

Cassy Dorff

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Degrees Earned

Ph.D., Department of Political Science, Duke University, 2015

Field Concentrations: Security Peace and Conflict and Political Methodology

M.A., Department of Political Science, Duke University, 2013

B.A., Government, University of Texas, 2010

Employment History

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University 2024 - present

Teaching Faculty, Data Science Institute, Vanderbilt University, August 2019 - present

Faculty Affiliate, Center for Research on Inequality and Health, Vanderbilt University, August 2023- present

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University, 2019 - 2024

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of New Mexico, August 2016 - 2019

Post-doctoral Research Fellow, Korbel School of International Studies, October 1, 2014 - September 30, 2016

Research

Peer-reviewed Publications¹

1. Cassy Dorff. "Criminal Victimization and Agency Attitudes in Mexico." *Comparative Political Studies*. (2024): 00104140241283010.
2. James Bisbee, Josh Clinton, Cassy Dorff, Brenton Kenkel, & Jennifer Larson (2023). Synthetic Replacements for Human Survey Data? The Perils of Large Language Models. *Political Analysis*, 1-16.
3. Tarek Abou Chadi, Kanisha D. Bond, Cassy Dorff, Jamie Hagen, Cullen S. Hendrix, Cameron Thies. "International Studies and Struggles for Inclusion." *International Studies Review*. 25:2 (2023): viad018.
4. Cassy Dorff, Grace Adcox* and Amanda Konet.* "Data Innovations on Protests in the United States." *Journal of Peace Research*. 60.1 (2023): 172-189.
5. Cassy Dorff, Max Gallop, and Shahryar Minhas. "Networks of Violence and Civilian Targeting During Civil War." *British Journal of Political Science*. 53.2 (2023): 441-459.

- Political Ties Award for Best Published Article on Political Networks in 2022.
6. Cassy Dorff, Colin Henry,* and Sandra Ley. "Does Violence Against Journalists Deter Detailed Reporting? Evidence from Mexico." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. (2023): 1218-1247.

¹An asterisk, (*), denotes co-authors who were either M.A. or Ph.D. students/candidates at the time the project was conducted.

7. Jennifer Barnes,* Cassy Dorff, and Bradley C. Smith. "Virtual Seminars and Support Strategies for Junior Scholars: Lessons from the Online Peace Science Colloquium." *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 55.3 (2022): 558-559.
8. Colin Henry,* Anita Gohdes, and Cassy Dorff. "Digital Footprints and Data-security Risks for Political Scientists." *PS: Political Science & Politics*. 55.4 (2022): 804-808.
9. Shahryar Minhas, Cassy Dorff, Max Gallop, Margaret Foster,* Howard Liu,* Juan Tellez,* and Michael D. Ward. "Taking Dyads Seriously." *Political Science Research and Methods*. 10.4 (2022): 703-721.
10. Cassy Dorff, Max Gallop, and Shahryar Minhas. "[W]hat Lies Beneath: Using Networks to Improve Spatial Predictions." *International Studies Quarterly*. 66:1 (2022): sqabo86.
11. Cassy Dorff, Max Gallop, and Shahryar Minhas. "Networks of Violence: Predicting Conflict in Nigeria." *The Journal of Politics*. 82.2 (2020): 476-493.
12. Cassy Dorff. "Violent and Nonviolent Resistance in Contexts of Prolonged Crisis: The Civilian Perspective." Forum on Studying Peace and Studying Conflict: Complementary or Competing Projects? *Journal of Global Security Studies*. 4.2 (2019): 286-291.
13. Cassy Dorff and Jessica Maves Braithwaite. "Fear of Nonviolent Organizing in Mexico's Criminal Conflict." *Journal of Global Security Studies*. 3.3 (2018): 271-284.
14. Cassy Dorff. "Violence, Kinship Networks, and Political Resilience: Evidence from Mexico." *Journal of Peace Research*. 54.4 (2017): 558-573.
 - Selected by editors Shannan Mattiace and Joe Klesner to represent top articles on Mexican politics for publication in the Mexican policy section of the Handbook of Latin American Studies, coordinated by the Library of Congress.
15. Cassy Dorff and Shahryar Minhas. "When Do States Say Uncle? Network Dependence and Sanction Compliance." *International Interactions*. 43.4 (2017): 563-588.
16. Andreas Beger, Cassy Dorff, and Michael D. Ward. "Irregular Leadership Changes in 2014: Forecasts Using Ensemble, Split-population Duration Models." *International Journal of Forecasting*. 32.1 (2016): 98-111.
17. Andreas Beger, Cassy Dorff, and Michael D. Ward. "Ensemble Forecasting of Irregular Leadership Change." *Research & Politics*. 1.3 (2014): 1-7.
18. Nils Metternich, Cassy Dorff, Max Gallop, Simon Weschle, and Michael D. Ward. "Antigovernment Networks in Civil Conflicts: How Network Structures Affect Conflictual Behavior." *American Journal of Political Science*. 57.4 (2013): 892-911.
19. Cassy Dorff and Michael D. Ward. "Networks, Dyads, and the Social Relations Model." *Political Science Research and Methods*. 1.2 (2013): 159-178.
20. Michael D. Ward, Nils Metternich, Cassy Dorff, Max Gallop, Florian Hollenbach, Anna Schultz, and Simon Weschle. "Learning From the Past and Stepping into the Future: Toward a New Generation of Conflict Prediction." *International Studies Review*. 15.4 (2013): 473-490.

