

Victor Asal

Rockefeller College, University at Albany, SUNY
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Albany, NY 12222 USA
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CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Rockefeller College, University at Albany,
SUNY
Director, Public Security Studies Certificate in Department of Public Policy and
Administration, Rockefeller College, University at Albany, SUNY
National Center for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START Center)
University of Maryland, College Park, Research Associate with a focus on Ethnic
Terrorism and Mass Casualty Terrorism
Center for International Development and Conflict Management Research Associate,
University of Maryland, College Park
Violent Intranational Political Conflict and Terrorism Research Laboratory, University of
Georgia, Research Associate with a focus on Terrorism and Counterterrorism

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Government and Politics, University of Maryland at College Park, May 2003.

Fields of Study Comparative Politics, Conflict and Conflict Resolution
Comparative Politics comprehensive examination, Summer 2000
Conflict and Conflict Resolution comprehensive examination, Summer
2000—Passed with Distinction.

Dissertation *The Political Inclusion of Minorities at Risk 1870-2000*

Chairs: Professor Ted Gurr, Professor Mark Lichbach

Committee: Professor Jonathan Wilkenfeld, Professor Martin Heisler, Professor
William Hodos

M.A., Government and Politics, University of Maryland at College Park, 2000.

M.A., International Relations, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, 1996. Graduated with
Honors.

Fields of Study: International Relations Theory, International Law

Thesis: A Western Political Security Community

B.A., Political Science and History, Tufts University, 1987. Graduated Magna Cum
Laude.

RESEARCH AND TEACHING INTERESTS

- Intrastate and Interstate Conflict
- Contentious Politics and Contentious Rights
- Pedegogy

RESEARCH**BOOKS**

- Harwood, Paul and Victor Asal *K Thru 12: Educating The First Digital Generation- A Comparative Inquiry* Anticipated publication Fall 2007. Praeger Publishers
- Wilkenfeld, Jonathan, Kathleen Young, David Quinn, and Victor Asal. 2005. *Mediating International Crises*: Routledge, an imprint of Taylor & Francis Books Ltd.

JOURNAL PUBLICATIONS

- Asal, Victor, and R. Karl Rethemeyer. 2008. "The Nature of the Beast: Terrorist Organizational Characteristics and Organizational Lethality." *Journal of Politics* Forthcoming.
- Asal, Victor, Brown, Mitchell and Renee Gibson Figueroa 2008 "Structure and Empowerment and the Liberalization of Cross-National Abortion Rights Cross-National Abortion Rights" *Politics and Gender* Forthcoming.
- Asal, Victor, and Paul G. Harwood. 2007. "Airing Grievances Online: Search Engine Algorithms and the fate of Minorities at Risk." *Journal of Information Technology and Politics* Forthcoming.
- Asal, Victor , and Kyle Beardsley. 2007. Proliferation and International Crisis Behavior. *Journal of Peace Research* 44, (2) : 139-155
- Asal, Victor , Brian Nussbaum, and William Harrington. 2007. Terrorist Transnational Activist Networks. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 30 (1):15-39
- Fordham, Benjamin, and Victor Asal. 2007. "Billiard Balls and Snowflakes: Do the Unit-level Characteristics of Leading States Influence Systemic Outcomes?" *International Studies Quarterly* 51 (1):31-53.
- Asal, Victor., and Elizabeth. L. Blake. 2006. Creating Simulations for Political Science Education. *Journal of Political Science Education* 2 (1):1-18.
- Quinn, David, Jonathan Wilkenfeld, Kathleen Smarick, and Victor Asal. 2006. Power Play: Mediation In Symmetric And Asymmetric International Crises. *International Interactions* 32 (4): 441-470
- Asal, Victor, and R. Karl Rethemeyer . 2006. Researching Terrorist Networks. *Journal of Security Education*. 1 (4): 65-74.
- Asal, Victor. 2005 . Playing Games with International Relations. *International Studies Perspectives* 6 (3):359-373.
- Wilkenfeld, Jonathan, Kathleen Young, Victor Asal, and David Quinn. 2003. Mediating International Crises: Cross-National and Experimental Perspectives. *The Journal of Conflict Resolution* 47 (3):279-301.

SHORT ARTICLES

- Asal, Victor, and Andrew Blum. 2005. Holy Terror and Mass Killings? Reexamining the Motivations and Methods of Mass Casualty Terrorists. *International Studies Review* 7 (1):153-155.

