

# BRANDON MERRELL

*Domestic Influences on Foreign Policy, the Political Economy of Violence, Accountability and the Media*

---

Department of Political Science  
University of California, San Diego  
9500 Gilman Drive, #0521  
La Jolla, CA 92093-0521 USA

Phone: 425.328.8361  
Email: bmerrell@ucsd.edu  
Office: Social Science Building 448  
Website: www.brandonmerrell.com

## EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Political Science, University of California, San Diego (2013-present)  
Dissertation: *Wars for the People: Leaders, Audiences, and the Use of Force*  
Committee: David Lake (chair), Branislav Slantchev (chair), Eli Berman, Lauren Prather, Phil Roeder
- M.A. Political Science, University of California, San Diego, 2015
- B.A. Economics & Political Science, Southern Illinois University, 2011

## PREVIOUS POSITIONS

**Debate Coach** 2011-2012  
Rhetoric and Media Studies, Lewis & Clark College

## REFEREED ARTICLES

1. **Debate Across the Disciplines: Structured Classroom Debates in Interdisciplinary Curricula.**  
with Kevin J. Calderwood and Todd Graham  
*Contemporary Argumentation and Debate*, Vol. 37, pp. 57-74, 2017.  
Initially submitted July 14, 2016. Accepted July 3, 2017.
2. **Back to its Roots: Accuracy as the Litmus Test for Topicality.**  
with Todd Graham  
*Parliamentary Debate*, Vol. 13, No. 2, pp. 21-68, November 2016.  
Initially submitted September 15, 2013. Accepted September 14, 2016.  
Reprinted in abridged form in *The Parliamentary Debate Prepbook*, ed. Kyle Dennis. Liberty, MO: NPTE.
3. **Contrasting Structures, Conditional Strategies:  
Designing Format-Specific Theories for Competitive Debate.**  
with Todd Graham  
*Parliamentary Debate*, Vol. 13, No. 1, pp. 1-37, May 2016.  
Initially submitted September 20, 2013. Accepted February 22, 2016.  
Reprinted in abridged form in *The Parliamentary Debate Prepbook*, ed. Kyle Dennis. Liberty, MO: NPTE.
4. **The Intersection of Competitions and Classrooms in Forensics Pedagogy.**  
with Kevin J. Calderwood and Richard Flores  
*Communication Studies*, Vol. 66, No. 4, pp. 433-47, August 2015.  
Initially submitted December 21, 2014. Accepted May 27, 2015.

## CHAPTERS IN REFEREED VOLUMES

1. **Denmark, 1940-45:  
Armed Resistance and Agency Slippage in Germany's Model Protectorate.**  
in *Proxy Wars: Suppressing Transnational Violence Through Local Agents*,  
edited by Eli Berman & David A. Lake. Cornell, NY: Cornell University Press. (Accepted)  
Chapter presented at George Washington University in 2016 and the United States Institute of Peace in 2018.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

1. **Illegal Wildlife Trafficking—The Unseen Environmental Harms.**  
with Thomas J. Schally  
in *Up for Debate: U.S. Foreign Policy Options Towards the Greater Horn of Africa*,  
edited by Danny Cantrell & Brandy Brickey, pp. 1-24. La Mirada, CA: Picket Fence, 2009.

## CONFERENCE PAPERS AND WORK UNDER REVIEW

1. **Vetoing the Peace: The Agency Dilemma in Crisis Decision-Making.**  
Presented at the 2018 ISA panel “Impact of Public Opinion on Foreign Policy: Beyond the Case of the United States.”
2. **The War Referendum: Hawkish Preferences and Domestic Support for War.**  
Presented at the 2016 APSA panel “Public Opinion and International Conflict.”
3. **The Secrecy Gambit: Clandestine Power Shifts and Preventive Conflict.**  
with Alexei Abrahams  
Presented at the 2017 APSA panel “New Scholarship on Crisis Dynamics” and the 2018 SPSA panel “Intelligence and Secrecy,” and scheduled for the 2018 APSA panel “Bargaining and War.”
4. **Monopolies of Violence? Civil Insurgency and the Accountability Paradox.**  
with Alexei Abrahams  
Scheduled for presentation at the 2018 APSA panel “Formal Models of Military Conflict.”
5. **Media Bias in Presidential Press Questions.**  
with Kevin J. Calderwood  
Presented at the 2017 APSA panel “Media Bias in the Mainstream Media,” the 2018 SPSA panel “Media Bias: Perceptions and Reality,” and the 2018 ICA panel “Covering Politics: New Political Journalism Research.”
6. **Renaming and Credit Claiming in Federal Agencies.**  
with Richard Flores  
Presented at the 2017 APSA panel “Agency Performance and Executive Leadership” and the 2018 MPSA panel “Agency Design, Transparency, and Reform.”
7. **Unprogrammed Abandonment of Female Genital Mutilation/Cutting.**  
with Brian Engelsma and Gerry Mackie

## OTHER PROJECTS

1. **Signaling for Spoils: War Termination Under Alignment.**
2. **King Makers and Peace Breakers: The Politics of Intervention Failure.**  
with Alexei Abrahams

## RESEARCH ASSISTANT

- Gerry Mackie, 2017
- Eli Berman and David Lake, 2014-2017
- Emilie Hafner-Burton, Steph Haggard, David Lake, and David Victor, 2016
- David Lake, 2014

## UNIVERSITY AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- Referee: *Journal of Elections, Public Opinion and Parties*; International Communication Association Annual Meeting (Political Communication & Public Diplomacy sections)
- Recruitment co-chair, UCSD Political Science Graduate Council, 2017
- Course Selection Advisory Committee, SIU Honors Program, 2009-2011

## TEACHING

Instructor	Crisis Areas in World Politics (x2) International Crisis Diplomacy Introduction to American Politics Mathematical and Statistical Foundations (graduate, x3)
Discussion Sections	International Politics & Security (graduate) Introduction to International Relations (x3)
Research Mentor	Frontiers of Political Science (senior honors thesis course, x2) Policy Responses to Global Problems (graduate research capstone course) Political Science Research Apprenticeship Program Postwar Politics in Japan (graduate)
Grader	East Asian Thought (x2), Insurgency and Terrorism, International Law, Politics and Warfare, Supreme Court & Constitution, U.S. Foreign Policy, War and Society (x2), Weapons of Mass Destruction

## GRANTS, AWARDS, AND HONORS

Grants and Fellowships	Herb York Fellowship, Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, 2017 Sanford-Lakoff Research Fellowship, 2017 PDEL / CGT Research Grant, 2016 UCSD Political Science Department Fellowship, 2013
Teaching	Barbara and Paul Saltman Excellent Teaching Award, UCSD, 2018 TA Excellence Award, UCSD Political Science, 2015; 2016 WDI Fellow, University of Vermont, 2014 Beihang Exchange Fellowship, Beihang University, Beijing, 2014
Conference Funding	ISA Annual Convention Travel Grant, 2018 SPSA Prestage-Cook Travel Award, 2018 UCSD Graduate Student Association Travel Grant, 2017 APSA Annual Meeting Travel Grant, 2016; 2017; 2018