

Vera Mironova

Present Address

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Contact Information

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Academic Appointment

Harvard University 2014-NA
2015-NA International Security Program Fellowship (**Belfer Center**)
2014-2015 Program on Negotiations Pre-Doctoral Fellowship (**Harvard Law School**)

Dissertation

Labor Market For Rebel Fighters. A book-length project explaining recruitment strategies of armed groups and decision making of individual fighters in the Syrian Civil War (based on interviews with 300 active fighters including members of Al Nusra and ISIS foreign fighters).

Education

University of Maryland, PhD Candidate in Political Science, expected 2016

SUNY Stony Brook, Graduate coursework for PhD in Economics, 2010

Moscow State University Lomonosov

Equiv. MSc; Applied Mathematics, 2007; *Valedictorian*, Thesis with distinction

Equiv. MSc; Social and Economic Geography of Foreign Countries, 2007

Visiting Research Positions

Summer 2015, 2016 Research Fellow at American University of Iraq (Iraq)

Summer 2014 Research Fellow at Yemen College of Middle Eastern Studies (Yemen)

Fall 2013 University of California San Diego (Rady Business School)

Journal Articles

Vera Mironova and Sam Whitt “From the Maidan to the Military: Mobilizing Civilians for Counter-Insurgency in Eastern Ukraine”, Revise and Resubmit, **British Journal of Political Science**

Vera Mironova and Sam Whitt., 2015 “Violence and the Evolution of Social Norms”, Forthcoming, **Journal of Peace Research**

Vera Mironova and Sam Whitt., 2015 “Social Norms after Conflict Exposure and Victimization by Violence”, Forthcoming, **British Journal of Political Science**

Vera Mironova and Sam Whitt., 2014 “International Peacekeeping and Micro-foundations for Positive Peace”, Forthcoming, **Journal of Conflict Resolution**

Vera Mironova and Sam Whitt., 2014 “Ethnicity and Altruism after Violence”, **Journal of Experimental Political Science**, 1(2), pp. 170-180.

Stefano DelaVigna, Ruben Enikolopov, Vera Mironova, Maria Petrova and Katia Zhuravskaya., 2013. “Unintended Media Effects in a Conflict Environment: Serbian Radio and Croatian Nationalism”, **American Economic Journals: Applied Economics** 6(3): 103132.

Selected Working Papers

“The Effect of Violence on Impulsivity: Evidence from the DR Congo” (with Alex Imas and Michael Kuhn) *Under Review (Economics)*

“Fight or Flight in Civil War? Evidence from Rebel-Controlled Syria” (with Loubna Mrie and Sam Whitt) *Under Review (Political Science)*

“Minority Status and Investment: Evidence from Natural and Lab Experiments in Bosnia and Herzegovina” (with Egor Lazarev and Alex Imas) *Under Review (Economics)*

**Policy
Publications**

“ISIS Prisons- Where Labor Demand Meets Labor Supply”, (with Mohammed Hussein) *CTX*, Naval Postgraduate School, Forthcoming

“CTC Prospectives- The Islamic State’s Drone Documents: Management, Acquisitions and DIY Tradecraft ”(with Don Rassler and Muhammad al-‘Ubaydi), Commissioned Policy Report, *CTC West Point*, 31 January 2017; reprinted by *The New York Times*

“What ISIS Can Teach Policymakers” (with Ruben Enikolopov and Mohammed Hussein), *Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs*, October 21, 2015; translated and reprinted by *Internationale Politik und Gesellschaft* (in German); used by SOJTF-OIR (US Special Operation Joint Task Force- Operation Iraqi Resolve);

“Understanding the Changing Tactics of So-called Islamic State”, *NATO Review*, April 15 2016; Translated and Reprinted by Kurdish Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs

“KAP Report: Knowledge, Awareness and Practices (in Yemen)”, Commissioned Policy Report, *UNICEF Yemen*, 2015

“Paris Attacks Reveal ISIS’s Weakness, Not its Strength ” (with Jill Goldenziel) *Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs*, Harvard Kennedy School, November 25, 2015

“The Motivations of Syrian Islamist Fighters” (with Sam Whitt and Loubna Mrie), *CTC Sentinel*, Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, Vol.7, Nom.10 (Oct. 2014) pp.13-15

“A Glimpse into the Minds of Four Foreign Fighters in Syria” (with Sam Whitt), *CTC Sentinel*, Combating Terrorism Center at West Point, Vol.7, Nom.6 (June 2014) pp.6-7

“What Do Syrian Rebels Want From The West?” (with Loubna Mrie and Sam Whitt), *Carnegie Endowment for International Peace*, 07 April 2014

Book review

Book Review of: Monica Duffy Tofts’ Princeton University Press book: *Securing the Peace: The Durable Settlement of Civil Wars*, Review appeared in: *Nationalities Papers*, Vol.41, No.5, July 2013, pages 861-863

