

Katrina N. Mosher-Howe

Contact Information

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Education

Ph.D., Texas A&M University, expected December 2007
Fields: International Relations; Foreign Policy Decision Making;
Comparative Politics.
Committee: Nehemia Geva (Chair), Charles F. Hermann, Robert Harmel,
and Christopher M. Sprecher.
Dissertation: *The Metrics of Death: Emotions and the Effects of Casualties
on Public Opinion in Militarized Interstate Disputes and
Terrorism.*

B.A. Department of Political Science and History, Mansfield University of
Pennsylvania, 2001.

Works Under Review

Lindquist, Eric, Katrina N. Mosher, Arnold Vedlitz. "Urban Infrastructure
Decision Making: Where Politics and Rationality Collide." Submitted to
Journal of Urban Affairs.

Works in Progress

Geva, Nehemia, Katrina N. Mosher, and Joe Clare. "The Cognitive Calculus of
Quality vs. Quantity of Information in Foreign Policy Decision Making."

Mosher, Katrina N. "Public Interpretations and Reactions to Terror and War
Related Casualties."

Mosher, Katrina N. "The Metrics of Death: Quantification of Casualties in
International Crises."

Mosher, Katrina and Nehemia Geva. "Unpacking the Emotional Response to Events of international Terror."

Other Academic Training

Non-degree. Workshop on Political Psychology. Summer Institute of Political Psychology. Ohio State University, Summer 2003.

Non-degree. Workshop on Math Modeling. Winter Institute of Foreign Policy Decision Making. Texas A&M University, January 2003.

Non-degree. Workshop on Event Data Analysis. Winter Institute of Foreign Policy Decision Making. Texas A&M University, January 2002.

Research Fields

International Relations
Foreign Policy Decision Making
Casualties and Public Opinion
International Terrorism

Political Psychology
Experimental Methods
Emotions, Cognition, and Political Choice

Science and Public Policy
Decision Making Processes

Teaching Interests

Terrorism in International Relation
Foreign Policy Decision Making
American Foreign Policy
Introduction to International Relations

Research Experience

Research Associate 2007- Present, Institute for Science, Technology & Public Policy, The Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University.

- Research Assistant; 2005- Summer 2007; Eric Lindquist, Institute for Science, Technology & Public Policy, The Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University.
Responsibilities include compiling organizational and budgetary data for a National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration grant. In addition, I was responsible for creating and implementing a coding scheme for interviews of infrastructure decision makers in Houston.
- U.S. Survey Coordinator, Fall 2004, Nottingham University Survey of State/Province Party Chairs, Lori Thorlakson Project Director.
Responsibilities included compiling the contact list of participants, sending introductory letters, and administering the survey.
- Research Assistant; 2001-Summer 2005; Nehemia Geva, Political Science Department, Texas A&M University.
Responsibilities included completing and submitting proposals to the Institutional Review Board, recruiting participants for experiments, creating/running computer and paper based experiments, and analyzing experimental data.
- Research Assistant; Fall 2002-2003; Christopher M. Sprecher.
Research Assistant; Summer 2002; Alex Mintz.
Certified Researcher, Texas A&M University Institutional Review Board.

Teaching Experience

- Lecturer, Summer-Fall 2006, Issues in World Politics. Department of Political Science, Texas A&M University. *Responsible for preparing syllabus, teaching, and grading 30 students.*

Conference Presentations

- Mosher, Katrina and Nehemia Geva. 2006. "Unpacking the Emotional Response to Events of International Terror: A Cross-national Experimental Analysis." Presented at the International Society of Political Psychology annual meeting. Barcelona, Spain. July 12-15, 2006.
- Mosher, Katrina and Nehemia Geva. 2006. "Unpacking the Emotional Response to Events of International Terror." Presented at the International Studies Association Convention. San Diego, CA. March 22-March 26.
- Geva, Nehemia and Katrina N. Mosher. 2005. "Terrorism, Negative Emotions, and Sensitivity to the Quality of Information in Foreign Policy Decision Making." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL April 7-10.

