

SILVANA TOSKA

CONTACT INFORMATION

Department of Political Science
Davidson College
Box 7124
Davidson, NC 28035
sitoska@davidson.edu
www.silvanatoska.com

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Davidson College, Department of Political Science (2016 – present)
Assistant Professor of Political Science

EDUCATION

Cornell University, Department of Government
Ph.D. Political Science, January 2017
M.A. Political Science, May 2011

The University of Oxford, African Studies Department
M.Sc. African Studies, June 2008

Georgetown University, Arab Studies Department
M.A. Arab Studies, May 2005

The University of Pennsylvania
B.A. Political Science and French, Minor African Studies, May 2003

BOOKS

Rebel Emotions: The Roots of Revolutionary Waves. Oxford University Press, 2024

PUBLICATIONS

“Political Islam in Peace and War: The Case of Yemen,” 2021. *Routledge Handbook of Political Islam*, edited by Shahram Akbarzadeh, Routledge.

“The Multiple Scripts of the Arab Uprisings,” 2015. *Scripting Revolutions*, edited by Dan Edelstein and Keith Baker, Stanford University Press.

“Contextualizing Social Media: Protest Mobilization in the Age of Twitter,” 2015. *The Arab Uprisings: Catalysts, Dynamics, and Trajectories*, edited by Fahed Al-Sumait, Nele Lenze, and Michael C. Hudson. Rowman and Littlefield.

WORKING BOOKS & PAPERS

Irrational Intelligence: Emotions and Intelligence Analysis in US and Israel, *Book Manuscript in Progress*

Saudi Arabian Foreign Policy in a Changing Country and Region, *Book Manuscript in Progress*

Military Origins and Military Actions During Arab Uprisings – *Under Review*

Nuclear Deterrence Depends on Leaders’ Emotions – *Near Completion*

Stereotypes, Emotions, and Intelligence Estimates of 9/11 and October 7 – with Petros Batsakis

Why Civil Resistance Succeeds – Until it Doesn't

ADDITIONAL
PUBLICATIONS

[Tribes and Politics in Yemen: A History of the Houthi Conflict](#) by Marieke Brandt (review), *The Middle East Journal*, 72(3), 2018

[Faculty Parents of Young Children are Drowning](#). *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, April 2022

Sustaining Peace: Making Development Work for the Prevention of Violent Conflicts, the case of Egypt, Tunisia, Morocco, and Jordan. *The United Nations – World Bank Flagship Study*, May 2017

[Has Saudi Arabia Already Won its Yemen War?](#) *Monkey Cage/The Washington Post*, May 2015

[Shifting Balances of Power in Yemen's Crisis](#), *Monkey Cage/The Washington Post*, October 2014

[Why We Should no Longer Trust the Words 'Free and Fair'](#), *Foreign Policy*, September 2013

[Building a Yemeni State While Losing a Nation](#), *Foreign Policy*, October 2012
Reprinted in "Yemen's National Dialogue," *Project on Middle East Political Science: Briefing nr 19*, March 2013

FELLOWSHIPS &
AWARDS

APSA Research Fellowship, summer 2024

Davidson College FSR funding for field research in Jordan and Lebanon, Israel & France, 2023

Davidson College FSR funding for field research in Jordan and Lebanon, Summer 2019

Junior Faculty Book Manuscript Workshop, *Project on Middle East Political Science* at Princeton University, 2017

The George Kahin McT Prize, for the dissertation research in the areas of international relations and foreign policy studies judged to hold the greatest promise as a contribution to the discipline, Department of Government, Cornell University 2012

LaFerber Prize for Teaching Excellence, awarded annually to one graduate student with the best teaching record, Department of Government, Cornell University 2012

POMEPS: Project on Middle East Political Science, Research Travel Grant, Summer 2012

Bluestone Fellowship, Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, 2011-2012

Summer Language Training Grant for study in Syria, School of Graduate Studies, Cornell University, 2011

Director's Fellow, Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, 2010-2111

Training Grant, Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, Department of Government, Cornell University, 2010

Sage Fellowship, Department of Government, Cornell University, 2008-2009

Summer Language Training Grant for study in Syria, School of Graduate Studies, Cornell University, 2009

Clarendon (Full) Scholarship, Exeter College, Oxford University, 2007-2008

African Studies Research Grant for research in Sudan, Oxford University, 2008

Rothberg (Full) Scholarship, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2006-2007

Full Merit Scholarship, Georgetown University, 2003-2005

Research Fellowship, Ministry of Higher Education, Saudi Arabia, Fall 2004

Benjamin Franklin Scholar, University of Pennsylvania, 1999-2003

Full Scholarship, University of Pennsylvania, 1999-2003

FIELDWORK
EXPERIENCE

Jordan (June 2019)
Lebanon (July 2019)
Egypt (August 2012- August 2016)
Yemen (August 2013)
Lebanon (December 2011- January 2012)
Egypt (June-August 2011)
Syria (June-August 2009)
Sudan (April- March 2008)
Saudi Arabia (September- December 2004)
Yemen (June-August 2004)
Senegal (January-June 2001).

