

Dr. Sophia Dawkins

www.sophiadawkins.com

Education

Yale University

New Haven, CT, USA

Ph.D. (with Distinction), M.Phil. and M.A. in Political Science

May 2023

- Dissertation: 'Essays on Civilian Protection: Risk and Safety During Peace Negotiations'.
- Committee: Elisabeth Wood & Kate Baldwin (co-chairs), Stathis Kalyvas and Alex de Waal
- Fieldwork: Kenya and Ethiopia (2018); South Sudan (2020)
- Methodological Training: Yale GIS Accelerator Program; Quantitative Empirical Methods three-semester sequence; Qualitative Methods three-semester sequence.

The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Medford, MA, USA

M.A. in Law and Diplomacy

May 2011

University of Oxford

Oxford, UK

B.A. in Philosophy, Politics and Economics

June 2007

Skills

Software: R, ArcGIS Pro, Nvivo, KoboToolbox for smartphone-based surveys

Languages: French (advanced), Dutch (intermediate)

Fellowships, Grants & Honors

- Fellow (Non-Resident), Conflict Prevention and Sustaining Peace, United Nations University Centre for Policy Research (2024-)
- Fellow at the Centre on Armed groups (2024-)
- US Institute of Peace Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar (2019-2020)
- Lawrence S. Finkelstein Prize for best graduate student paper in International Organization, awarded by the International Studies Association (2018)
- Lindsay Fellowship for Research in Africa, Yale University (2018)
- Macmillan Center Pre-Dissertation Research Grant, Yale University (2018)
- Tufts Provost's Fellow & Tufts Global Competitiveness Initiative Fellow (2015-2016)
- Named to *Diplomatic Courier* list of Top 99 Foreign Policy Leaders Under 33 (2013)
- Class Speaker at The Fletcher School graduation, by election (2011)
- Feinsein International Center Scholarship for field research in Southern Sudan (2010)
- C.V. Starr Scholarship at The Fletcher School for excellence in humanitarian studies (2010)

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Professional Experience

School of International & Public Affairs, Columbia University

New York, USA

Adjunct Assistant Professor of International and Public Affairs

Starting September 2024

- Teaching 'Data and Conflict', co-sponsored by three SIPA programs: International Conflict Resolution; International Security Policy; and Data Analytics & Quantitative Analysis.
- Students will learn about open-source data on conflict events, forced displacement, food security and climate patterns, the state-of-the-art in early warning, and the basics of data visualization in R and ArcGIS Pro.

International Organization for Migration (South Sudan) & Duke Law School

Remote, with travel

Expert Consultant

January 2024 - present

- Providing methodological advice to partnership between IOM South Sudan and Duke Law School for the study 'Understanding Multidimensional Fragility in South Sudan.'

XCEPT Program, Kings College London

Remote, with travel

Associate Fellow

March 2023 - present

- Methodological advisor to team of neuroscientists and social scientists for the program 'Violent and Peaceful Behaviour', a component of the UK FCDO 'Cross Border Conflict Evidence, Policy and Trends Program' (XCEPT).
- Helped design a study that gathers quantitative and qualitative data about the drivers of violent behavior in two climate-affected areas of South Sudan.

PeaceRep and Detcro Research & Advisory

Remote, with travel

Senior Researcher

October 2019 – present

- Methodological lead for project 'Perceptions of Peace in South Sudan' which documents civilian perceptions of safety, politics and climate stresses, implemented by the Peace and Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform (PeaceRep) and Detcro, a South Sudanese think tank, with funding from the US Institute of Peace, UK FCDO and Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung.
- Part of a four-person team that successfully designed and administered a survey (2020-2024) to 18,116 people across five waves in 15 states and special administrative areas, covering urban, rural and IDP camp environments – one of South Sudan's largest public opinion polls in its history.
- Used satellite data, geo-spatial analysis and statistics to design and implement a novel survey sampling strategy tailored to conflict contexts with limited demographic information.
- Delivered briefings to officials representing US Department of State and US Agency for International Development, amongst other US government agencies, on conflict risks in South Sudan (Feb 2020; Mar 2023).

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European University Institute, Dept. of Political and Social Sciences

Fiesole, Italy and remote

Visiting Fellow

September 2023 – April 2024

- Conducted advanced statistical analysis on household survey data as part of a book manuscript on civilian fragility during peace processes in humanitarian contexts.
- In November 2023, delivered research seminar to 30 people entitled ‘Surveys in Crisis’, addressing issues of data integrity, protection and privacy during survey research in conflict zones.

Yale University, Department of Political Science

New Haven, CT, USA

Doctoral Researcher

August 2016 – May 2023

- Developed advanced skills in statistics, geo-spatial data and qualitative methods.
- Secured research grants totaling \$45,500, diligently managing funds to ensure cost-effectiveness, while generating high-quality reports for grant-making organizations.
- Developed and deployed a cutting-edge survey sampling method using satellite data for administering public opinion polls in conflict zones during the Covid-19 pandemic; awarded Distinction for my dissertation by the Yale Graduate School of Arts and Sciences in recognition of my research innovations.
- Conducted independent field research with members of South Sudanese armed opposition groups, political leaders and traditional authorities in South Sudan, Kenya and Ethiopia.

World Peace Foundation

Somerville, MA, USA

Researcher

September 2015 – July 2016

- Contributed to African Union discussions on security reform by conducting policy-oriented research on trends in political missions and peace mediation, with travel to Ethiopia.

Corruption & State Legitimacy Working Group, The Fletcher School

Somerville, MA, USA

Researcher

January – July 2016

- Researched dynamics of corruption and its effects on citizen perceptions of state legitimacy in DRC and Uganda, funded by Carnegie Corporation and US Department of State.