Blum, Andrew, Victor Asal, and Jonathan Wilkenfeld. 2005. Nonstate Actors, Terrorism, and Weapons of Mass Destruction. *International Studies Review* 7 (1):133-137.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Asal, Victor, Carter Johnson, and Jonathan Wilkenfeld. 2007. "Ethnopolitical Violence and Terrorism in the Middle East." In *Peace and Conflict* ed. J. J. Hewitt, J. Wilkenfeld and T. R. Gurr. Boulder Colorado Paradigm Publishers

Ackerman, Gary and Victor Asal "A Historical Overview of Biological Weapons Identification, Characterization and Attribution" in *Terrorism, War or Disease? Unraveling the Use of Biological Weapons*, Anne Clunan, Peter Lavoy and Susan Martin (eds.), Palo Alto, CA: Stanford University Press (forthcoming 2007)

Asal, Victor. 2005 . "The ICONS Suite of Negotiation Simulations ". In *Virtual Decisions: Digital Simulations for Teaching Reasoning in the Social Science and Humanities*, edited by K. E. P. Steve Cohen, Dean Rehberger , Carolyn Thorsen. Mahwah, NJ: Lawrence Erlbaum.

REPORTS

Asal, Victor, and Amy Pate. 2005. "The Decline of Ethnic Political Discrimination 1990-2003" In *Peace and Conflict 2005: A Global Survey of Armed Conflicts, Self-Determination Movements, and Democracy* edited by T. R. Gurr and M. G. Marshall. College Park Md Center for International Development and Conflict Management

ENCYCLOPEDIA ENTRY

Asal, Victor. 2005. Ethnic Cleansing. In *Governments Of The World*, edited by C. N. Tate: MacMillan Reference Books.

UNDER REVIEW

Asal, Victor and Brown, Mitchell 2007 Culture, Opportunity Structure, and the Politics of Domestic Violence and the Murder of Women

Asal, Victor and R. Karl Rethemeyer 2007. "Targeting and Attacking America: Ideology and Capability"

Asal, Victor, and Paul G. Harwood. 2006. "Search Engines: Terrorism's Killer App"

Asal, Victor, and R. Karl Rethemeyer. 2007 Dilettantes, Ideologues and the Weak: Terrorists Who Don't Kill:

Asal, Victor, C. Christine Fair, and Stephen M. Shellman. 2007. "Consenting to a Child's Jihad "

Asal, Victor, Gary Ackerman and R. Karl Rethemeyer . 2006. "Connections Can Be Toxic: Terrorist Organizational Factors and the Pursuit and Use of CBRN Terrorism"

Asal, Victor, Na'ama Nagar and R. Karl Rethemeyer "Do Good Neighbors make Good Terrorists? The Dark Side of Social Capital."

Asal, Victor, R. Karl Rethemeyer, Ian Anderson, Jeff Rizzo, Matthew M. Rozea, and Allyson Stein. 2007 "The Softest Of Targets: A Study On Terrorist Target Selection."

Asal, Victor. 2007. "The Preconditions for Ethnic Suicide Bombing Campaigns 1991-2003"

Beardsley, Kyle and Victor Asal 2007. "Using Nuclear Weapons Without Using Them."

EXTERNAL GRANTS

Co-PI, National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, September 1, 2007. Domestic Terrorism & Political Violence: Empirical Models of Government & Dissident Tactics and Strategies in South & Southeast Asia (0721681) \$177408 (\$62,000 to SUNY Albany) PI Stephen Shellman, University of Georgia

Subcontract for BBN Technologies for Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency award on Integrated Crisis Early Warning System (ICEWS) Grant 2007 -2008 \$150,000

National Center for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START Center) Research Grant Investigating Terrorist Networks Terrorism \$35,000 2007-2008

National Center for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START Center) internship and scholarship money awards to graduate and undergraduate students, 2005-2007 Over \$30,000.

International Studies Association Workshop Grant 2005-2006 for the workshop "The Turn to Terror: Comparative Case Studies and Boolean Analyses" to bring together researchers who will produce a book on the topic. \$5000

National Center for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism (START Center) Research Associate with a focus on Ethnic Terrorism and Mass Casualty Terrorism \$36,000 over three years 2005-2008

National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant, January 2001. *Race, Gender, Ethnicity, Class and the Spread of Suffrage in Democracies*, with Professor Ted Gurr. \$10,000.

Robert H. Michel Civic Education Grant, 2001. *Simulating Congressional Negotiations*, with David Armstrong and David Gerwin. \$4,900.

INTERNAL GRANTS

University at Albany SUNY 2006 Faculty Research Awards Program A Grant – *Devastatingly Practical Terrorism: Understanding and Combating Conventional Mass Casualty Terrorism* \$9,738 April 14, 2006 through April 15, 2007

University at Albany SUNY 2005 Individual Development Awards Program Proposal for building Ethnic Conflict data base \$1000

University at Albany SUNY 2004 The Center for Excellence in Teaching & Learning Innovation Grant : *Bringing Undergraduates Into The Research Institution: The Undergraduate Research Course in Global Politics Project* \$ \$4,640.00

University at Albany SUNY 2004 Faculty Research Awards Program B Grant – *The Online Indigenous Mobilization Project* \$3,995

University at Albany SUNY 2004 IT Commons Request for Proposals: *Proposal for Interdisciplinary IT Positions on Contentious Politics and Information*

Technology: Grant to fund half of a new line for Associate Professor – Drafted jointly with Thomas Church

AWARDS

Martin Edelman Excellence in Teaching Award, Department of Political Science, State University of Albany 2007
University of Maryland College of Behavioral and Social Science Excellence in Teaching Award, 2002.
University of Maryland Government and Politics Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award 2001-2002.
University of Maryland Government and Politics Distinguished Teaching Assistant Award 1999-2000.