ADDITIONAL
ACADEMIC
EXPERIENCE

Exchange Scholar, Department of Government, Harvard University, 2011-2012
IQMR: The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, June 2012
ICPSR: Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, June-July 2010
Visiting Graduate Student in Jewish and Islamic Studies, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 2006-2007

SELECTED
PRESENTATIONS &
WORKSHOPS

Fear or Fury: How Mobilizing Emotions Explain Diffusion of Revolt - Presented at APSA, September 2020

Youth Movements in the Middle East – Workshop Participant, Amman, Jordan, June 2019

Why Do Individuals Support their Own Subordination? Evidence from Saudi Arabia, Presented at APSA 2019

“Yemen at War – A Discussion.” With invited speakers Fatima al-Asrar and Alkhatab al-Rawani, March 26, 2019, Davidson, N.C.

“The War in Yemen: Opportunities for Negotiations” – Invited presentation, the Project on Middle East Political Science, November 9-10, 2017

Book Manuscript presented at Junior Faculty Workshop, Princeton University, October 19-20, 2017

After ISIS: Spillover in the Balkans — Invited presentation; workshop organized by organized by U.S. Army Special Operations Command (USASOC) and the Laboratory for Unconventional Conflict Analysis and Simulation (LUCAS) at Duke University, December 2, 2016

Revolution and War: Reconsidering the Causes, American Political Science Association, September, September 2016

Rebels without Borders, American University in Cairo, Department of Political Science, May 2013

The Impact of Twitter in the Middle East Revolutions, Arab Spring Conference, National University of Singapore, May 2012

Domino Theory of Revolutions, Harvard Comparative Politics Workshop, November 2011; International Relations Workshop, February 2012

The Political Economy of Trash, American Political Science Association, September 2011
Submission as Authentic Consciousness, American Political Science Association, September 2010

Islam versus Islamism: Revising Approaches to the Question of Female Empowerment, Harvard Comparative Politics Workshop, March 2012; Mid-West Political Science Association, April 2010; American Political Science Association, September 2011

A Need for Disclosure: Foreign Aid, Investment and Trade in Resource Rich Countries, Tax Justice Africa Conference-Nairobi, March 2010

TEACHING &
EXPERIENCE

Davidson College
Politics of the Middle East
International Relations
International Security
Causes of War

Revolutions
Political Islam
US Foreign Policy in the Middle East
Political Science Research Methods

American University in Cairo

Introduction to Comparative Politics, 2015

Teaching Assistant, Cornell University

Total Average Student Evaluations Score: 4.78/5

Politics of the 70s Film, Professor Jonathan Kirshner (2011)

Introduction to International Relations, Professor Jonathan Kirshner (2009); Professor Peter Katzenstein, *Head Teaching Assistant* (2010); Professor Jonathan Kirshner *Head Teaching Assistant* (2014)

Weapons of Mass Destruction, Professor Sarah Kreps (2010)

Lecturer, University of New York, Tirana

Introduction to International Relations (2005) Politics of Africa (2005)

Comparative Politics of the Middle East (2006) The Arab-Israeli Conflict (2006)

Advising, Davidson College

Adviser to major advisees, average 18-24 students per year.

Thesis Adviser (Victoria Frost 2017-2018; Nick Lobo and Meranda Ma 2019-2020;

Sabrina Schamroth and Anne-Katrine Glittenberg 2020-2021)

Independent Studies: Nick Lobo 2018, James Davis 2018, Hunter Colloway 2022, Hera Jeong 2023, Petros Batsakis 2024, Kate Muntzer 2024, Cooper Strauss 2024

Abernethy students: Anmar Jerjees 2017; Danya Rangachar 2019

Second & Third thesis reader – 2016, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2023.

SERVICE

Davidson College and Community

IEC – *International Education Committee* (2022- ongoing)

SSR – *Student Study and Research Committee* (2017-2021)

Campus-wide lecture on Israel-Palestine (October 2023)

Explaining Iranian Protests (Two lectures in October 2022)

Davidson Learns Lectures:

International Relations of the Gulf (2017)

Post-Arab Uprisings Conflicts in the Middle East (2019)

US Withdrawal from the Middle East? Examining past and future of US Policy in MENA (2022)

Edited SACS review documents for the Political Science Department.

Reviewer for *Security Studies*, *International Security*, *Oxford University Press*,

Cambridge University Press, *Comparative Politics*, *International Journal of Middle East Studies*.

SKILLS

Languages

Fluent: Albanian (native), English, French, Italian

Advanced: Arabic, Portuguese, Spanish

Elementary: Hebrew, Wolof, Turkish, Vietnamese

Software & Programming: Stata, R, CATA

AFFILIATIONS &
RESEARCH PROGRAMS

American University in Cairo, Visiting Researcher, Summer 2011 and 2012-2014
University of Damascus, Summer Language Program, Damascus, Syria, 2009
King Saud University, Master's Thesis Research, Fall Semester, Riyadh, SA, 2004
Yemen Language Center, Advanced Summer Arabic Courses, Sana'a, Yemen, 2004
Université de Paris I - Sorbonne, Fall Semester Abroad, Paris, France, 2001
Université Gaston-Berger, Spring Semester Abroad, St. Louis, Senegal, 2001
University of Da Nang, Summer Study Abroad, Da Nang, Vietnam, 2000

OTHER PROFESSIONAL
EXPERIENCE

Sahel Analyst, Freedom House, 2011- 2015
Research and write annual country evaluations for six countries (CAR, Chad, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger).

Research Analyst, Open Society Foundation, Albania, 2012- May 2014
Research and write reports on elections, political reform, and Albania's progress toward European Union membership.

Updated September 30, 2024