Book Chapters

1. Cassy Dorff, Shahryar Minhas, and Michael D. Ward. "Latent Networks and Spatial Networks in Politics." In *The Oxford Handbook of Political Networks*. Edited by Jennifer Nicoll Victor, Alexander H. Montgomery, and Mark Lubell. (2017): 249-276.

Working Papers

1. Cassy Dorff and Shahryar Minhas, "Which way to Peace? Estimating Directionality in Conflict Event Data." *Under Review*.
2. Dara Kay Cohen and Cassy Dorff, "Is Researching Challenging Topics Harmful? Assessing Research-Related Stress Among Research Assistants." *Under Review*.
3. Cassy Dorff, Tara McKay, Lauren Chojnacki,* and Kristin Michelitch. "Pride and Protest: Lifecourse Victimization and Political Participation Among LGBTQ+ Individuals." *Working paper, draft available*.
4. Cassy Dorff and Shahryar Minhas, "Phantoms in the Residuals: Testing for Network Dependence." *Working paper, in progress*.

Public Commentary and Other Writings

2023. Cassy Dorff and Shahryar Minhas. "Hidden Networks: Don't Play What's there, Play What's Not There." Essay contribution to a memorial forum published in *Political Geography* honoring the passing of Dr. Michael D. Ward. Volume 100, January 2023.
2023. Cassy Dorff, Colin Henry, and Sandra Ley. "How Violence Against Journalists Affects the News." *Political Violence at a Glance*.²
2016. Cassy Dorff and Pauline Moore. "Civil Society and Trajectories of Violence: A Summary of Existing Research." *Political Violence at a Glance*.
2016. Cassy Dorff. "Interpreting the Migration Crisis: A Symposium." *Political Violence at a Glance*.
2015. Cassy Dorff. "Mapping the Network Effects of a Militarized Policy in Mexico." *Political Violence at a Glance*.
2015. Cassy Dorff. "Bridging the Metonymic Gap: In Practice Rather Than in Parlance." *Political Violence at a Glance*.
2015. Cassy Dorff. "Researching in Risky Regions: Advice from Women Writers." *Political Violence at a Glance*.
2015. Cassy Dorff. "Why Children Matter in Armed Conflict." *Political Violence at a Glance*.
2015. Cassy Dorff. "Social Movements Across Borders: Caravana 43's Visit to the United States." *Political Violence at a Glance*.
2013. "Comparing GDELT and ICEWS event data." Michael D. Ward, Andreas Beger, Josh Cutler, Matthew Dickenson, Cassy Dorff and Ben Radford. Published Online. Available for download at researchgate.net.

Software

- netify*: R package for modeling network data. Ha Eun Choi,* Colin Henry,* Cassy Dorff, and Shahryar Minhas. (Under development).
- depTest*: R package for modeling and examining dependencies in dyadic data. Cassy Dorff and Shahryar Minhas. (Under development).
- d-ame*: R package for modeling directionality of undirected network data. Cassy Dorff and Shahryar Minhas. (Under development).

Grants and Awards

External

- 2020-2023. National Science Foundation. CO-PI, "Collaborative Research: Mapping Relational Data in Civil Conflicts" with Shahryar Minhas. Award # 2017162 and #2017180 (\$734,971 total).
2014. International Center on Nonviolent Conflict. Principal Investigator, "Civilian Opinion on Violent and Nonviolent Resistance During Armed Conflict: A Survey." (\$17,500).

²Political Violence at A Glance is an online magazine.

Internal

- 2021. LGBT Policy Lab Small Grant, Vanderbilt University, Social Networks, Aging and Policy Study. (\$3,100).
- 2012. Duke University Political Science Field Research Award. "Evaluating Perceptions on the Efficacy of Violent and Non-violent Strategies." (\$10,000).
- 2012-2014. Duke Institute for Political Economy. Research Award. (\$2,865).
- 2012. Duke Institute for Political Economy. Research Grant. "Survey Evidence on the Effects of Drug Violence on Civilian Life." Duke University. (\$5,000).
- 2012. Duke University Political Science Department. Summer course funding. (\$900).
- 2011. Duke Institute for Political Economy. Summer course funding. (\$900).

