

Serena Simoni

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EDUCATION

University of Southern California
Ph.D. International Relations, 2008

Areas of Expertise: International Security, Europe and U.S. Relations, International Relations Theory, International Organizations, International Law, and Foreign Policy Analysis.

Dissertation Title: *Beyond Paradise and Power: Contending Arguments on the Future of Transatlantic Relations and the West (1991-2001)*

This study examines issues of traditional and human security within the contextual dynamics of “Europe” and the United States, taking into account an ever-emerging post-Cold War global order, and massive changes on the continent such as the emergence of the European Union, and the perceived threat of a common enemy such as Islamic terrorism.

Dissertation Committee: Hayward Alker (chair), Robert English¹ (chair), Steven Lamy, Steven Ross

California State University, Long Beach
M.A. Political Science, 2001

Comprehensive exams in International Relations and Comparative Politics taken in lieu of MA thesis

Exams Advisors: Charles Noble (chair), Larry Martinez, Teresa Wright

Università degli Studi di Roma, La Sapienza
Laurea, (B.A.) Political Science with International Relations Emphasis, 1995

Thesis Title: *Britain and the Balkans: the House of Commons Debates, 1991 – 1994*

Thesis Advisors: Domenico Caccamo, Paolo Simoncelli

¹ Dr. Robert English kindly became chair after the passing of Dr. Hayward Alker

AWARDS, GRANTS, and ACADEMIC ACHIEVEMENTS

2017 Fall term Visiting Scholar at *Institut Barcelona d'Estudis Internacionals* (IBEI), Barcelona, Spain
2014 Dean's Research Award, Howard College of Arts and Sciences, Samford University
2006 Final Year Dissertation Fellowship, College of Letters, Arts and Sciences, University of Southern California
2004 Ross and Marjorie Berkes Scholarship Spring/Summer Research Award, School of International Relations, University of Southern California
2004-2005-2006 Travel Award, School of International Relations, University of Southern California
2001 Member of Phi Kappa Phi, Recognition for Supreme Academic Performance, California State University Long Beach
2001 Outstanding Graduate Student Award in Political Science, California State University Long Beach
2001 Pi Sigma Alpha, the National Political Science Honor Society

PUBLICATIONS

Book: *Understanding Transatlantic Relations: Whither the West?* (New York: Routledge, 2013). In light of the Arab Spring and after days of public quarreling that highlighted the divisions among NATO's members on an agreement to give command of the "no-fly" zone in Libya to the Alliance, it is evident that the U.S. is having problems engaging with its European allies and partners. Why is this happening? Breaking away from the conventional way to study transatlantic relations, I use a Constructivist theoretical lens to argue that the transatlantic partners' changing identities since the early 1990s have influenced their political interests and, as a consequence, their national security policies. Contemporary divergences are a notable byproduct of these transformations. By focusing on cases of disagreement (i.e., NATO's enlargement, the International Criminal Court, and Debt Relief for Africa), this book shows how since the 1990s, the U.S. has started to see itself as the actor carrying the international defense burden, while the European Union has developed an image of itself as the actor in charge of humanitarian efforts, which generally entails diplomacy rather than military efforts. Contemporary cases of disagreement as the Arab Spring, Libya, and Foreign Assistance in Africa illustrate how redefined national identities continue to alter the course of transatlantic relations.

Book Chapter: "Transatlantic Relations: A Theoretical Framework" in *The Future of Transatlantic Relations: Perceptions, Policy and Practice* edited by Joyce Kaufman and Andrew Dorman, (Palo Alto: Stanford University Press, 2011)

Article: *Split or Cooperation? Contending Arguments on the Future of the Transatlantic Relations (1991-2001)?* Brussels: NATO Official Webpage (2009)

Book Review: Thomas B. Hansen and Finn Stepputat, *Sovereign Bodies. Citizens, Migrants, and States in the Post-Colonial World* Princeton, NJ: Princeton University Press, 2005. *Human Rights Review* (June 2008)

Works-In-Progress

Books

Queenpins of Organized Crime: Analyzing Violent Women in IR and Feminist Frameworks

Edited book

Crisis, the Politics of Resilience and the Future of Transatlantic Relations

Articles

Violent Women in Transnational Organized Crime: Overlooked Security Threats

Reviewer - Article / Manuscript

2012: *Political Research Quarterly*, Pullman, Washington. Manuscript reviewed entitled: "Cheaters can still play the game: Examining the effects of involuntary alliance violation on future state alliance behavior".

