

Madeleine Inez Stevens

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EDUCATION

University of Chicago , Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science	expected 2025
Dissertation: Weaponizing Uncertainty: The Politics of Disappearance in Latin America	
Committee: Paul Staniland (chair), Susan Stokes, Austin Carson, Benjamin Lessing	
Fields: Comparative Politics, International Relations	
Master of Arts in Political Science	2021
University of Chicago , Master of Arts in Social Science	2017
University of Pennsylvania , Bachelor of Arts <i>summa cum laude</i>	2015
Communication and Public Service (honors) with a minor in Political Science	
Benjamin Franklin Scholar 2011-2015	
Phi Beta Kappa 2014; Dean's List 2011-2015; Charles Morris Price Prize 2015	

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Political violence and its legacies, covert action, human rights, repression, counterinsurgency, qualitative methods.

WORK IN PROGRESS

Habeas (Non) Corpus: A Typology of Disappearance

“Por Algo Será”: Disappearances in Authoritarian Argentina

“Subversives” and “Delinquents”: Disappearances as a Form of Social Cleansing

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

External

2024-2025

Harry F. Guggenheim Emerging Scholar Award, Harry F. Guggenheim Foundation (\$25,000).

2023-2024

USIP-Minerva Peace and Security Scholar Fellowship, United States Institute of Peace (\$20,000).

University of Chicago

2024-2025

Provost Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Division of the Social Sciences (declined; \$5,000).

Pozen Doctoral Fellowship, Pozen Family Center for Human Rights (\$3,000).

Dissertation Support Fellowship, Center for International Social Science Research (\$5,000).

2024

The Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund Grant (\$10,000).

2023

Lloyd and Susanne Rudolph Field Research Award, Center for International Social Science Research (\$4,981).

The Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund Grant (\$10,000).

2022

The Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund Grant (\$10,000).
The Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Research Grant (\$5,000).
The Center for Latin American Studies Mellon Research Travel Fellowship (\$5,000).

2021

The Pearson Institute Research and Innovation Fund Grant (\$8,457).
Grodzins Prize Lectureship (\$6,000).

2020

The Pozen Family Center for Human Rights Research Grant (\$5,000).
The Center for Latin American Studies Mellon Research Travel Fellowship (\$5,000).
Department of Political Science Bienen Summer Research Award (\$1,800).

2019

The Center for Latin American Studies Tinker Field Research Grant (\$4,200).

SELECT PROFESSIONAL PRESENTATIONS

2025

“Subversives’ and ‘Delinquents’: Disappearances as a Form of Social Cleansing,” to be presented at the International Studies Association Annual Conference in Chicago, Illinois on March 5th, 2025.

“Weaponizing Uncertainty and Soliciting Approval: Disappearances as Violent Communication in Authoritarian Argentina,” to be presented at the Latin American Peace Science Society Annual Conference in Cali, Colombia from January 16th to January 17th, 2025.

“Weaponizing Uncertainty and Soliciting Approval: Disappearances as Violent Communication in Authoritarian Argentina,” to be presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference in San Juan, Puerto Rico on January 10th, 2025.

2024

“Weaponizing Uncertainty: The Politics of Disappearance in Latin America,” presented at the University of Chicago Workshop on International Politics on October 17th, 2024.

“*Habeas (Non) Corpus: A New Typology of Enforced Disappearance*,” presented at the University of Chicago Comparative Politics Workshop on October 8th, 2024.

“Disappearing ‘Subversives’ and ‘Delinquents’: Social Cleansing and Violence as Communication in Colombia,” presented at the 2024 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania on September 6th, 2024.

“*Habeas (Non) Corpus: A New Typology of Enforced Disappearance*,” presented at the 2024 Latin American Studies Association Annual Conference in Bogotá, Colombia on June 14th, 2024.

“Subversives’ and ‘Delinquents’: Disappearances as a Form of Social Cleansing,” presented at the 2024 International Studies Association Annual Conference in San Francisco, California on April 5th, 2024.

“Por Algo Será’: Disappearances in Authoritarian Argentina,” presented at the Violence, Instability, and Peace Workshop on March 14th, 2024.

