

Kolby Hanson

CONTACT INFORMATION	Government Department Wesleyan University Middletown, CT	krhanson@wesleyan.edu kolbyhanson.com Updated: August 28, 2025
INTERESTS	Conflict and Peacebuilding, Armed Organizations, South / Southeast Asia	
ACADEMIC POSITIONS	Wesleyan University Assistant Professor of Government	2023-Present
	U.S. Naval War College Postdoctoral Fellow (Teaching), Strategy and Policy Department	2020-2023
	Dartmouth College Postdoctoral Fellow (Non-Teaching), Dickey Center for International Understanding	2019-2020
EDUCATION	Columbia University Ph.D. in Political Science, 2019 <i>Dissertation Title:</i> Rebel Organizations in Crackdown and Truce <i>Sponsor:</i> V. Page Fortna <i>Committee:</i> Donald P. Green, Nikhar Gaikwad, Jack Snyder, Zachariah Mampilly M.Phil. in Political Science, 2016 M.A. in Political Science, 2015	2013-2019
	Stanford University B.A. in Political Science (with Honors, Distinction, Phi Beta Kappa), 2011	2007-2011
BOOK PROJECT	Ordinary Rebels: Rank-and-File Militants Between War and Peace <i>Forthcoming September 2025, Oxford University Press.</i> The politics of violence, both in and out of civil conflict, is shaped by the structure and behavior of armed groups. Yet armed groups are the result of thousands of decisions by rank-and-file recruits, cadres, and supporters – both <i>who joins</i> and <i>which leaders they follow</i> . This book provides an unprecedented look at the real-time decisionmaking of ordinary militants, featuring innovative survey experiments and interviews with more than 500 active, potential, and former militants in Northeast India and Sri Lanka. Across four conflict regions, I explore how <i>state toleration</i> shapes armed actors and their behavior from the inside out.	
PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES	Forthcoming. “How Migrating Overseas Shapes Political Preferences: Evidence from a Field Experiment” (with Nikhar Gaikwad and Aliz Tóth). Accepted, <i>International Organization</i> . Forthcoming. “Bringing Autocracy Home? How Migration to Autocracies Shapes Migrants’ Support for Democracy” (with Nikhar Gaikwad and Aliz Tóth). Accepted, <i>World Politics</i> . 2025. “Polarization vs. Professionalism: Military and Public Views on Domestic Use of the Military” (with Austin Knappe). <i>Political Science Research and Methods</i> 13(3): 645-662. 2025. “Bridging the Gulf: How Migration Fosters Tolerance, Cosmopolitanism, and Support for Globalization” (with Nikhar Gaikwad and Aliz Tóth). <i>American Journal</i>	

	<i>of Political Science</i> 69(3): 813-830.	
	2021. "Good Times and Bad Apples: Rebel Recruitment in Crackdown and Truce." <i>American Journal of Political Science</i> 65(4): 807-825.	
	2021. "Live and Let Live: Explaining Long-Term Truces in Separatist Conflicts." <i>International Peacekeeping</i> 28(3): 366-392. Special issue on ceasefires.	
	2019. "Noncitizen Soldiers: Explaining Foreign Recruitment by Modern State Militaries" (with Erik Lin-Greenberg). <i>Security Studies</i> 28(2): 286-320.	
	2019. "Are There Long-Term Effects of the Vietnam Draft on Political Attitudes or Behavior? Apparently Not" (with Donald P. Green and Tiffany C. Davenport). <i>Journal of Experimental Political Science</i> 6(2): 71-80.	
UNDER REVIEW	"Individuals in Institutions: Evidence from the World Bank and IMF" (with Richard Clark and Lindsay R. Dolan).	
	"How Third-Party Publics Choose Sides in War" (with Angelina Kunitskaia).	
WORKING PAPERS	"When Moderates Win: Experiments on Recruitment and Support in Northeast India." CASI PE Workshop, 2023.	
	"Rebel or Nuisance? Public Perception of Armed Groups in India." APSA 2020.	
	"Hardliners, Moderates, and Reciprocity: Selecting Leaders During Civil Conflict." APSA 2020.	
	"Discipline Under Fire: Wage Screening in the Shadow of Conflict." APSA 2018.	
PAPERS IN PROGRESS	"Where Military and Civilian Views Agree – and Disagree – on Civil-Military Relations" (with Austin Knappe).	
PUBLIC SCHOLARSHIP	"Who Would Support Deploying the Military to Domestic Protests?" (with Austin Knappe). <i>Lawfare</i> , 10 Nov 2024.	
CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS	MIT Security Studies Program Seminar Series	2024
	Center for the Advanced Study of India PE Workshop (UPenn)	2023
	Midwest Political Science Association	2016,17,19,23,24,25
	American Political Science Association	2018,19,20,21,22,24
	International Studies Association	2016,22
	Peace Science Society	2018,20
	Formal Models in International Relations	2020
	Penn / Perry World House Immigration Conference	2019
	PRIO / ETH Conference on Ceasefires and Civil Conflict	2019
	Madison Conference on South Asia	2018
GRANTS AND AWARDS	CPRC-ISERP Seed Grant, Columbia University (\$40,000)	2025
	Robert H. Durr Award, MPSA	2020
	Research & Empirical Analysis of Labor Migration Grant (\$99,000)	2018
	William T.R. Fox Fellowship in Political Science, Columbia	2017-2018
	Center for Development Economics and Policy Grant, Columbia (\$3,000)	2017

	GSAS Dissertation Improvement Grant, Columbia (\$2,500)	2016
	Earth Institute AC ⁴ Summer Research Fellowship, Columbia (\$3,000)	2015
	Weatherhead East Asia Fellowship for Political Science, Columbia	2014-2015
	Best Thesis Presentation in Political Science, Stanford	2011
COURSES TAUGHT	Instructor at Wesleyan	
	GOVT 155: International Relations	F23, S24, S25
	GOVT 312: Strategic Dilemmas in Politics	F23, F24
	GOVT 313: Civil Wars and Armed Groups	S24, S25
	GOVT 320: International Relations of South Asia	F24
	Instructor at U.S. Naval War College	
	Strategy and War	20-21, 21-22, 22
	Strategy and Policy	22-23
COLLEAGUESHIP	GOVT Department	
	Skirm Prize Committee	2024
	Phi Beta Kappa Committee	2024-25
	Methods Linked Major Committee	2023-24
	Outside Wesleyan	
	Reviewer for <i>International Organization</i> , <i>International Security</i> , <i>Journal of Conflict Resolution</i> , <i>Journal of Peace Research</i> , <i>Comparative Political Studies</i> , <i>International Studies Quarterly</i> , <i>International Interactions</i> , <i>Security Studies</i> , <i>Political Behavior</i> , <i>Conflict Management and Peace Science</i> , <i>Terrorism and Political Violence</i> , <i>Nations and Nationalism</i>	
FIELD WORK	India (Nagaland, Assam, Manipur, Mizoram; 6 months)	2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
	Sri Lanka (Colombo and the Vanni; 6 weeks)	2017
	Thailand and Myanmar (7 weeks)	2010