to the Reality of a Civil War.” *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism* 44(4): 326–345.
1. Sharif, Sally. 2018. “A Critical Review of Evidence from Ex-Combatant Re-Integration Programs.” *Politics of Return Project*. London, UK: Social Science Research Council.

Under Review

3. Modeling Multiple Endogeneities with One Instrument: Does Democratization Improve Inequality? (with Christopher Schwarz)
2. Why do Civil Wars Recur Unevenly? Landed Elites and Counterinsurgency in Colombia
1. Whose Community Counts? The Intergroup Interaction Effect in Political Reintegration of Ex-Combatants

Work in Progress

5. *Beyond Disarmament: Why Armed Groups Return to War* [Book project]. Manuscript available upon request.
4. *Shadow Sovereignty: The Long-Term Impact of Mobilizing Militias and Paramilitaries* [Book project]. Data collection in progress; initial field research completed in Iran, southern Mexico, southern Chile.
3. Networks of Mid-Level Commander Defection in Post-Conflict Transitions (with Dayron Monroy). Manuscript and original dataset available upon request; paper presented at APSA 2023.
2. Rethinking Security: Civic Protection and the State’s Role in Post-Conflict Peace. Global time-series data collected; analysis completed; writing in progress.
1. Identification at Scale: Exploiting First Stage Heterogeneity in Instrumental Variables Designs (with Christopher Schwarz & Christian Oswald). Replication data collected; analysis in progress.

Editor-Reviewed Publications

8. Sharif, Sally. 2026. “The Colombian border is one of the biggest obstacles to building a new Venezuela.” *The Conversation* (13 January).
7. Sharif, Sally. 2025. “Syrian Regime Change: How Rebel Victories Often Lead to Unstable, Non-Inclusive Governments.” *The Conversation* (2 February).
6. Sharif, Sally. 2022. “Ethiopia’s Peace May Depend on Post-Conflict Plans for Tigray Soldiers.” *The Washington Post* (18 November).
5. Sharif, Sally, and Madhav Joshi. 2022. “Can Peace Agreements Alone Maintain Peace After Rebel Victory?” *Peace Accords Matrix (PAM) Policy Brief Series*.
4. Sharif, Sally. 2022. “How to Canton Ex-Combatants: Inclusive Peacebuilding with the FARC.” *Peace Accords Matrix (PAM) Policy Brief Series*.
3. Quinn, Jason M., and Sally Sharif. 2022. “Patterns of Armed Conflict Recurrence among Peace Agreement Signatories.” *Peace Accords Matrix (PAM) Policy Brief Series*.
2. Sharif, Sally. 2020. “How Robust is the Authoritarian Social Contract? Social Dissent during Iran’s COVID-19 Outbreak.” *POMEPS Studies* 39.
1. Sharif, Sally, and Dayron Yegrail. 2019. “The Art of Winning a Peace Agreement: The Case of the FARC.” *Political Violence at a Glance* (16 September).

TEACHING

As Instructor of Record at the University of British Columbia

- Politics and Government of Latin America (Fall 2025)
- Quantitative Methods in Political Science (Spring 2025)
- Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2024)
- International Conflict Management (Spring 2024)
- Armed Group Governance (Spring 2024)
- Political Violence, State Fragility, and State-Building (Fall 2023)

As Instructor of Record at Simon Fraser University

- Research Methods in International Studies (Fall 2023)
- State Failure and Reconstruction (Summer 2023)

As Teaching Assistant at the University of Michigan's ICPSR Summer Program

- Causal Inference for the Social Sciences (Jake Bowers and Thomas Leavitt), 2023
- Causal Inference for the Social Sciences II (Sebastian Calonico and Gonzalo Vazquez-Bare), 2023
- Regression III – Advanced Methods (David Armstrong), 2022
- Simultaneous Equation Models (Sandy Marquart-Pyatt), 2021
- Causal Inference (Jake Bowers), 2020
- Maximum Likelihood Estimation (Robert Lupton), 2020