INVITED PRESENTATIONS , CONFERENCES, AND WORKSHOPS

DHS Training Program, Presentation on Minorities at Risk Organizations and Terrorism, July 26, 2007 Department of Homeland Security. Washington D.C.
Summer Workshop on Teaching About Terrorism June 2007, Lectured on Ethnic Terrorism, University of Maryland/START Center:
Summer Workshop on Teaching About Terrorism July 2007 , Lectured on Ethnic Terrorism, Oklahoma University
Summer Workshop on Teaching About Terrorism June 2007 , Lectured on Ethnic Terrorism, Morehouse College
Virtual Network Analysis and Terrorism, Presentation to the Center for Dynamic Data Analysis (**DyDAn**), Rutgers NJ, Thursday, May 17, 2007
Presentation to the NY FBI National Academy Associates conference on Terrorist Lethality with R. Karl Rethemeyer, Cooperstown NY May 28, 2007
Participant, workshop on deterrence, sponsored by the US Strategic Command, Johns Hopkins University Applied Physics Lab in Laurel, MD 22-24 May, 2007 and two follow up meetings in Washington D.C.
Speaker, School of Natural and Social Sciences Lecture Series, Purchase College, State University of New York November 1, 2006 “The Problem of Suicide Terrorism”
Naval Post Graduate School / Kings College, London, Biological Weapons Attribution conference August 11-13 2006
Summer Workshop on Teaching About Terrorism June 15 2006, Lectured on Ethnic Terrorism, William and Mary
Summer Workshop on Teaching About Terrorism July 18 2006, Lectured on Ethnic Terrorism, University of Georgia
Department of Homeland Security Terrorism/Countering Terrorism Course, August 1 2006 Lectured on Suicide Terrorism
Scholar in Residence, School of Public Administration , Moscow State University, October 2005, Lectured on Ethnic and Suicide Terrorism
Speaker, The United Jewish Communities Chaim Weizmann Society, on “Biological, Chemical and Nuclear Terrorism,” Albany, New York, April 22 2007

ACADEMIC DEVELOPMENT ACTIVITIES

Summer Workshop On Teaching about Terrorism (SWOTT). College of William & Mary. Williamsburg, VA. July 12-July 19. 2005

University Teaching and Learning Program Certificate -Completed 2001. A Joint Initiative of the Center for Teaching Excellence and the Graduate School of the University of Maryland.

Advanced Training Certificate in Conflict Management 1999 Center for International Development and Conflict Management, University of Maryland.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

- Regional Sticks: The Effects of President's Rule on Regional Terrorism in India, 1980-2005 Peace Science Society (International) annual meeting, November 2-4 2007, Columbia, South Carolina with Stephen M. Shellman and Brandon M. Stewart
- "Culture, Opportunity Structure, and the Politics of Domestic Violence and the Murder of Women" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, August 30 2007 with Mitchell Brown
- "Organizational Factors and the Choice of Terrorism: Minorities at Risk Organizational Behavior in the Middle East" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, August 30 2007
- "A Simple Game of Terror" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association. San Diego CA. Feb. 28th - March 3rd, 2007 with D. Marc Kilgour
- "Surfing in Multiple Tongues: Search Engines and Middle East Ethnopolitics" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association. San Diego CA. Feb. 28th - March 3rd, 2007 with Paul Harwood
- "Pushing Terrorism Sideways: The Tactical Substitution of Domestic Terrorist Groups." In Preparation for the Peace Science Society (International) annual meeting, November 12-14 2006 with Samantha Meek, and Stephen M. Shellman
- "The Nature of the Beast: Organizational Structures and the Lethality of Terrorist Attacks." Paper presented at the annual meeting of the ISSS/ISAC Conference 2006 26-28 October 2006 Tucson, Arizona With R. Karl Rethemeyer
- "Ethnopolitical Political Mobilization on the Web" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association. San Diego CA. March 22-25, 2006 with Paul Harwood and Naama Nagar
- "The Preconditions for Ethnic Suicide Bombing Campaigns 1991-2003" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association. San Diego CA March 22-25, 2006
- "Size Matters: Terrorist Organizational Factors and the Pursuit and Use of CBRN Terrorism" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association. San Diego CA March 22-25, 2006 with Gary A. Ackerman
- "Ethno-Nationalist Suicide Terrorism" Peace Science Society Conference November 02-05, 2005 Iowa City Iowa
- "Terror and the Web: Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association. Washington, DC. August 31st-September 4th, 2005 with Paul Harwood