Presentations

Invited Presentations (External to Vanderbilt University)

- 2024. University of Michigan, CPRD Workshop.
 - Talk title: "Which Way to Safety? Government Military Behavior and Violence Against Civilians in Nigeria."
 - Location: Ann Arbor, MI.
- 2024 University of North Carolina, Methods and Design Workshop.
 - Talk title: "Which Way to Safety? Government Military Behavior and Violence Against Civilians in Nigeria."
 - Location: Chapel Hill, NC.
- 2022. Latin American Peace Science Society.
 - Talk title: "Does Violence Against Journalists Deter Detailed Reporting? Evidence from Mexico."
 - Keynote Presentation with Sandra Ley for our work on the targeting of Journalists in Mexico.
 - Location: Online.
- 2021. St. Louis Area Methods Meeting.
 - Talk title: "Which way to Peace? Estimating Directionality in Conflict Event Data."
 - Location: Online.
- 2019. Harvard University, Ethical Engagement in Conflict Conference.
 - Research note contributed to workshop: "Research Related Trauma: Quantitative Data Collection Ethics for Conflict Scholars."
 - Location: Harvard University, Boston MA.
- 2019. University of Washington, CSSS Seminar Series.
 - Talk title: "Does Violence Against Journalists Deter Detailed Reporting? Evidence from Mexico."
 - Location: University of Washington, Seattle, WA.
- 2019. Texas Tech University, International Seminar Series.
 - Talk title: "Does Violence Against Journalists Deter Detailed Reporting? Evidence from Mexico."
 - Location: Texas Tech University, Lubbock, TX.
- 2018. St. Gallen University Workshop on "Modeling Spatial and Network Interdependence in International Relations."
 - Talk title: "What Lies Beneath: Using Networks to Improve Spatial Predictions."
 - Location: St. Gallen University, St. Gallen, Switzerland.
- 2018. Washington University, Teaching Workshop.

- Instructional workshop co-taught with Shahryar Minhas: "Network Analysis."
- Location: Washington University, St. Louis, MO.

2018. Michigan State University, Workshop on Conflict.

- Talk title: "Does Violence Against Journalists Deter Detailed Reporting? Evidence from Mexico."
- Location: Michigan State University, Lansing, MI.

2017. Centro de Investigación y Docencia Económicas (CIDE), Speaker Series on Democracy and Violence.

- Talk title: "The Emotional Cost of Nonviolent Resistance in Mexico's Criminal Conflict."
- Location: CIDE, Mexico City, Mexico.

2017. Duke University, Speaker Series for Women Political Scientists.

- Talk title: "Networks of Violence: Predicting Conflict in Nigeria."
- Location: Duke University, Durham, NC.

2016. Uppsala University, Speaker Series for the Department of Peace and Conflict Research.

- Talk title: "Civilian Agency in Armed Conflict: Attitudes Towards Political Participation and Resistance Strategies in Mexico."
- Location: Uppsala, Sweden.

2016. Yale University, International Relations Workshop.

- Talk title: "Civilian Agency in Armed Conflict: Attitudes Towards Political Participation and Resistance Strategies in Mexico."
- Location: Yale University, New Haven, CT, USA.

University of Colorado, Women in Political Science Speaker Series.

- Talk title: "Dynamic Networks of Conflictual Events: The Evolution of the Mexican Criminal Conflict."
- Location: University of Colorado, Boulder, Co.

2015. University of Essex, Conflict, Strategies, and Tactics Workshop.

- Talk title: "Civilian Agency in Armed Conflict: Attitudes Towards Political Participation and Resistance Strategies in Mexico."
- Location: University of Essex, Essex, England, UK.

2013. Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy. "Non-Violent Strategies in Violent Contexts." Workshop Participant.

- Location: University of Denver, Denver, CO.

Invited Presentations (non-departmental, Vanderbilt University)

2021. Women in Data Science (WiDS) conference.

- Talk title: "Conflict & Complexity."
- Location: Online.

2021. Digital Fellows workshop.

- Talk title: "Conflict & Complexity."
- Location: Online.

2021. Quantitative Methods Colloquium.

- Talk title: "Does Violence Against Journalists Deter Detailed Reporting? Evidence from Mexico."
- Location: Vanderbilt University.

