

Mark S. Berlin

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Academic Appointments

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Marquette University, 2022-present
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Marquette University, 2015-2022

Education

Ph.D. University of California, Irvine, Political Science, 2015
M.A. University of California, Irvine, Political Science, 2013
B.M. Berklee College of Music (*cum laude*), Music Production & Engineering, 2002

Peer-reviewed publications

Book

2020 *Criminalizing Atrocity: The Global Spread of Criminal Laws against International Crimes* (Oxford University Press).

- Recipient of the 2022 Best Book Award from the Human Rights Section of the International Studies Association.
- Reviewed in *Perspectives on Politics*, *International Affairs*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Genocide Studies and Prevention*, *American Journal of Comparative Law*, *Contemporary Sociology*, and *Rechtsgeschichte* (Germany).

Journal articles

2025 "Chicago Police Torture and the Limits of Human Rights Enforcement in Liberal Democracies" *Perspectives on Politics* 23(4), 1324-1343.

2023 "Does Criminalizing Torture Deter Police Torture?" *American Journal of Political Science* 67(4), 932-947.

2020 “Revising the ‘Hibernation’ Narrative: Technocratic Legal Experts and the Cold War Origins of the ‘Justice Cascade.’” *Human Rights Quarterly* 42(4), 878–901.

2019 “Who Studies International Law? Explaining Cross-National Variation in Compulsory International Legal Education.” *European Journal of International Law* 30(2), 481–508. Co-authored with Ryan Scoville.

2017 “The Difference Law Makes: Domestic Atrocity Laws and Human Rights Prosecutions.” *Law & Society Review* 51(3), 533-566. Co-authored with Geoff Dancy.

2016 “Why (not) Arrest? Third-party State Compliance and Noncompliance with International Criminal Tribunals.” *Journal of Human Rights* 15(4), 509-532.

Other publications (not peer-reviewed)

Book chapters and policy reports

2013 “From Pirates to Pinochet: Universal Jurisdiction for Torture.” In *The Politics of the Globalization of Law: Getting from Rights to Justice*, edited by Alison Brysk. New York: Routledge.

2011 “Monitoring the Global Private Military and Security Industry: What Do We Know, What Do We Need to Know, and How Can We Know It.” *UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation Occasional Paper No. 4*. 2011. Co-authored with Deborah Avant and Karl Kruse.

Book reviews

2021 Review of *Unconscionable Crimes* by Paul Morrow (MIT Press 2020). *Perspectives on Politics* 19(3). Part of “Critical Dialog” with *Criminalizing Atrocity*.

2021 Review of *Interrogation and Torture* by Steven Barela, Mark Fallon, Gloria Gaggioli, and Jens David Ohlin eds. (Oxford University Press 2020). *Ethics & International Affairs* 35(1), 159-161.

Public scholarship

2022 “Chicago Cop Jon Burge Allegedly Tortured Suspects. Why Couldn’t the U.S. Prosecute Him?” *The Monkey Cage* (February 18, 2022).

Works in progress

Torture City: Police Violence, Forced Confessions, and the Struggle for Justice in Chicago, book manuscript in progress.

“Obstacles to Criminal Prosecutions for State Violence,” invited contribution to Edward Elgar *Research Handbook on Victims, Rights, and Justice*, editors Robyn Holder, Verónica Michel, and Alice Bosma.

“International Human Rights Treaties Catalyze Domestic Legal Change: The Case of Torture Criminalization,” article manuscript in preparation for submission.

Fellowships and awards

- 2023 Sabbatical Fellowship, Marquette University, 2023-24 academic year
- 2023 Summer Faculty Research Fellowship, Center for Transnational Justice, Marquette University
- 2022 Rynne Research Fellowship, Center for Peacemaking, Marquette University
- 2022 Best Book award for *Criminalizing Atrocity*, International Studies Association Human Rights Section
- 2021 Elmer Plischke Annual Faculty Research Award, Marquette Department of Political Science
- 2021 Summer Faculty Fellowship, Marquette University
- 2020 Best paper presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention, International Studies Association, Human Rights Section
- 2017 Summer Faculty Fellowship, Marquette University.
- 2013 A. Kimball Romney Award for Outstanding Research Paper, School of Social Sciences, UC Irvine.
- 2013 David Easton Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, Department of Political Science, UC Irvine.
- 2013 Associate Dean’s Fellowship, School of Social Sciences, UC Irvine.
- 2011 Social Science Graduate Fellowship, UC Irvine.
- 2011 Scholarship to attend the Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Department of Political Science, UC Irvine.
- 2009 Social Science Teaching Fellowship, School of Social Sciences, UC Irvine (until 2015).