2012: *International Studies Perspectives*, Victoria, Australia. Manuscript reviewed entitled "Men and Women for and with Others: Collaborative Learning and Innovative Assessment in Humanitarian Studies".

CURRENT TEACHING POSITION

Associate Professor, 2015-Present

Department of Political Science, Samford University

Assistant Professor, 2011-2015

Teaching the following courses:

- Political Science 313: International Organizations
- Political Science 370: Women and World Politics
- Political Science 499: International Law
- Political Science 310: U.S. Foreign Relations
- Political Science 499: Italian Politics
- Political Science 319: International Relations
- Political Science 351: European Politics
- Political Science 348²: Barcelona and Catalonia: Anarchism, Revolution and Civil War

² This course is an on-campus course with a two-week travel component. It includes a study experience in Spain, visiting Barcelona to explore Catalan political, cultural, literary, religious and artistic development of the 20th century.

- Political Science 465.1: Senior Seminar
- Political Science 465.2: Senior Seminar

PREVIOUS TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, 2010-2011

International Relations Program, University of Pennsylvania

Taught the following course (s):

- International Relations 390: Senior Thesis Seminar in International Relations
- Two senior seminars

Assisted in general advising of IR majors

Participated in extracurricular activities sponsored by the IR Program

Lecturer, Fall 2007 – Spring 2010

Department of Political Science, California State University Long Beach

Taught the following self-designed courses:

- Political Science 220: Issues in Global Politics
- Political Science 371: Introduction to International Politics
- Political Science 376: International Law
- Political Science 489: Senior Seminar in International Politics

Taught courses at undergraduate and graduate level

Assisted in undergraduate and graduate student advising and curriculum development in my areas of expertise

Advised students in international education programs

Lecturer, Summer Program in Italy 2009, Porto Venere

Center for International Education, California State University Long Beach

Taught the following course:

- RGR 315i: Contemporary European Society

Teaching Assistant, Fall 2003-Fall 2005 & Fall 2001-Spring 2002

School of International Relations and Department of History, University of Southern California

Assisted in the following courses:

- International Relations 383: Negotiating the End Conflicts in the Third World (Fall 2005);
- International Relations 212: Historical Approaches to International Relations (Spring 2004);

- International Relations 362: The International Relations of the Contemporary Middle East (Fall 2003);
- International Relations: 325 Rich and Poor States in the World Political Economy (Fall 2003);
- History 225: Film Power and American History (Spring 2002);
- History 265: Understanding Race and Sex Historically (Fall 2001).

Led weekly class sections in which students were helped to understand and discuss the basic themes of the course, and were offered the opportunity to discuss ideas raised by the course in a small setting.

Held weekly office hours for students to come with questions on material in the course and gain assistance on a one-on-one basis.

Lecturer, Fall 2002-Spring 2003

Department of French and Italian, University of Southern California

Taught the following course:

- Italian 120: Italian I

Introduced students to contemporary Italian language and culture through thematic, task-based instruction, role-plays, pair and group work. Taught for four hours per week entirely in Italian and designed for students who had no prior knowledge of Italian.

Held weekly office hours for students to come with questions and gain practice in Italian.