“Por Algo Será’: Disappearances in Authoritarian Argentina,” presented at the University of Chicago Workshop on Latin America and the Caribbean on February 29th, 2024.

“Subversives’ and ‘Delinquents’: A Theory and Typology of Active Disappearance,” presented at the 2024 Latin American Peace Science Society Annual Conference in Bogotá, Colombia on January 18th, 2024.

2023

“Por Algo Será’: A Theory and Typology of Disappearance,” presented at the 2023 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting on September 1st, 2023.

“Terror, Uncertainty, and (In)visible Violence: Variation in the Acknowledgement and Exposure of Violence Against Civilians,” presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention in Montréal, Canada on March 15th, 2023.

“Terror, Uncertainty, and (In)visible Violence: Variation in the Acknowledgement and Exposure of Violence Against Civilians,” presented at the Latin American Peace Science Society Conference on January 19th, 2023, in Medellín, Colombia.

“Terror, Uncertainty, and (In)visible Violence: Variation in the Acknowledgement and Exposure of Violence Against Civilians,” presented at the University of Chicago Comparative Politics Workshop on January 4th, 2023.

2022

“Shades of Deniability: The International Relations Implications of Covert Violent Repression,” presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee on March 31st, 2022.

“Weaponizing Uncertainty: Covert Repression in Authoritarian Argentina,” presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention in Nashville, Tennessee on March 28th, 2022.

2021

“*Habeas (Non) Corpus*: The Domestic and International Implications of State Abduction,” presented at the University of Chicago Comparative Politics Workshop on November 2nd, 2021.

“Covert Violence and Social Paralysis in Authoritarian Argentina,” presented at the 2021 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting on September 28th, 2021.

INVITED TALKS

“Argentina’s Last Dictatorship,” given to POLS 336: The Politics of Latin America, Valparaiso University, Valparaiso, Indiana, February 1st, 2024.

LANGUAGES

Spanish – proficiency

French – working proficiency

FIELDWORK EXPERIENCE

Argentina: January 2022 to March 2022; March 2023 to May 2023

Colombia: July 2019 to August 2019 (pre-dissertation); January 2023 to March 2023; September 2023 to November 2023; January 2024

Mexico: July 2023 to August 2023; April 2024 to May 2024

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2022-2023

Teaching Assistant for the Practice of Social Science Research (Fall Quarter)

2021-2022

Instructor of Record for Individuals, Communities, and Conflict (Spring Quarter)

- Grodzins Prize lectureship
- Original seminar course

Teaching Assistant/Section Instructor for Introduction to International Relations (Fall Quarter)

2020-2021

Teaching Assistant/Section Instructor for Introduction to Comparative Politics (Spring Quarter)

2019-2020

Teaching Assistant for Revolution, Dictatorship, & Violence in Modern Latin American History (Winter Quarter)

SERVICE

Organizer, Political Violence Working Group, University of Chicago

2023-2025

I run a working group on political violence topics where students and faculty share and get feedback on works in progress.

Discussant

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting
Comparative Politics Workshop, University of Chicago

2023

2020, 2021, 2024

Student Representative, Political Science

Dean's Advisory Council, University of Chicago

2019-2021

Reviewer

International Studies Quarterly

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research

June 2023

I completed the modules "Process Tracing and Bayesian Reasoning," "Interpretation and History," and "Ethnographic Methods." I was one of fifteen people selected from the general open applicant pool to attend the institute.

Advancing Research on Conflict Consortium Summer Program

September 2022

I attended the 2022 edition of the ARC Consortium Summer Program, which is "a week-long residential training for Political Science and International Studies Ph.D. students preparing for research in fragile and violence-affected settings. The course includes rigorous instruction in the practical design and implementation of qualitative and quantitative field methods, intensive discussion of research ethics, and conversations with experts in trauma and psychology. Students also receive training in first aid, data protection and management, risk assessment, and managing IRB protocols."

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association

International Studies Association

REFERENCES

Professor Paul Staniland

Department of Political Science
University of Chicago

Professor Austin Carson

Department of Political Science
University of Chicago

Professor Susan Stokes

Department of Political Science
University of Chicago

Professor Benjamin Lessing

Department of Political Science
University of Chicago