Conflict Dynamics International

Juba, South Sudan; Nairobi, Kenya; Cambridge, USA

Senior Program Officer – Peacebuilding (last post held)

June 2011 – August 2015

- Led research unit of Conflict Dynamics International, a mediation support and conflict resolution organization. Directly supervised a Research Officer and four Research Assistants (2013-2015).
- Spent a total of 12 months in South Sudan, working alongside senior government officials, military leaders and members of rebel groups to support peacebuilding initiatives and humanitarian negotiations.
- Frequently briefed South Sudanese cabinet ministers, members of parliament and state governors on the conflict risks of new legislation. Also provided technical advice on drafting the

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National Elections Bill (2012-2015).

- Trained government ministers and members of the rebel SPLM-in-Opposition on humanitarian norms and humanitarian access negotiations, with funding from the Swiss government (2015).
- Secured a USD 100,000 grant from the United States Institute of Peace to support a mediation initiative in Jonglei State, South Sudan (2012-2014)
- As advisor to Somali program, partnered with World Bank to mediate discussions on petroleum management between the Federal Government of Somalia and emerging federal states (2015).
- Provided technical guidance on program design to Sudan, South Sudan, Syria and Somali programs, and led design of global programs on humanitarian access.

Mercy Corps Sudan

Abyei Area, (former) Sudan

Governance and Civil Society M&E Intern

May – August 2010

- Living in tents in a conflict-affected area, designed a strategy to integrate a US\$35 million civic engagement program with a US \$50 million local government capacity building program.

Mercy Corps

Cambridge, MA, USA

Governance and Civil Society Research Associate

December 2009 – May 2010

- Developed a menu of governance indicators to guide project management.

Association of European Parliamentarians for Africa

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Communications Officer

July 2008 – July 2009

- Desk Officer for a EUR 250,000 capacity-building program with the Pan-African Parliament.

Pro Bono Work

- **Every Casualty Counts:** Collaborated with *Every Casualty Counts*, a human rights organization, to chair three discussions between high-level policymakers and grassroots casualty recording organizations in Sudan, South Sudan, Somalia, DRC and Central African Republic (Spring 2024).
- **UN Peacebuilding Support Office:** Recruited to co-author a chapter on the changing contexts of violent conflict for the upcoming 'Peacebuilding Global Overview Report' (June 2024 – present).

Lecturing, Teaching & Review

- Guest lectured on social science research in conflict contexts at: Duke (2023); Yale (2017, 2018, 2019, 2020); Williams College (2021); The Fletcher School at Tufts University (2014).
- Teaching Fellow for *Development under Fire*, Department of Political Science, Yale (Fall 2018).
- Teaching Assistant to Prof. Ian Johnstone at The Fletcher School at Tufts University for *International Organizations and Actors in Global Governance* (Fall 2010, Spring 2011).
- Peer reviewer for *Environment and Security*, *International Peacekeeping*, *International Affairs*, *European Journal of International Law*.

Publications

Peer-reviewed Articles

- 'The problem of the missing dead', *Journal of Peace Research* 58(5) (2021), 1098-1116
- 'Arbitrary Peace? Consent Management in International Arbitration', *European Journal of International Law* 26(1) (2015), 139-168 (with Bart Smit Duijzentkunst)

Book Chapters

- 'UN Missions in Sudan and South Sudan', *The Palgrave Encyclopedia of Peace and Conflict Studies* (Palgrave Macmillan, 2021)
- 'Why Negotiate? Why Mediate? The Purpose of South Sudanese Peacemaking', in Laura James, Sarah Nouwen and Sharath Srinivasan (eds.), *Making and Breaking Peace in Sudan and South Sudan*, Special Proceedings of the British Academy (Oxford University Press, 2020)

Policy Reports

- 'Elections and Civic Space in South Sudan', Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung (2024) (with David Deng, Jan Pospisil and Christopher Oringa)
- 'Perceptions of National Elections in South Sudan', Detcro/ PeaceRep (2024) (with David Deng, Jan Pospisil and Christopher Oringa)
- 'Perceptions of Peace in South Sudan: Patterns in Perceptions of Safety since the 2018 R-ARCSS', Detcro/ PeaceRep (2023) (with David Deng, Jan Pospisil and Christopher Oringa)
- 'National Survey on Perceptions of Peace in South Sudan', Detcro/ PeaceRep (2022) (with David Deng, Jan Pospisil and Christopher Oringa)
- 'South Sudan's Transition: Citizens' Perception of Peace', United States Institute of Peace (2020) (with David Deng, Jan Pospisil and Christopher Oringa)
- 'Building the House of Governance: Towards Sustainable Peace in Jonglei State', Conflict Dynamics International (2014) (with Liz Gaere)
- 'Pathways to Peace: South Sudan's Constitution', CDI (2013) (with Liz Gaere)
- 'Building the House of Governance: Political Accommodation in South Sudan', Conflict Dynamics International (2012) (with Liz Gaere)

Opinion Pieces

- 'Gaza's invisible massacre: aid workers killed in record numbers', *360info*, reprinted by numerous outlets including *ReliefWeb* and *Action on Armed Violence* (2024) (with Mike Spagat)
- 'Spotlight on South Sudan', *Every Casualty Counts* (2023)
- 'Who counts in conflicts during the pandemic?', *Political Violence at a Glance* (2021)
- 'On South Sudan's sixth birthday, here are 6 things you should know', *Washington Post* (2017)
- 'Ten degrees north: Sudan's melting pot', *Open Democracy* (2010)