Teaching Assistant, Spring 2001

Department of Political Science, California State University, Long Beach

Assisted in the following course:

- Political Science 100: Introduction to American Government

Marked papers and exams and held weekly office hours to provide students with individual assistance on the subject discussed in the course

SERVICE

Member, Dean's Search Committee, 2015-2016

Member, University Search Committee, 2014-2015

Director of International Relations Program, 2014-Present

Coordinator of DC Careers Program, 2011- Present

Advisor of Model United Nations, 2011- Present

Advisor Political Science and IR majors, 2011- Present

Member, Howard College Scholars Committee, 2012-2013

Member, Committee on International Studies, 2014-Present

Member, Political Science Search Committee: 2013-2014

CONFERENCES, LECTURES AND SEMINAR PRESENTATIONS

European International Studies Association, 11th Pan-European Conference, Barcelona (Spain)
September 13-16, 2017

Paper: *Change, War and Violence: Militant Women in Colombia*

Workshop "Crisis, the Politics of Resilience and the Future of Transatlantic Relations." Heidelberg
Center for American Studies, Heidelberg (Germany). March 16-19, 2017:

Paper: *Is NATO Still Up to the Job? The Identity Crisis of the Alliance*

Panel Discussion. Heidelberg Center for American Studies, Heidelberg (Germany). March 17, 2017

Panelist: *Crisis and Resilience of Transatlantic Relations under the Trump Administration*

International Studies Association Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, February 22-25, 2017:

Paper: *Change, War and Violence: Militant Women in Colombia*

University of Alabama Birmingham, Institute for Human Rights. November 16, 2016

Panelist: "The Refugee Crisis in the Mediterranean" focus on Italy

ISAC-ISSS Annual Conference on Security Studies (Notre Dame University, Indiana, November 4-6,
2016)

Paper: *Violent Women: Gendered Violence and Security*

European Social Science History Conference, Valencia (Spain), March 30-April 2, 2016

Paper: *Violent Women in Transnational Organized Crime: Overlooked Security Threats*

International Studies Association Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, March 16-19, 2016:

Paper: *Violent Women in Transnational Organized Crime: Overlooked Security Threats*

International Studies Association Annual Convention (New Orleans, February 18-21, 2015) and

ISAC-ISSS Annual Conference on Security Studies (University of Texas Austin, November 14-16, 2014)

Paper: *Feminized Security Threats: Transnational Crime and its Violent Women*

International Studies Association Annual Convention, Toronto, March 26-29, 2014:

Paper: *Europe's Official Development Assistance (ODA): Further Straining Identity and National Security in US-European Relations*

Paper: *America, Europe and the Arab Spring: A missed Opportunity for a Common Transatlantic Agenda.*

International Security Studies Section of the International Studies Association and International Security and Arms Control Section of the American Political Science Association (ISSS/ISAC), (Washington, DC: October 4-6, 2013):

Paper: *Mind the Gap: How Foreign Aid Assistance Can Jeopardize Transatlantic Relations*

Paper: *The United States and Europe in Libya: National Solutions to International Problems.*

International Studies Association South (ISA South), (Charlotte, NC, October 18-19, 2013)

Paper: *Can Foreign Aid Worsen the Transatlantic Rift?*

Paper: *Transatlantic Ambiguity during the Libyan Crisis: A Redefinition of Interest and Identity.*

International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, April 3-6, 2013:

Paper: "America and Europe: What's the holdup with the Arab Spring?"

Roundtable: Revisiting Western Military Interventions. A "meso" and "micro" – level perspective: Afghanistan, Iraq and Libya.

Gettysburg College. Department of Italian Studies, Gettysburg, PA, November 9, 2012:

Lecture: "Is the Neapolitan Camorra Exploiting Globalization? National and International Threats."

International Security Studies Section of the International Studies Association and International Security and Arms Control Section of the American Political Science Association (ISSS/ISAC), (Chapel Hill, NC, October 4-6, 2012):

Paper: "America and Europe: What's the holdup with the Arab Spring?"