Conference Participation

International Studies Association: 2023, 2022, 2019, 2018, 2017, 2016, 2014, 2013

Peace Science Society: 2022, 2020, 2018, 2017, 2015

American Political Science Association: 2021, 2020, 2017

Society for Political Methodology: 2018, 2016

Political Networks Conference: 2021, 2016, 2012

Teaching Related Activities

Vanderbilt University

Courses Taught

Civil Wars, Ph.D. Seminar, Political Science, Spring 2020, Spring 2023

Exploratory Data Analysis, Masters Program, Data Science, Fall 2019, Fall 2020, Fall 2022

Data Science Teams, Masters Program, Data Science, Spring 2020

Conflict, Crises, & Civilians Writing Seminar, Undergraduate, Political Science, Fall 2020

Ph.D. Research Supervised

Current:

Sofia Berrospi (Ph.D. Student, Second Year Paper Advisor)

Colin Henry (Ph.D Candidate, Dissertation Committee Co-chair)

Jennifer Barnes (Ph.D. Candidate, Dissertation Committee member)

Mariana Bustamante (Ph.D. Candidate, Dissertation Committee member)

Margaret Frost (Ph.D. Candidate, Dissertation Committee member)

Completed:

Richard Montcalm (Ph.D Candidate, Dissertation Committee member)

Masters Research Supervised

Completed:

Research mentorship through lab work:

Can Luo, Alfred Prah, Ken Rahman (2020)

Grace Adcox, Kayla Johnson, Amanda Konet, Donnie Sengstack, (2021)

Ricky Sun, Sophia Tannir (2023)

Capstone mentorship: Umang Chaudhry (2020)

Undergraduate Research Supervised

Completed:

Vanderbilt Undergraduate Summer Research Project, Chloe Hall

University of New Mexico

Courses Taught

Networks & Behavior, Ph.D. Seminar, Political Science, Spring 2018
Networks & Behavior, Undergraduate, Political Science, Spring 2018
Civil Wars, Undergraduate, Political Science, Fall 2016, Spring 2018, Fall 2018
Civilians in Civil Conflict, Ph.D. Seminar, Spring 2017, Spring 2018
Political Violence through Film, Undergraduate, Political Science, Spring 2017

Ph.D. Research Supervised

Completed:

Jessica Jones (Ph.D. Candidate, Dissertation Committee member)
Colin Hannigan (Ph.D. Candidate, Dissertation Committee member)
Carlos Contreras (2nd year paper, Committee member)
Kathryn Overton (2nd year paper, Committee member)

Masters Research Supervised

Completed:

Nora Lamm (Masters student in Latin American Studies, Committee member)
Valeria Garcia (Masters student in Latin American Studies, Co-chair)

Undergraduate Research Supervised

Completed:

Michael Abonyi (Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Chair)
Grace Warner (Undergraduate Honors Thesis, Chair)

Service

Vanderbilt University

Department, College, University

Political Science, Ad-hoc Committee (Merit Rubric), AY 2022-2023.
Political Science, Nominations Committee, AY 2022-2023.
Political Science, Undergraduate Committee, AY 2020-2021, AY 2022-2023.
Political Science, Examiner for Comprehensive Exam in Political Economy of Conflict, 2020.
Political Science, Department Hiring Committee, 2020-2021.
Data Science teaching faculty: this includes regular meetings multiple times a semester (which became weekly during COVID) to discuss the program's development and curriculum; attendance at community events; participation in promotional materials.

University of New Mexico

Department, College, University

Political Science, Merit Ranking Committee, AY 2017-2018.

Political Science, Coordinated the *INNOVATIONS* in Methodology workshop series, AY Fall 2017-2019.

Coordinated with ADVANCE program to create *R* workshop and materials for departmental events, AY 2017-2018.

Committee Member on the Interdisciplinary Committee on Latin American Studies, 2016-2019.

Disciplinary

Diversity Committee, Political Methodology Society, 2019-present.

Co-director (with Brad Smith) Online Peace Science Colloquium, 2019-2022.

Executive Council, International Methods Colloquium Project, 2016-2022.

Political Networks Division Chair, APSA, 2020-2021.

JPR Best Visualization Award Committee, 2020-2021.

Political Networks Division, Political Ties Award Committee, 2020.

Executive Council, Four Corners Conflict Network, 2017-2019.

Planning Committee, Political Methodology Annual Meeting, BYU, 2018.

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association

International Studies Association

Peace Science Society

Society for Political Methodology

APSA Political Networks Section

Reviewer

American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, British Journal of Political Science, Nature, National Science Foundation, Political Analysis, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Oxford University Press, Columbia University Press, International Organization, Research & Politics, International Interactions, International Studies Quarterly, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Peace Research, Latin American Politics and Society, Journal of Global Security Studies, Security Studies, Conflict Management Peace Science, Social Networks, PS: Political Science & Politics, Geography, Research in Social Movements, Conflicts and Change, Mobilization, Terrorism and Political Violence, PLOSone, Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism, SAGE Open.