

Averell Schmidt

Curriculum Vitae

December 2024

Watson Institute, Brown University
280 Brook St., Room 207, Providence, RI 02912

✉ averell_schmidt@brown.edu
🌐 www.averellschmidt.org

ORCID: [0000-0002-8223-6812](https://orcid.org/0000-0002-8223-6812)
Google Scholar: [tc7GmsUAAAAJ](https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=tc7GmsUAAAAJ)

Appointments

Assistant Professor, Cornell University Department of Government and Brooks School of Public Policy	Starting July 2025
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Brown University Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs	2024–Present

Education

Ph.D., Public Policy, Harvard University Dissertation: <i>Essays on the Politics of International Law</i> Committee: Christina Davis, Kosuke Imai, Kathryn Sikkink	May 2024
M.P.P., International & Global Affairs, Harvard University	May 2014
B.A., International Affairs, Lewis & Clark College	May 2007

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Averell Schmidt, “**Damaged Relations**: How Treaty Withdrawal Impacts International Cooperation,” *American Journal of Political Science*, Forthcoming.

– *Recipient*: Best Article of 2023 Award, International Collaboration Section, APSA.

Averell Schmidt, “**Treaty Withdrawal and the Development of International Law**,” *Review of International Organizations*, Vol. 19, No. 4 (October 2024), pp. 785–808.

– *Recipient*: Lawrence S. Finkelstein Prize, International Organization Section, ISA.

Kathryn Sikkink, Helen Clapp, Daniel Marin-Lopez, and Averell Schmidt, “**Gender and Transitional Justice**: Explaining Global Trends,” *International Journal of Transitional Justice*, Forthcoming.

Averell Schmidt and Kathryn Sikkink, “**Breaking the Ban?** The Heterogeneous Impact of US Contestation of the Torture Norm,” *Journal of Global Security Studies*, Vol. 4, No. 1 (January 2019), pp. 105–122.

Averell Schmidt and Kathryn Sikkink, “**Partners in Crime**: An Empirical Evaluation of the CIA’s Rendition, Detention, and Interrogation Program,” *Perspectives on Politics*, Vol. 16, No. 4 (December 2018), pp. 1014–1033.

– *Featured in*: Aisha E. Bradshaw, “**Covert Collaboration**,” *Nature Human Behaviour*, Vol. 3, No. 2 (February 2019), p. 110.

Selected Research In Progress

Averell Schmidt, “Constructive Criticism: Reciprocity in the International Human Rights Regime”

Averell Schmidt, Kathryn Sikkink, Aroop Mukharji, and Federica D’Alessandra, “Peace through Law? International Law, Norms, and the Decline in Interstate Wars”

Averell Schmidt, “International Monitoring and Human Rights Reform: Evidence from a Natural Experiment at the United Nations”

Ruofan Ma and Averell Schmidt, “Adaptation Across International Organizations”

Kathryn Sikkink, Geoff Dancy, and Averell Schmidt, “Is the Justice Cascade Over?”

Geoff Dancy, Averell Schmidt, and Oskar Timo Thoms, “The Demand and Supply of Justice: Introducing the Human Rights Accountability Index”

Book Chapters

Averell Schmidt, “Torture during the War on Terror: A Story of Norm Contestation and Resistance” in Jan Eckel and Daniel Stahl, eds., *Embattled Visions: Human Rights since 1990* (Göttingen, Germany: Wallstein Verlag, 2022), pp. 229–247.

Policy Publications & Engagement

“**Brief of Coalition of Human Rights Scholars as Amicus Curiae in Support of Respondents.**” 2021. Filed with the Supreme Court of the United States in *United States v. Zayn Al-Abidin Muhammad Husayn, AKA Abu Zubaydah, et al.* No. 20-827.

Averell Schmidt and Kathryn Sikkink, “**This is what will happen if Trump brings back secret prisons,**” *Monkey Cage, The Washington Post*, February 9, 2017.

Douglas A. Johnson, Alberto Mora, and Averell Schmidt, “**The Strategic Costs of Torture: How Enhanced Interrogations Hurt America**,” *Foreign Affairs*, Vol. 95, No. 5 (September/October 2016), pp. 121–132.