Grants

- 2025 Research Mini-Grant, Wisconsin Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies
- 2023 Faculty Travel Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, Marquette University.
- 2023 Faculty Development Grant, Office of Research and Innovation, Marquette University
- 2021 Regular Research Grant, Marquette University

2021 Summer Research Assistant Grant, Center for Transnational Justice, Marquette University

2018 Faculty Travel Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, Marquette University.

2018 Faculty Development Grant, Office of Research and Innovation, Marquette University.

2018 Faculty Travel Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, Marquette University.

2018 Faculty Development Grant, Office of Research and Innovation, Marquette University.

2017 Faculty Travel Grant, Office of International Education, Marquette University.

2017 Faculty Travel Grant, College of Arts and Sciences, Marquette University.

2017 Faculty Development Grant, Office of Research and Innovation, Marquette University.

2017 Regular Research Grant, Marquette University.

2016 Center for Transnational Justice course development grant, Marquette University.

2015 Department of Political Science research grant, UC Irvine.

2014 National Science Foundation Dissertation Improvement Grant (SES-1423578), Law and Social Science Program.

2014 Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies research grant, UC Irvine.

2013 Center for Organizational Research research grant, UC Irvine.

2013 Department of Political Science research grant, UC Irvine.

2013 Center in Law, Society and Culture research grant, UC Irvine.

2012 Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies research grant, UC Irvine .

2012 Department of Political Science summer research travel grant, UC Irvine.

2012 Department of Political Science research grant, UC Irvine.

2011 International Studies Association Annual Convention travel grant.

2010 Department of Political Science summer research travel grant, UC Irvine.

Presentations (past five years)

Invited presentations and public lectures

“Why Human Rights Violations Persist in Liberal Democracies: Lessons from the Chicago Police Torture Scandal,” Uppsala University Department of Peace and Conflict Research invited speakers workshop, Sweden. December 2022.

“The Importance of Criminal Law for Reducing Police Torture,” presented at the National Academies of Sciences workshop on Evidence to Advance Reform in the Global Security and Justice Sectors, convened on behalf of the U.S. State Department Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs. October 2021.

Conferences and workshops

“International Human Rights Treaties Catalyze Domestic Legal Change: The Case of Torture Criminalization,” presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention, March 2025.

“Chicago Police Torture and the Limits of Human Rights Enforcement in Liberal Democracies,” presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention, March 2023.

“The Persistence of Human Rights Violations in Liberal Democracies: The Chicago Police Torture Cases,” presented at the biannual International Studies Association Human Rights Section Conference, June 2021.

“The Persistence of Human Rights Violations in Liberal Democracies: The Chicago Police Torture Cases,” presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention, April 2021.

Courses taught

Undergraduate

International Law (Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Fall 2016, Spring 2017, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2024)
International Organizations (Fall 2015, Spring 2016, Spring 2017, Spring 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2024, Fall 2025)

The Politics of Torture (Fall 2016, Fall 2020)

Writing and Argumentation in Political Science: The Politics of Human Rights (Spring 2022, Fall 2025, Spring 2026)

Graduate

The Politics of Human Rights (Fall 2017, Spring 2020, Fall 2021, Spring 2025)

Departmental service

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science, 2023-present
Graduate Studies Committee, Department of Political Science, 2017-2018, 2023-present (Chair)
Department Chair’s Advisory Committee, 2020, 2021-2022, 2024-2025
Co-organizer, Milwaukee Area Political Science Seminar, 2021-2022.
Alumni Outreach Committee, Chair, 2020-2022.
Department Newsletter editor, 2019-2022.
Undergraduate Studies Committee, Department of Political Science, Marquette University, 2015-2017, 2019-2022.
Programming Committee, Department of Political Science, 2015-2017, 2019-2022.

Professional service

Award committee member for 2022 Best Book, International Studies Association Human Rights

Section

Award committee chair for Best Paper presented at 2021 Annual Convention, International Studies Association Human Rights Section

Award committee member for Best Paper presented at 2020 Annual Convention, International Studies Association Human Rights Section

Reviewer for:

American Political Science Review, Asian Perspective, Bloomsbury Publishing, Cambridge University Press, Government and Opposition, International Criminal Justice Review, International Journal of Comparative Sociology, International Journal of Human Rights, International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Human Rights, Law & Social Inquiry, Law & Society Review, National Science Foundation (USA), Oxford University Press, Publius: The Journal of Federalism, Review of International Organizations, Review of International Studies, Royal Society of New Zealand (Marsden Fund), Springer

Affiliations

International Studies Association, member