Maayan Mor

Contact Information

Institutions and Political Economy Research Group
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Current Position

Postdoctoral Researcher, Institutions and Political Economy Research Group, University of Barcelona — September 2019–

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison — August 2019
Fields: Comparative Politics, American Politics (distinction in the field exam), Methods

M.A. Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison — 2014

M.A. Political Science, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem — 2013

B.A. International Relations and Multidisciplinary Studies, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem — 2010

Research interests

Political Parties, Political Identities, Historical Political Economy, Institutions, Democratization, European Politics, Israeli Politics

Dissertation

Rethinking the Origins of Electoral Cleavages: How States Create Cleavages Through Policies

Where do electoral cleavages come from? My dissertation provides and tests a new theory that electoral cleavages emerge in response to government policies. The dissertation challenges the conventional wisdom about electoral cleavages, parties, and public policies and turns it on its head. I argue that electoral cleavages do not emerge from critical junctures or are crafted by entrepreneurial politicians; instead, electoral cleavages are created and sustained by government policies. Testing this theory poses a methodological challenge because government policies and policy preferences often affect each other. To control for reserve causality between government policies and policy preferences, I test the theory on rare cases of plausibly exogenous government policies in Prussia, Baden, Bavaria and Belgium that did not respond to domestic pressure, but rather to other forces. This allows me to analyze how voters and political entrepreneurs responded to the new policies. I substantiate my theory with both process-tracing based on sources in multiple languages and statistical analysis of new datasets with fine-grained election returns. My theory gains additional support from analyzing failed attempts by political entrepreneurs to create cleavages and from comparing between the very different case studies.

Publications

"Group Segregation and Urban Violence" (with Ravi Bhavnani, Karsten Donnay, Dan Miodownik, and Dirk Helbing), *American Journal of Political Science* 58: 226-45 (2014).

- Winner of the AJPS Best Paper Award 2014

"Introduction" (with Dan Miodownik, Oren Barak, and Omer Yair), In *Nonstate Actors in Intrastate Conflicts*, edited by Dan Miodownik and Oren Barak. Philadelphia, PA: University of Pennsylvania Press (2013).

In-Progress

"How States Create Electoral Cleavages: Theory and Evidence from Germany"

"Does the Physical Location of Party Branches Matter in Elections?"

"Do Women Vote More Similarly Where Inequality Between Women is Low?"

Fellowships and Grants

- UW–Madison Political Science Summer Initiative Grant 2017, 2018
- Student Research, Travel, and Conference Presentation Awards, Jean Monnet Center of Excellence, UW–Madison 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
- Mellon-Wisconsin Dissertation Writing Camp 2017
- Conference Travel and Graduate Research Awards, Election Research Center, UW–Madison 2015, 2016, 2017
- Student Summer Research Grant, UW–Madison Graduate School 2016
- Research Grant, The Levi Eshkol Institute, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem (with Dan Miodownik) 2015
- University Fellowship, UW–Madison 2013/4, 2018/9
- DAAD stipend plus living expenses for the pursuit of a summer semester in the International Summer University at the Free University of Berlin 2009

Fieldwork

Germany 7-8/2016, 7/2017

Conference and Workshop Presentations

Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL 2018, 2019

European Political Science Association Conference, Vienna, Austria 2018

Meeting of the Historical Political Economy Working Group, SAIS, Washington, DC 2018

Chicago Area Comparative Historical Social Sciences Conference, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL 2018

Comparative Politics Colloquium, UW–Madison Political Science Department, Madison, WI 2018

Fourth Annual Graduate Student Workshop of the CES Network on the Historical Study of States and Regimes, Glasgow, UK 2017

Teaching Experience at UW–Madison

- Teaching Assistant, Introduction to Comparative Politics Fall 2014 (in-class), Summer 2016 (online)
- Head Teaching Assistant, Introduction to International Relations Fall 2015
- Invited Guest Lecture about Historical Research, Research Methods in Political Science Fall 2017

Service at UW–Madison

- Graduate Student Member, Faculty Search Committee Fall 2018
- Graduate Student Coordinator, Comparative Politics Colloquium 2016/7
- Graduate Student Coordinator, Political Economy Colloquium 2016/7
- Coordinator, European Politics Working Group Fall 2015

Additional Training

- ECPR Winter School in Methods and Techniques. Agent-Based Modeling in the Social Sciences 2012
- Summer semester in the International Summer University at the Free University of Berlin. Participated in a course on the political history of Berlin in the 20th century 2009

Language and Computer Skills

- Hebrew (native), German (intermediate), Dutch and French (beginner)
- Stata, ArcGIS, R, NetLogo, Python

References

Nils Ringe (dissertation committee chair), Professor, University of Wisconsin–Madison, ringe@wisc.edu

Noam Lupu (co-chair), Associate Professor, Vanderbilt University, noam.lupu@vanderbilt.edu

Yoshiko Herrera, Professor, University of Wisconsin–Madison, yherrera@wisc.edu

Rikhil Bhavnani, Associate Professor, University of Wisconsin–Madison, bhavnani@wisc.edu

Nadav Shelef, Professor, University of Wisconsin–Madison, shelef@wisc.edu