

Ari Weil

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EXPERTISE Political Violence, Ideology, Narrative, Computational Text Analysis, Archival Methods

EDUCATION **University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL Expected July 2026
Ph.D., Political Science

Dissertation: *Explaining Insurgent Ideological Flexibility in Civil Wars*

Committee: Paul Staniland (Chair), Austin Carson, Rochelle Terman

Fields: International Relations (honors), Quantitative Methods

MA in Political Science 2022

Certificate in Computational Social Science 2021

MA in International Relations (Honors) 2020

Pomona College, Claremont, CA 2018

BA, International Relations

**PUBLISHED
WORK**

Articles

“Strategies of Narrative Coherence: How Militias Justify Embracing State Power,” *Perspectives on Terrorism* 16 no. 6, (December 2022), 19-33.

R Kim Cragin and Ari Weil, “Virtual Planners in the Arsenal of Islamic State External Operations,” *Orbis* 62 no. 2, (Spring 2018), 294-312.

Book Chapters

“Terrorist Tactical Diffusion among Lone Actors: Explaining the Spread of Vehicle Ramming Attacks.” In *How Terrorists Learn*, pp. 123-143. Routledge, 2023.

**WORKING
PAPERS**

“Our Real Power Is Our Popularity”: Constituent Opinion and Rebel Infighting in Civil War *Under Review*

All Over the Map: Leaders, Bureaucracy and Geographic Orientation in the Vietnam War, with Austin Carson.

**OTHER
WRITING**

“Protesters hit by cars recently highlight a dangerous far-right trend in America,” *NBC Think*, July 12, 2020.

Research on vehicle ramming cited in Washington Post, USA Today. Interviews with New York Times, NPR, CNN.

“The Challenges of Defining Terrorism in International Treaty Law,” *KSLR and Strife Journal Joint Issue* no. 1, (Fall 2018), 48-67.

GRANTS & AWARDS	Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Center for International Social Science Research	2025-2026
	Bienen Summer Research Award, UChicago Political Science	2024
	Graduate Research Fellowship, Nicholson Center for British Studies	2022
	Second-Year Specialization, Committee on International Relations	2019-2020
	Social Science's Dean's Scholarship, University of Chicago	2018-2019
	Tuition Fellowship, Committee on International Relations	2018-2019
	Bobby Inman Award in Intelligence Studies, University of Texas (Undergraduate Semifinalist)	2018
	Cordell Hull Prize in International Relations, Pomona College	2018
RESEARCH ASSISTANCE	Austin Carson, University of Chicago	2020-2021
	Chicago Project on Security and Threats	2019-2020
	Colin Beck, Pomona College	2018
	R. Kim Cragin, National Defense University	2017
	Bruce Hoffman, Claremont McKenna College	2016
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Teaching assistant, Department of Political Science	
	Text As Data for Social Science (Rochelle Terman), Fall 2022	
	The Secret Side of International Politics (Austin Carson), Winter 2023	
	Introduction to International Relations (Paul Poast), Spring 2024, Spring 2025	
	War and the Nation-State (John Mearsheimer), Winter 2025	
WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES	International Studies Association (ISA)	2025, 2024, 2023, 2022
	Organized a panel 2022, chaired 2024	
	American Political Science Association (APSA)	2023, 2025
	Organized a panel 2023, chaired 2025	
	Midwest Political Science Association (MSPA)	2018, 2019
	International Security Studies Section - International Security (ISSS-IS)	2019
	Workshop on International Politics, University of Chicago	2023
	How Terrorists Learn Workshop, Max Planck Institute	2019
	Strategic Multilayer Assessment Conference, Joint Base Andrews	2019
TECHNICAL STRENGTHS	Georgetown Walsh Exchange, Georgetown University	2018
	Programming: R (text analysis, spatial data, network analysis, machine learning (classification, clustering), data management, and data visualization), L ^A T _E X	
ADDITIONAL TRAINING	Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS) , Saltzman Institute for War and Peace	2023
SERVICE	Race and IR Workshop, University of Chicago , Discussant	2022
	Political Science Students Association , Member	2021-2023
	Political Science Department , Peer Mentor	2021

Updated September 2025