AWARDS

- 2023 — US Permanent Residency for research merit and impact (National Interest Waiver), US Government
- 2023 — Mitacs Globalink Research Award for Social and Scientific Innovation, Government of Canada
- 2022 — American Political Science Association (APSA) First Generation Scholar Award
- 2021 — Joseph Murphy Award for best conference paper, CUNY Graduate Center
- 2019 — Canadian Permanent Residency for research experience and language skills, Government of Canada
- 2019 — Ivo Duchasek Award for best publication, CUNY Graduate Center

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- 2025 — Start-Up Package, College of the Holy Cross (\$17,000)
- 2024 — Research Seed Grant, University of British Columbia (\$2,000)
- 2023 — Mitacs Globalink Research Support (\$6,000)
- 2023 — APSA Centennial Center Research Grant (\$2,500)
- 2022 — School for International Studies Field Research Support, 2022–2023 (\$6,000)
- 2020 — Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics & Statecraft Fellowship (\$7,500)
- 2020 — Center for Place, Culture, and Politics Dissertation Fellowship (\$10,000)
- 2020 — Provost's Digital Innovation Implementation Grant, CUNY Graduate Center (\$6,000)
- 2020 — Doctoral Student Research Grant, CUNY Graduate Center (\$1,000)
- 2020 — Dissertation Year Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center (\$15,000)
- 2020 — Open Pedagogy Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center (\$2,000)
- 2019 — Scholarship for Political Science Research, ICPSR, University of Michigan (\$5,200)
- 2019 — Travel grant, Center for Latin American, Caribbean & Latino Studies, CLACLS (\$900)
- 2019 — Doctoral Student Research Grant, CUNY Graduate Center (\$1,000)
- 2019 — Provost's Digital Innovation Training Grant, CUNY Graduate Center (\$1,000)
- 2019 — EITM Certification Scholarship (\$8,200)
- 2018 — Doctoral Student Research Grant, CUNY Graduate Center (\$1,000)
- 2018 — NASP Young Investigator Training Program in Political Studies (€4,000)
- 2016 — Dissertation Research Travel grant, CLACLS (\$1,000)
- 2016 — Five-Year Doctoral Fellowship, CUNY Graduate Center (2015–2020)

FIELD RESEARCH AND SKILLS

Languages: English (native speaker); Persian (native speaker); German (fluent); French (fluent); Spanish (fluent); Classical Arabic (intermediate); Urdu (conversational)

Field Research: Mexico (Feb. 2024); Chile (Dec. 2023–Jan. 2024); Colombia (Jan. 2023; March 2022; April–Aug. 2019; Jan. 2018; Jan. 2017); Bolivia (Nov. 2019); Iran (Jan. 2022; May–June 2018)

Software: R, SPSS, QGIS, L^AT_EX

INVITED TALKS

- 2025 — Panel Speaker at “Post-war Syria: Paths to Stability” at the Arab Political Science Network (APSN)
- 2025 — Interview with the Colombia Calling Podcast: “Peacebuilding Cannot Happen Without Security: Why the Killings of Social Leaders in Colombia Continues”
- 2024 — Speaker at the International Relations Colloquium at the University of British Columbia: “Why do Disarmed Groups Return to War?”
- 2024 — Speaker at the Comparative Politics Colloquium at the University of British Columbia: “Delegative Peacebuilding: Explaining Post-Conflict Selective Violence”
- 2023 — Blalock Lecture (in honor of Tad Blalock) at the University of Michigan: “Methodological Opportunism in the Study of Conflict”
- 2023 — Panel Speaker at the roundtable “Are Militaries and Military Institutions Inherently Dysfunctional” at Simon Fraser University, Canada
- 2022 — Guest Lecturer for the seminar “When are Conflicts Ripe for Resolution? Timing, Interests, and Spoilers” at Leiden University, the Netherlands
- 2022 — Presenter at the School for International Studies Colloquium at Simon Fraser University, Canada
- 2021 — Panelist at *Paz Territorial: A 5 Años de Implementación del Acuerdo de Paz del Teatro Colón* at the Universidad de los Andes, Colombia
- 2021 — Presenter at the Kroc-Kellogg Peace, Conflict, Crime and Violence Workshop at the University of Notre Dame
- 2016 — Keynote speaker at “Reading Terror: Representations and Resistance” conference at the Graduate Center, City University of New York