**Awards,
Fellowships and
Grants**

Nils Petter Gleditsch JPR Article of the Year Award, 2016, Runners-up
Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies, Graduate Fellow
APSA, Best Field Work Award Nomination, 2016
US Department of Homeland Security, 2015, Best Research on Terrorism Award
National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, 2015, Grant
Harvard Law School, 2015, Future generation research grant
Harvard University, 2014-2016, Various Fellowships and Grants
Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, 2015, Research Grant

Open Society Foundation, 2011-2013, Fellowship
University of Maryland, 2010-2016, Various Fellowships
Moscow State University, 2002-2007, Various Fellowships

**Essays and
Opinion Pieces**

“Cracks in the Islamic State ” (with Ekaterina Sergatskova), Article, **Foreign Affairs**, 15 February 2017

“ISIS New Frontier” (with Karam Alhamad), Article, **Foreign Affairs**, 1 February 2017; translated and reprinted in Aljazeera (in Arabic)

“The New ISIS Insurgency” (with Mohammed Hussein), Article, **Foreign Affairs**, 9 January 2017

“The Overloaded Prisons of Iraq ”, Article, **Foreign Affairs**, 1 December 2016

“Iraq After ISIS” (with Mohammed Hussein), Article, **Foreign Affairs**, 3 November 2016

“The Downfall of ISIS” (with Mohammed Hussein), Article, **Foreign Affairs**, 26 September 2016; Translated and Reprinted in Arabi21; Ghad (Lebanon); Rasseen (Jordan)

“What would you do if your neighborhood turned into a war zone?”, Podcast, **Boston Globe**, 29 February, 2016

“In two charts, this is what refugees say about why they are leaving Syria now” (with Karam Alhamad and Sam Whitt), Article, **Washington Post**, 28 September 2015

“The Jihadi Who Came in From the Cold” (with Ahmed Mhidi and Sam Whitt), Article, **Foreign Policy**, 10 August 2015

“Ramadan in Syria” (with Karam Alhamad and Sam Whitt), Article, **Foreign Affairs**, 9 July 2015

“Syria’s Democracy Jihad” (with Rich Nilson, Loubna Mrie and Sam Whitt), Article, **Foreign Affairs**, 14 January 2014

“Fixing the Mess in Syria” (with Rami Nakhla), Article, **The National Interest**, 17 December 2014

“I Am Only Looking Up For Paradise” (with Loubna Mrie and Sam Whitt), Article, **Foreign Policy**, 2 October 2014

“Ukraine’s Do-It-Yourself War” (with Valerie Hopkins), Article, **Foreign Policy**, 11 July 2014

“Putin Is Behaving in Ukraine Like Milosevic Did in Serbia” (with Maria Snegovaya), Article, **The New Republic**, 19 June 2014; Reprinted by KievPost (Ukraine), Russia Today (Russia), Chanel 9 (Israel)

“Why are fighters leaving the Free Syrian Army?” (with Loubna Mrie and Sam Whitt), Article, **Washington Post**, 12 May 2014, Reprinted in POMEPS Briefing “*Syria and the Islamic State*”

“Fractured opposition groups disillusion Syrians” (with Loubna Mrie and Sam Whitt),
Op-Ed, **U-T San Diego**, 22 Jan. 2014

“Is Syria ready for peace?” (with Sam Whitt), Op-Ed, **The Baltimore Sun**, 17
Jan. 2014

Teaching Positions *Instructor :*

Behavior Economics, summer 2015 (American University in Iraq)

Teaching assistant:

Research methods fall 2011 and spring 2012 (GVPT department; UMD)

Introduction to Microeconomics (Economics department; SUNY Stony Brook)

Financial economics (Economics department; SUNY Stony Brook)

Guest Lecture:

Economics of Religion (Economics department; Harvard University)