XXVI Convegno SISP-Conference Italian Society of Political Science, Rome, Italy, Rome, September 13-15, 2012:

Paper: "NATO, the Arab Spring, Libya: Issues causing rifts in the in the U.S. relationship with its European Allies."

International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Diego, April 1-4, 2012:

Paper: "NATO, the Arab Spring, Libya: What is Not Working Out in the U.S. Relationship with its European Allies?"

Paper: "Transnational Organized Crime: New Threats for the State"

ISSS/ISAC Annual Conference. (Irvine, CA, October 13-15, 2011)

Paper: "The Exploitation of Globalization by Transnational Organized Crime"

International Studies Association Annual Convention, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, March 16-19, 2011:
Paper: "Nation-States, Global Governance and Norm Diffusion: The Threat of the Neapolitan Organized Crime".

Institute of Political Science, Pontifical Catholic University of Chile, Santiago, Chile – December 15, 2009:

Paper: "The End of the "West"? A Reading of the Changing Atlantic Order".

International Studies Association Annual Convention, New York, February 15-18, 2009:

Paper: "Exploring Transatlantic Relations a Theoretical View"

Seminar on International Organized Crime, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, November 14-16, 2008: "Napoli! The System, The Camorra and The Pizza. Breaking the Stereotypes."
Invited Presentation for the International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Diego, March 22-25, 2006.

Paper: "Securing the West: NATO vs. OSCE"

International Studies Association Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii, March 1-5, 2005:

Paper: "Deconstructing the West: the Case of the ICC"

International Studies Association Annual Convention, Montreal, Quebec, Canada, March 17-20, 2004:

Paper: "(Un)Birth of a Nation: The Failure of Mussolini's Nationalist Project"

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Gender and International Relations, Transnational Organized Crime, International Security; Europe and U.S. Relations; Foreign Policy; International Organizations; Conflict and Cooperation; Human Security; International Law.

PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

Membership in the International Studies Association, International Security Studies, Women's Caucus, American Political Science Association

PREVIOUS WORK EXPERIENCE

Political Assistant, October 1997-July 1998

Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Rome

Helped strengthen diplomatic support for political operations in Albania within the Italian Bureau of Political Affairs.

Assisted in preparing confidential documents for the Italian government, outlining the suggested guidelines for drafting the Albanian Constitution.

Helped facilitate regional cooperation of the Italian Governmental Commissariat and the Special Diplomatic Delegation in Albania toward the democratization process.

International Supervisor, November 1997

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (O.S.C.E.), Belgrade, Serbia

Worked with the Out of Country Voting O.S.C.E. team in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) as a polling station election supervisor for the Bosnia and Herzegovina parliamentary elections of November 25, 1997

Ensured that Bosnian refugees in my polling station were provided every opportunity to register to vote and supervised that all the electoral rules and regulations, as well as rules of procedure, were being followed.

International Supervisor, September 1997

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (O.S.C.E.), Vares, Bosnia-Herzegovina:

Monitored the Bosnia-Herzegovina Municipal Elections of September 13-14, 1997 on behalf of the O.S.C.E

Supervised the elections in my assigned polling station, in order to clarify, when necessary, rules and regulations relevant to the electoral procedures, and to document any shortcomings

Election Observer, October 1996

Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (O.S.C.E.), Elbasan, Albania:

Monitored the Albanian local governmental elections of October 20, 2006 on behalf of the O.S.C.E.

Examined several polling stations in my assigned constituency, in order to observe and note if all relevant electoral procedures were being followed, and to report any observed irregularities.

Research Assistant, September 1995- September 1997

Italian Society for International Organizations (SIOI), Rome, Italy:

Helped organize seminars and conferences on international issues for Diplomats of the Mediterranean Basin, coordinated by the Maltese Government, the Mediterranean Academy of Diplomatic Studies and SIOI.

Aided in organizing the conference in celebration of the United Nations Day, held at SIOI, by the Italian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Lamberto Dini

LANGUAGE SKILLS

English (Fluent), Italian (Native), Spanish (Fluent).