

Randall J. Blimes

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Education

Ph.D., Political Science
University of Colorado at Boulder, Expected Dec 2008. Exam Fields: International Relations; Political Methodology

M.A., Political Science
University of Colorado at Boulder, May 2005

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), Summer 2004.

B.S., with High Honors, History
University of Michigan, May 2003

Employment

Visiting Instructor of Political Science, Brigham Young University, May 2008 – present

Dissertation

International Conflict and Leadership Tenure: Domestic Expectations and the Uses and Consequences of Force

My dissertation seeks to explain how the outcomes of international conflicts affect leadership tenure by accounting for popular *ex-ante* expectations. I develop a theoretical model suggesting that individuals within a population decide whether to reward or punish leaders after international conflicts based on how the actual outcome compares to *ex-ante* expectations about how the conflict most likely should have turned out. I use the cognitive psychology literature to develop an explanation for why populations form the *ex-ante* expectations they do (often in the face of overwhelming evidence that their expectations are overly optimistic), and then explain the consequences these expectations have for leaders who wish to maintain their jobs. I employ large-n statistical techniques including survival analysis to test actual effects on leadership tenure, and public opinion analysis to test the micro-foundations of my arguments. I find that unexpected outcomes (especially unexpectedly poor outcomes) are more likely to affect leadership tenure than outcomes which were considered to be likely regardless of leadership competence.

Research Interests

- International relations theory, causes of war and peace, consequences of war, domestic politics and international relations, civil and ethnic wars, foreign policy, democratization, cognitive psychology

Research

Refereed Articles

“The Indirect Effect of Ethnic Heterogeneity on the Likelihood of Civil War Onset,” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol. 50, No. 4, 536-547 (2006).

Book Chapters

“International Conflict and Leadership Tenure,” in *the Handbook on the Political Economy of War*, ed. Christopher J Coyne. Edward Elgar Publishing. Forthcoming.

Manuscripts

“Who’s Your Daddy? Regime Type, Legitimacy, and the Duration of Leadership Tenure,” under submission.

“Great Expectations: Domestic Expectations, Conflict Outcomes, and the Duration of Leadership Tenure,” under submission

“Uncertainty and War,” written with Jonathan Berohn, under submission

Conference Presentations

“Taxation Levels and the Onset of Civil War,” to be presented at the Annual American Political Science Association Meeting, Boston, MA, 2008.

“Civil Wars and the Provision of Public Goods,” (with Curtis Bell) presented at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2008.

“Great Expectations: Domestic Audience Expectations, Conflict Outcomes, and the Duration of Leadership Tenure,” presented at the 2007 North American Meeting of the Peace Science Society, Columbia, SC 2007.

“The Best Do Teach: Outstanding Graduate Teachers,” workshop given at the 2007 University of Colorado Fall Intensive, Boulder, CO, 2007.

“It Takes Two: Strategic Selection and the Effects of International Conflict on Leadership Tenure,” presented at the Annual American Political Science Association Meeting, Philadelphia, PA 2006.

“Resolve, Capabilities, and War,” (with Jonathan Berohn) presented at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2006.

“Financial Crises, Monetary Institutions, and the Duration of Political Leadership,” (with David Leblang) presented at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2005.

“Slaying the Hydra: Government Response and the Durability of Terrorist Organizations,”

(with Jonathan Berohn and Erin Mewhinney) presented at the Annual Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2005.

“Who’s Your Daddy? Regime Type, Legitimacy, and the Duration of Leadership Tenure,” poster presented at the Annual Political Methodology Meeting, Florida State University, 2005.

“When Do We Know about Civil War? Heteroscedasticity and Probits of Civil War Onset,” presented at the Annual Meeting of the Western Political Science Association Meeting, Oakland, CA, 2005.

Research Assistant

Research assistant to David Leblang spring 2003 through summer 2005.

Teaching

Instructor (Full course responsibility)

Theory of International Relations, Spring and Fall 2008, Brigham Young University

International Conflict, Fall 2008, Brigham Young University

Civil Wars and Ethnic Violence, Fall 2008, Brigham Young University

Peacekeeping in Civil and Ethnic Wars, Fall 2007, University of Colorado

Conflict Bargaining and Management, Fall 2006 and Spring 2007, University of Colorado; Spring 2008, Brigham Young University

Introduction to International Relations Theory, Summer 2006 and Summer 2007, University of Colorado.

War, Peace, and Strategic Security, Spring 2006, University of Colorado.

Teaching Assistant (Conducted weekly discussion sessions)

Introduction to Data Analysis (Graduate), Fall 2005, University of Colorado.

Introduction to International Relations Theory. Fall 2003, Spring 2004, Fall 2004, Spring 2005, University of Colorado.

Organizer

Graduate Student Workshop on Agent-Based Models in Political Research

Teaching Interests

Graduate:

- International Relations Theory, War and Peace, Civil and Ethnic Wars, Domestic Politics and International Relations, Foreign Policy, International Institutions, Democratization, Comparative Regime Types, Introduction to Data Analysis, Research Design

Undergraduate:

- Introduction to International Relations, War and Peace, Globalization, Civil and Ethnic Wars, Foreign Policy, International Organizations, Terrorism, the Arab-Israeli Conflict, History of War, Current Events in International Relations, Introduction to Political Research

Grants, Awards, and Honors

2007 Graduate Part-Time Instructor Teaching Excellence Award, University of Colorado.

2005 Political Science Department Summer Graduate Study Grant, University of Colorado (\$700).

2005 Political Science Department Travel Grant, University of Colorado (\$400).

2004 Political Science Department Summer Graduate Research Opportunity Grant, University of Colorado (\$2,500).

2002 James P. Angel Scholar, University of Michigan.

2002 Outstanding Achievement in History Scholarship, University of Michigan.

Reviewer

American Political Science Review

International Studies Quarterly

Journal of Peace Research

Journal of Politics

Dissertation Committee

David Leblang

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University of Virginia
Dissertation Committee Chair
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Allan Stam

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University of Michigan
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