

## Vera Mironova

### Present Address

10 Cherry St.  
Somerville, MA 02144

### 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 400 active fighters including members of Al Nusra and ISIS foreign fighters).

### Education

**University of Maryland**, Ph.D. Candidate in Political Science, September 2017  
**SUNY Stony Brook**, Graduate coursework for Ph.D. 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 Yegor Lazarev “Minority Status and Investment: Evidence from Natural and Lab Experiments in Bosnia and Herzegovina,” *Revise and Resubmit*, **World Development**

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** \**Runner-up, Nils Petter Gleditsch Award*

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): 103-132

- Selected Working Papers** “The Effect of Violence on Impulsivity: Evidence from the DR Congo,” (with Alex Imas and Michael Kuhn) *Under Review*
- “Fight or Flight in Civil War? Evidence from Rebel-Controlled Syria,” (with Loubna Mrie and Sam Whitt) *Under Review*
- “Risk Tolerance during Conflict: Evidence from Aleppo, Syria,” (with Sam Whitt) *Under Review*
- “Emergence of Out-Group Altruism After Violence,” (with Sam Whitt and Rick Wilson) *Under Review*
- Military Publications** “Adaptation and Innovation with an Urban Twist: Changes to Suicide Tactics in the Battle of Mosul ”(with Craig Whiteside), Revise and Resubmit, Military Review
- “ISIS Prisons- Where Labor Demand Meets Labor Supply”, (with Mohammed Hussein), CTX, Naval Postgraduate School, Volume 7/1, 2017
- “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*, *Daily Beast*, *Small Wars Journal*
- “Understanding the Changing Tactics of So-called Islamic State”, NATO Review, April 15 2016; Translated and Reprinted by Kurdish Ministry of Peshmerga Affairs
- “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
- Policy Publications** “Fearing ISIS in the Shadows,”Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, 20 April 2017
- “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);
- “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
- “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, Appeared in: *Nationalities Papers*, Vol.41, No.5, July 2013, pages 861-863

**Awards,  
Fellowships and  
Grants**

*Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies*, Graduate Fellow  
*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**

“The Chechens of Syria ” (with Ekaterina Sergatskova), Article, **Foreign Affairs**, 9 September 2017

“How Ukraine Reined In Its Militias ” (with Ekaterina Sergatskova), Article, **Foreign Affairs**, 1 August 2017

“The Names of Jihad ” (with Karam Alhamad), Article, **Foreign Affairs**, 14 July 2017

“The Struggle Over Sinjar” (with Mohammed Hussein), Article, **Foreign Affairs**, 5 June 2017

“Land Grabs in Iraq” (with Mohammed Hussein), Article, **Foreign Affairs**, 10 April 2017

“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; Reprinted in “*The ISIS Crises*” edited by Gideon Rose

“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 :*

Behavioral 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 (*Scheduled*)

2017 Colgate University, University Lecture (*Scheduled*)

2017 Central Florida University, Research Seminar

2017 Maastricht University, Netherlands

2017 Washington Institute, Washington DC

2017 National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism, Washington DC

2017 Middle East Research Initiative, Erbil, Iraq

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

**Fieldwork**  
Embedded with Armed Forces  
2016-2017 October-July, Iraq (Iraqi Special Operations Forces, Battle for Mosul)  
2017 January and July, 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

<b>Research Appeared on Syllabi</b>	Harvard Kennedy School (public policy); MIT (economics); Georgetown (political science); NYU (history); Naval Postgraduate School (political science); United States Military Academy (political science); Rice (political science); Boston University (public policy); University Toronto (political science), Max Planck Institute (economics); American University (political science); Carnegie Mellon (economics); University of Lausanne (economics); University of Bonn (economics); FSU (political science); Purdue University (politics science)
<b>Manuscript Referee</b>	International Security (x4), American Political Science Review, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Peace Research (x2)
<b>Media Coverage</b>	English: <i>Vice News, New York Times, BBC, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, Washington Post, Boston Globe, Chicago Tribune, Associated Press, USA Today, NPR, The Atlantic, Al Jazeera, American Interest, Christian Science Monitor, Newsweek, Council on Foreign Relations, The Baltimore Sun, U-T San Diego, Business Insider, Fox News, ArmyTimes, NavyTimes, Voice of America, HKS PolicyCast, 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</i> ; Russian: <i>Novaya Gazeta, Vedomosti, Slon; Radio Vesti Ukriane; Hromadske Ukraine</i> ; Kurdish: <i>Awene, Rudaw</i>
<b>Past Professional Affiliations</b>	UNICEF, Yemen, Consultant (2014)  World Bank (DIME), DR Congo (2013-2014), Azerbaijan (2012-2013), Consultant  Center for Security Studies, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Intern (2011)
<b>Languages</b>	Russian ( <i>Native</i> ), Arabic ( <i>Intermediate</i> ), Bosnian ( <i>Fluent</i> ), Ukrainian, Macedonian
<b>References</b>	<b>Paul Huth</b> , <i>Professor of Government &amp; Politics</i> , University of Maryland, phuth@umd.edu  <b>Fotini Christia</b> , <i>Associate Professor of Political Science</i> , M.I.T, cfotini@mit.edu  <b>Richard Nielsen</b> , <i>Assistant Professor of Political Science</i> , M.I.T rnielsen@mit.edu