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 — APSA — When do Disarmed Groups Rebel?
- 2025 — PolMeth Canada — “Exploiting Non-Linearities: A Novel Approach to Strengthen Common Instrumental Variables”
- 2024 — WPSA — “Rebel Re-Governance”
- 2023 — APSA — “Community-Based Peacebuilding: Bringing the State Back In”
- 2023 — ISA — “More Murder After War? Exploring Homicide Rates Before, During, and After Civil Conflict”
- 2023 — ISA — “Rebel Defection in Transitions from Civil Conflict: Why do Mid-Level Commanders Rearm?”
- 2023 — Latin American Peace Science Society — “Violent Peace After Civil War? The Logic of Collective Self-Protection Against Post-Conflict Crime”
- 2022 — APSA — “When Does Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Fail to Keep Peace? Introducing DDR-40 Dataset”
- 2022 — ISA — “When does Civil War Recur after Rebel Victory”
- 2021 — ISA — “How Wartime Bonds Affect Ex-Combatant Political Attitudes: A Natural Experiment with the FARC”
- 2020 — APSA — “Why are Some Demobilization and Reintegration Camps more Successful than Others? A Subnational Theory of DDR with the FARC”
- 2020 — Four Corners Conflict Network — “Agents with Principles? The Role of Domestic Human Rights in Stopping Conflict-Related Sexual Violence”
- 2019 — APSA — “What Makes Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration Programs Successful? Introducing the DDR-18 Dataset (1980–2018)”
- 2018 — Annual Political Science Graduate Student Conference, CUNY Graduate Center — “DDR and CVE, A Match Made in Heaven or False Friends in Combat? The Case of Somalia”
- 2017 — Annual Political Science Graduate Student Conference, CUNY Graduate Center — “Predicting the End of the Syrian Civil War: From Theory to Reality of a Civil War”

POLICY POSITIONS

Social Science Research Council (SSRC) New York, NY
Consultant in Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (Feb.–April 2017)

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) New York, NY
Political Affairs Intern (May–Sept. 2016)

Ralph Bunche Institute for International Studies New York, NY
Research Assistant (Aug. 2015–May 2016)

SERVICE TO THE FIELD

Journal Reviewer for

World Politics; British Journal of Political Science; Journal of Politics; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Conflict Management and Peace Science; International Studies Quarterly; Terrorism and Political Violence; Comparative Politics; Conflict, Security & Development; Peace & Change; Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict; Revista de Estudios Sociales

Book Reviewer for

Routledge; Palgrave Macmillan

Professional Service

- Discussant for the “Causes of Ethnic Conflict and Cooperation” panel at the 2025 APSA conference
- Discussant and Chair for the “Conflict” panel at the 2024 WPSA conference
- Discussant and Chair for the “Vulnerable Populations and Conflict Processes” panel at the 2023 ISA conference
- Host for the New Books in Political Science podcast
- Elected member of Diversity Promotion Committee, Graduate Center, CUNY (2019–2020)
- Elected member of Student Committee, Graduate Center, CUNY (2017–2018)
- Mentor for incoming PhD students, Graduate Center, CUNY (2016–2021)
- Organizer of the Annual Political Science Graduate Student Conference, The Graduate Center, CUNY (2016)
- Discussant at the Comparative Politics Workshop, The Graduate Center, CUNY (2016–2021)
- Discussant at the Peace, Conflict, Crime, and Violence Workshop at the University of Notre Dame (2021–2022)