Invited Talks

2017 Washington Institute, Washington DC

2017 National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism, Washington DC

2016 Boston University, Conflict and Terrorism Seminar

2016 SUNY Albany, International Relations Seminar

2016 Harvard Kennedy School, Belfer Center Seminar

2016 Naval Postgraduate School, International Relations Seminar

2015 National Defense University, Civil War Seminar

2015 US Institute of Peace, Research Seminar

2015 Program on Negotiations, Harvard Law School

2015 Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, Harvard University

2015 Political Violence Workshop, Harvard University

2015 Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies, GWU

2014 Rady Business School, UCSD

2014 Harriman Institute, Columbia University

**Presentations and
Workshops**

2016 Behavioral Exchange Conference, Harvard Business School

2016 Economics of National Security Winter Meeting, NBER

2016 Security and Human Behavior Workshop, Harvard University

2016 Experimental Political Science Graduate Conference, Harvard University

2015 Political Violence Workshop, Harvard University

2015 Symposium for the National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism

2015 Evolution and Warfare Workshop, University of Tennessee

2015 POMEPS Workshop, George Washington University

2015 PONARS workshop, George Washington University

2015 Annual Bank Conference on Africa, UC Berkeley

2015 Harvard-MIT-Yale Political Violence Conference

2015 AALIMS Graduate Conference, Princeton University

2014 Florida State University, Political Violence Seminar (via Skype)

2014 IDS Workshop on Mixed Methods Research in Poverty and Vulnerability

2014 The Alexander Hamilton Center for Political Economy, NYU

2013 Graduate Conference in Political Science, Hebrew University

2013 Stanford Institute of Theoretical Economics, Stanford University

2012 Ethnic Politics Workshop, Arizona State University

2012 BYU-Princeton conference 'Experiments in IR', BYU

**Annual
Association
Conference
Presentations**

American Political Science Association (2014, 2015, 2016)

International Society of Political Psychology (2014, 2016)

International Studies Association (2013, 2014, 2015)

Other Studies

UCSD Spring Institute in Behavior Economics, March 2013
Stanford Summer Institute in Political Psychology, July 2012
Yale University, Center of Order Conflict & Violence, July 2010
Ronald Coase Institute on Institutional Analysis, May 2010
US Institute of Peace (USIP), June 2009

FieldworkEmbedded with Armed Forces

2016-2017 October-NA, Iraq (Iraqi Special Operations Forces, Battle for Mosul)
2017 January, Ukraine, (Battalion "Donbas")
2016 August, Iraq (Kurdish Pesmerga, operations in Khazir, Navaran and Bashika)
2016 July, Ukraine (Volunteer battalions "Pravyi Sektor" and "UDA" in village Avdeevka)
2015 July, Iraq (Kurdish Pesmerga, Mahmour frontline)
2014 March, DR Congo (National Army and Police near Bukavu)

Other Fieldwork

Iraq *Experimental Economics Research* (6 month) 2015, 2016, 2017
Lebanon *Elites Interview* (1 month), 2017
Ukraine *Survey and Survey Experiment* (3 month) 2014, 2016, 2017
Sudan *Exploratory Field Work* (1 month) 2016
Morocco (Western Sahara) *Exploratory Field Work* (1 month) 2015
Yemen *Survey and Survey Experiment* (2 month) 2014
Syria-Turkey *Survey and Survey Experiment* (1 month) 2014
DR Congo *Experimental Economics Research* (2 month) 2013, 2014
Rwanda *Exploratory Field Work* (1 month) 2013
Burundi *Exploratory Field Work* (1 month) 2013
Tanzania (Zanzibar) *Exploratory Field Work* (1 month) 2013
Bosnia and Herzegovina *Field Experiment and Survey* (9 month) 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013
Colombia *Qualitative Interviews* (2 month) 2012
Kosovo *Field Experiment and Survey* (2 month) 2009, 2012
Tajikistan *Exploratory Field Work* (1 month) 2013
Azerbaijan *Survey and Qualitative Interviews* (5 month) 2012, 2013
Kirgizstan (Osh) *Exploratory Field Work* (1 month) 2013
Georgia *Qualitative Interviews* (1 month) 2012
Croatia *Field Experiment and Survey* (9 month) 2008, 2009, 2010
Russia *Survey Research* (3 month) 2005, 2007

Media Coverage

English: *Vice News, New York Times, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Washington Post, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, Associated Press, NPR, The Atlantic, AlJazeera, American Interest, Council on Foreign Relations, The Baltimore Sun, U-T San Diego, Business Insider, Fox News, ArmyTimes, NavyTimes, Voice of America, HKS Policy-Cast, CBC/Radio-Canada (Canada), World Bank Development Blog, Harvard Gazette, Danish Radio, India Times, Belfer Newsletter, Political Violence at a Glance blog, The Duck of Minerva blog, Syria in Crises blog and Syria Comment blog*; Russian: *Novaya Gazeta, Vedomosti, Slon; Radio Vesti Ukraine; Hromadske Ukraine*; Kurdish: *Awene, Rudaw*

Past Professional Affiliations

UNICEF, Yemen, Consultant (2014)

World Bank (DIME), DR Congo (2013-2014), Azerbaijan (2012-2013), Consultant

Center for Security Studies, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Intern (2011)

Languages

Russian (*Native*), Arabic (*Intermediate*), Bosnian (*Fluent*), Ukrainian, Macedonian

References

Paul Huth, *Professor of Government & Politics*, University of Maryland, phuth@umd.edu

Fotini Christia, *Associate Professor of Political Science*, M.I.T, cfotini@mit.edu

Richard Nielsen, *Assistant Professor of Political Science*, M.I.T rnielsen@mit.edu