Original Datasets

United Nations Treaty Series – 71,463 treaties, over 1.1 million pages of treaty text, and the timing of 276,821 ratifications, withdrawals, signatures, and other legal actions taken by states with respect to all bilateral and multilateral treaties during the 1873 to 2020 period, as recorded by the League of Nations and the United Nations registries.

Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (*in progress*) – data acquired through the Freedom of Information Act on all 239,479 United States Peace Corps volunteers serving from 1961 to 2020 including their name, sector, post, and start/end dates. To be merged with all 55,905 LinkedIn profiles citing Peace Corps service.

Fellowships & Awards

Watson Fellowship, Brown University, 2024–2026

Best Article Award, International Collaboration Section, APSA, 2024.

Lawrence S. Finkelstein Prize, International Organization Section, ISA, 2024.

Transitional Justice Fellow, Carr Center, Harvard University, 2023–2024

Hans J. Morgenthau Fellowship, Notre Dame University, 2022–2023

Weatherhead Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Harvard University, 2022–2023

Fellow, International Security Program, Belfer Center, Harvard University, 2020–2023

Graduate Student Associate, Weatherhead Center, Harvard University, 2020–2023

Dissertation Writing Grant, Weatherhead Center, Harvard University, 2022

Distinction in Student Teaching, Harvard Kennedy School, 2020

Graduate Student Affiliate, IQSS, Harvard University, 2019–2024

Fellow, Carr Center, Harvard Kennedy School, 2014–2017

Dean’s Scholar, Lewis & Clark College, 2003–2007

Grants

Weatherhead GSA Grants (three totaling \$8.7k), 2020–2022

Open Society Policy Center (with D. Johnson and A. Mora), Grant (\$100k), 2016–2017

Open Society Foundation (with D. Johnson and A. Mora), Grant (\$225k), 2016–2017

Malcolm Wiener Center for Social Policy, Grant (\$1.1k), 2014

Ash Center for Democratic Governance, Grant (\$2.4k), 2014

Belfer Center for Science & International Affairs, Grant (\$5k), 2013

Middle East Initiative, Grant (\$1.5k), 2013

Presentations

Professional Conferences

- APSA: 2020 (paper), 2022 (paper), 2024 (roundtable)
- ISA: 2016 (pre-conference), 2021 (paper), 2023 (paper), 2025 (paper)
- PEIO: 2023 (paper)

Invited Presentations

- Department of Politics and International Relations, Oxford University, 12/2024
- Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, Cornell University, 8/2024
- John Quincy Adams Society, Washington, DC, 7/2023
- Junior IO Scholars Workshop, Online, 10/2022
- Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania, 3/2020 (cancelled due to Covid-19)
- Fritz Thyssen Foundation, Cologne, Germany, 5/2019
- International Relations Speaker Series, Harvard University, 4/2019
- Strategic Consequences of Torture Conference, Harvard University, 10/2016
- US Military Academy, West Point, New York (moderator), 3/2016
- European Stability Initiative, Berlin, Germany, 7/2015

Teaching

As Instructor of Record at Brown

- IAPA-170: Global Governance; Brown University, Spring 2025

As Teaching Fellow at Harvard

- IGA-103/HLS-2100: Global Governance; HKS/HLS, Fall 2021
- API-201: Quantitative Analysis and Empirical Methods; HKS, Fall 2019, Fall 2021
- IGA-150: International and Global Affairs Seminar; HKS, Academic Year 2019–2020
- API-202Z: Empirical Methods II (advanced section); HKS, Spring 2020
- IGA-211: American National Security, Strategy, and the Press; HKS, Fall 2019

Languages & Service

Arabic	Advanced Moroccan Arabic (circa 2013) Intermediate Modern Standard Arabic
Software	R; Python; ArcGIS
Reviewer	<i>American Political Science Review, European Journal of International Relations, International Journal of Transitional Justice, International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Global Security Studies, The Journal of Politics, The Review of International Organizations, and World Politics</i>
Service	APSA International Collaboration, Best Article Award Committee, 2025
Memberships	APSA, ISA