

Faculty Development Committee (FDC) Proposal

Name of the Applicant:

Sema Hande Ogutcu-Fu, Ph.D.

Rank of the Applicant:

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Proposal Submission Date:

3/23/2020

Expertise Area:

International Politics; Conflict and Peace Studies; Civil War; Negotiations;
Peace Agreements

Prior FD Proposal Outcome:

Declined

Proposal Submission Term: Please circle one of the following

1.Spring 2020

2.Summer 2020

3.Fall 2020

(Proposal Submitted Spring 2020, course release requested for Spring 2021)

Title:

**Multiple Fronts and Conflict Resolution:
Impact of Rivals on Civil Conflict Adversaries' Negotiation and Settlement
Behavior**

Applicant:

Sema Hande Ogutcu-Fu, Ph.D.
Department of History, Political Science & Philosophy
Lincoln University

Requested Grant Type: Course release

3/23/2020

Concise Description of the Project

What increases civil conflict adversaries' willingness to negotiate and settle, and what sustains their commitment to the peace process? Extant literature stresses the role of war-weariness in transforming the attitudes of warring parties towards conflict resolution while ignoring the multi-threat environment that amplifies their weariness. In this research, I argue that both state and non-state actors are more willing to negotiate a settlement when under pressure from their respective rivals to consolidate their scarce military or political resources. Moreover, these transparent external pressures minimize uncertainty about negotiators' intent and thereby alleviate commitment problems. This research will introduce original data on rebel rivalry to test these arguments. Preliminary findings using quantitative methodology and a case study on the Israeli-Palestinian peace process demonstrate that the presence of inter-state and inter-rebel rivalries increases the likelihood of civil conflict negotiations and settlements. The study offers significant implications for scholars and practitioners who study multi-actor and multi-stage dynamics of conflict resolution and the consequences of rivalry.

Goals and Objectives

Employing both quantitative and qualitative methodologies will strengthen the study's findings. Quantitatively, I will examine all civil conflict cases between 1980 and 2001 in the Uppsala Conflict Data Program's Armed Conflict Dyadic Dataset (Harbom et al., 2008). The temporal scope of the data starts from 1980 to include both the Cold War era and post-Cold War era observations. It ends in 2001 due to the temporal scope of an independent variable, *state rivalry* (Klein et al., 2006). This study also introduces new data on *rebel rivalry* as an independent variable. I will have two sets of dependent variables, civil conflict negotiations and settlements to employ a two-stage analysis of civil conflict resolution. In many ways, this study builds on my previous works on civil conflict negotiations and uses the negotiation dataset I have introduced in previous works (Ogutcu-Fu, 2016).

Additionally, I will examine the multi-actor dynamics of the Israel-Fatah peace process as a case study. Given the abundance of rivals both the Israeli state and Fatah organization possess, this case is essential to study for this paper. This case will demonstrate how state and rebel rivalry can put pressure on civil conflict combatants to negotiate a settlement.

I will publish this research in the article form. I plan to submit it to the prestigious peer-reviewed academic journal *Foreign Policy Analysis* during Winter 2020.

Timeline for the Project

July 2020-January 2021: Coding of the "rebel rivalry" variable, data analysis, writing of the manuscript.

January 2021: Sending the manuscript out for peer-review.

March-April 2021: Decision on the manuscript potentially received. I expect the editorial decision to lean towards an invitation to revise and resubmit the manuscript since the immediate decision to accept is very rare in the discipline. I will work on the revisions and submit the revised manuscript.

How the project will enhance teaching and research at Lincoln University

I regularly teach Introduction to International Relations (POL 204) and Comparative Politics I and II (POL 202 & POL 303) for the Political Science Major and International Relations Minor. Civil war and its resolution are major topics in all three of these courses. In line with *Institutional Learning Outcome 3* on “Diversity and Cultural Awareness” and the “global engagement” mission of the university, my goal is to use my research to enrich these courses theoretically and expose my students to the diverse political climate in the Middle East through discussion of the Israeli-Palestinian peace process.

I regularly teach Introduction to Research Methods for Political Science (POL 480) currently offered to seniors majoring in political science. I teach the scientific method and expect students to practice many steps of the scientific method, namely, framing the research question, conducting a literature review, writing a theoretical argument. I also teach students how qualitative and quantitative research is conducted. I use my own studies in class to demonstrate how different sections of a research paper are written. In line with the *Institutional Learning Outcome 7 & Political Science Program Learning Outcome 7* on “Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning,” I will use this project as a teaching resource in this course. In addition to using the manuscript, I will also use the constructed dataset as a teaching tool. Students will examine the independent and dependent variables used in the study in MS Excel. We will also discuss the operationalization procedures for the different variables.

How Success Will Be Measured

I will publish this research in the article form. I plan to submit it to the prestigious peer-reviewed academic journal *Foreign Policy Analysis* in early summer. This journal is published by Oxford University Press and the International Studies Association (ISA). It has an impact factor of 1.01, which is a high impact factor for the discipline. I also plan to write an op-ed on the topic around the same time that the journal article is published to attract more interest to the publication. Prior to publication, I will submit a proposal to the International Studies Association-Northeast’s 2020 Annual Meeting. The meeting is scheduled for November 2020 and will take place in Baltimore, MD.

Sharing The Project’s Outcomes

The outcomes will be shared with the academic community through publication in academic journals and at a regional conference (see above). Moreover, the outcomes will be shared with Introduction to Research Methods (POL 480), Introduction to International Relations (POL 204), and Comparative Politics I & II (POL 202 & 303) students. Finally, I plan to share outcomes of the projects with interested faculty and students by organizing a talk on international peace processes here at Lincoln.