- Geva, Nehemia and Katrina N. Mosher. 2005. "Terrorism, Negative Emotions, and Processing the Reliability of Information in Foreign Policy Decision Making." Presented at the International Studies Association annual meeting in Honolulu, HI March 6-10.
- Mosher, Katrina N. 2005. "Public Interpretations and Reactions to Terror and War Related Casualties." Presented at the International Studies Association annual meeting in Honolulu, HI March 6-10.
- Mosher, Katrina N. 2004. "The Metrics of Death: Quantification of Casualties in International Crises." Presented at the International Society of Political Psychology annual meeting in Lund, Sweden July 15-18.
- Geva, Nehemia, Katrina N. Mosher, and Steven B. Redd. 2004. "Effects of Terror and Emotions on Foreign Policy Decision Processes." Presented at the International Society of Political Psychology annual meeting in Lund, Sweden July 15-18.
- Geva, Nehemia, Steven B. Redd, and Katrina N. Mosher. 2004. "Implications of International Terror and Emotions for Information Processes and Choice in Foreign Policy Decisions." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL April 7-10.
- Steven B. Redd, Nehemia Geva, and Katrina N. Mosher. 2004. "International Terror, Emotions, and Foreign Policy Decision Making." Presented at the International Studies Association annual meeting in Montreal, Canada.
- Andary, Dunia, Phillip W. Gray, and Katrina N. Mosher. 2003. "The Blood of Abraham: Effects of Casualties on Public Opinion in Israel." Presented at the International Studies Association annual meeting in Portland, OR February 25- March 1.
- Geva, Nehemia, Katrina N. Mosher, and Joe Clare. 2003. "The Cognitive Calculus of Quality vs. Quantity of Information in Foreign Policy Decision Making." Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association in Chicago, IL April 15-18.
- Geva, Nehemia, Joe Clare, and Katrina N. Mosher. 2002. "How Concerned are Decision Makers with the Quality of Information Used for Foreign Policy Decision Making." Presented at the American Political Science Association in Boston, MA August 28-September 1.

Membership in Professional Organizations

American Political Science Association
International Studies Association
International Society of Political Psychology

References

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Professor Eric Lindquist
Assistant Director and Associate Researcher
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Description of Dissertation

The Metrics of Death: Emotions and the Effects of Casualties on Public Opinion in Militarized Disputes and Terrorism.

Recent terrorist events such as the London, Madrid, and Bombay train bombings as well as the attacks on September 11th have highlighted the impact that casualties can have on domestic audiences. These incidents led to major foreign policy shifts, massive security expenditures, and in the Spanish case, the loss of power by the incumbent government. Yet, when we compare the number of those killed in terrorist events to those killed in militarized disputes, we see that there are more negative public responses to casualties of terrorism than casualties of militarized disputes. My dissertation examines this “over reaction” to terror casualties and compares it to the reactions resulting from militarized dispute casualties. While studies have analyzed the effects of casualties on public opinion in war, the comparison of casualties across different hostility contexts has been unexplored.

I posit a model in which the characteristics of the casualty event generate emotional reactions. The emotional response, in turn, affects the way information about the event is processed and consequently the support of either aggressive or non-aggressive foreign policies. Furthermore, my model also proposes that different types of negative emotions have different impacts on the process as well on the preferences for foreign policies. I expect that different casualty characteristics such as the hostility context (terrorism and militarized disputes) and the characteristics of the targets (number killed and their identity) influence the specific negative emotions experienced by individuals. Thus, variations in these characteristics should alter public preferences for foreign policies.

I use a multi-method approach to test my theoretical propositions. First, I utilize experimental methods that introduce different scenarios to the participants. Each scenario varies the casualty characteristics, and examines their impact on individuals' preferences for foreign policies. Second, I compiled a daily event data set that contains both terrorism and militarized dispute casualty statistics and public reaction data for Israel in 1969. I selected this period because it provides events of terrorism and militarized disputes as well as variations in the identity of the casualties. The statistical analysis of this data set is complete. Six chapters of my dissertation are drafted and awaiting committee approval. I expect my dissertation to be completed in December of 2007.