- "Minority Search: Ethnopolitical Mobilization Online" Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association Hilton Hawaiian Village, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2005-03-05, with Paul Harwood
- "Billiard Balls and Snowflakes: Do the Unit-level Characteristics of Leading States Influence Systemic Outcomes?," with Benjamin Fordham November 12-14 2004 Peace Science Society Annual Meeting, Houston, Texas
- "Holy Terror and Mass Killings? Reexamining the Motivations and Methods of Mass Casualty Terrorists," Center For International Development And Conflict Management Of The University Of Maryland Conference On Non-State Actors, Terrorism, And Weapons Of Mass Destruction, October 15, 2004
- "The International and Domestic Impact of Democracy: Minimal Political Inclusion of Minorities at Risk 1870-1997" Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago. April 2004.
- "Minimally Political Inclusive States: The Case of Minorities at Risk 1951-1990," Presented at the International Studies Association Annual Conference Montreal, Quebec March 2004
- "Mediation and the Relative Power of Crisis Actors: An Experimental Analysis," with David Quinn, Kathleen Young, and Jonathan Wilkenfeld Presented at the International Studies Association Annual Conference Montreal, Quebec March 2004
- "Creating Simulations for Political Science Education" with Elizabeth Blake Paper presented at the 2003 annual meeting of The American Political Science Association Philadelphia Marriott Hotel, Philadelphia, PA,

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

2000 to Present

Co-Designed and developed the Minorities at Risk Organizational Behavior Database project to code all organizations claiming to represent MAR groups for their Organizational Behavior, including terrorist actions funded through the National Center for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism. 2005 to current Building of Political Inclusion Database- collecting data on 162 countries from 1870 to the present for ethnic groups, University of Maryland.

Research Associate for the Crisis and Negotiation Research Group led by Professor Jonathan Wilkenfeld, University of Maryland.

2000

Project Collection Coordinator of Data for the Minorities At Risk Project, adding a new set of variables on population distribution, University of Maryland.

COURSES TAUGHT AT THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY SUNY

Graduate Classes

Political Violence: Terrorism and Insurgency
Ethnic Conflict
Contentious Politics
Comparative Field Seminar
Political Inclusion

Undergraduate Classes

Violent Political Conflict
Ethnic Conflict
Introduction to World Politics
Research and Method in Global Politics
Research and Method in Political Science
Politics of the Developing World

RELATED TEACHING EXPERIENCE

2001 – to current

Lecturer and developer of workshops on negotiation and crisis leadership for the United States Office of Personnel Management Eastern Management Development Center

ACTED AS REVIEWER FOR FOLLOWING JOURNALS

American Journal of Political Science
Comparative Political Studies
Conflict Management and Peace Science
Cambridge Review of International Affairs
Foreign Policy Analysis
International Migration
International Studies Perspectives
International Studies Quarterly
Journal of Conflict Resolution
Journal of Political Science Education
Journal of Politics
Politics & Policy
Security Studies

MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association
International Studies Association
Peace Science Society

ACADEMIC SERVICE AT THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

Director, Public Security Studies Certificate in Department of Public Policy and Administration, Rockefeller College, University at Albany, SUNY
Member on Second Year Evaluation Committee for Thomas Walker
Member on Committee to reevaluate graduate student program 2004-2005
Committee member of the *Retention Sub-Committee/Teaching & Learning Committee* 2005 -

ACADEMIC OR COMMUNITY TALKS AT THE UNIVERSITY AT ALBANY

“Simulations for Social Science Classes,” a talk for the Center of Excellence of Teaching and Learning November 29, 2005

Pi Sigma Alpha Grad School Informational Roundtable November 15, 2005
Round Table Discussion on The State of the Union organized by The Graduate
Association of Political Scientists February 9, 2005
“Ethnopolitical Mobilization online” SUNY Albany Political Science Colloquium, March
16, 2005
“Going on the Job Market” organized by The Graduate Association of Political Scientists
April 21 2005
“Israel’s Political Realignment” Albany Hebrew Academy, February 12 2005
“Government Policy and Ethnic Terror” Rockefeller Policy Lunch, March 15 2005
“Challenges of Studying Terrorism” Decision and Policy Sciences brownbag December
12 2004
Moderated student discussion of Fahrenheit 9/11 shown in Livingston Tower, October 25
2004
"Mass Casualty Terror-The Empirical Record" for PAD Ph.D. Brown Bag Lunch Series,
October 18
Fall Semester 2003 three lectures for University at Albany Hillel on the politics of Israel.