

Rebecca H. Best
Curriculum Vitae

Department of Political Science
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Professional Appointments

Chair, Department of Political Science and Philosophy, University of Missouri - Kansas City, 2023

Associate Professor, University of Missouri - Kansas City, 2020

Assistant Professor, University of Missouri - Kansas City, 2012 - 2020

Education

Ph.D., *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*, 2012

M.A., *University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill*, 2008

B.A., *East Carolina University*, 2006

Research Interests

Insurgencies, terrorism, women in terrorism and insurgency, competition between non-state actors, bargaining models with state and non-state actors, civil war resolution, reintegration and civic-engagement of female veterans and non-state combatants, and civil-military relations.

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Schroeder, Theresa, Rebecca Best, and Jeremy Teigen. 2023. "See G.I. Jane Run: The Rise of Female Military Veteran Candidates for Congress." *American Politics Research*. <https://doi.org/10.1177/1532673X231157>

Brannon, Elizabeth and Rebecca Best. 2022. "Here for the Right Reasons: The Selection of Women as Peace Delegates." *International Studies Review* 24(1). <https://doi.org/10.1093/isr/viac005>

Best, Rebecca and Simanti Lahiri. 2021. "Understanding Proscription: A Look at the State Department's list of Foreign Terrorist Organizations." *International Interactions* 47(6): 955-985. DOI: 10.1080/03050629.2021.1962856

Best, Rebecca, Kyleanne Hunter, and Kate Hendricks Thomas. 2021. "Fighting for a Seat at the Table: Women's Military Service and Political Representation." *Journal of Veteran Studies* 7(2): 19-33.

- Best, Rebecca and Greg Vonnahme. 2021. "Military Service and Legislative Agendas: A study of legislators in four states." *Armed Forces & Society* 47(2): 367-385.
- Best, Rebecca. 2020. "Women and Conflict Studies." *Oxford Bibliographies in Political Science*. Ed. L. Sandy Maisel. New York: Oxford University Press. Aug. 26, 2020. DOI: 10.1093/obo/9780199756223-0315
- Hunter, Kyleanne and Rebecca Best. 2020. "You can't have women in peace without women in conflict and security." *Georgetown Security Studies Review* 8(2): 5-18.
- Best, Rebecca, Sarah Shair-Rosenfield, and Reed Wood. 2019. "Legislative Gender Diversity and the Resolution of Civil Conflict." *Political Research Quarterly* 72(1): 215-228.
- Best, Rebecca and Navin Bapat. 2018. "Bargaining with Insurgencies in the Shadow of Infighting." *Journal of Global Security Studies* 3(1): 23-37.¹
- Best, Rebecca, Christine Carpino, and Mark J. C. Crescenzi. 2013. "An Analysis of the TABARI Coding System." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 30(4): 335-348.
- Crescenzi, Mark J. C., Rebecca H. Best, and Bo Ram Kwon. 2010. "Reciprocity in International Politics" In Robert Denemark et. al. eds. *The International Studies Association Compendium Project*. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell.
- Best, Rebecca. 2009. "Panopticism and the use of "the Other" in *To Kill A Mockingbird*." *Mississippi Quarterly: The Journal of Southern Cultures* 62(3/4): 541-552.

Book Chapters

- Best, Rebecca. 2019. "[Re]Negotiating Citizenship through Military Service." In *Invisible Veterans: What happens when military women become civilians again*. Kate Hendricks Thomas and Kyleanne Hunter (eds.). ABC-CLIO

Book Reviews

- Best, Rebecca. 2023. "*Service above Self: Women Veterans in American Politics*. By Erika Cornelius Smith. Lawrence: University Press of Kansas, 2022." *Perspectives on Politics* 21(2).

Public Scholarship

- Best, Rebecca, Jessica Blankshain, & Debra Leiter. Apr 12, 2023. "What the Israeli Defense Forces' Protests Imply About the Role of the Military in Democracies." Political Violence at a Glance. Available: <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2023/04/12/what-the-israel-defense-forces-protests-imply-about-the-role-of-the-military-in-democracies/>
- Best, Rebecca, Debra Leiter, & Simanti Lahiri. Aug. 11, 2022. "Five Questions about the Assassination of Ayman al-Zawahiri." Political Violence at a Glance. Available: <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2022/08/11/five-questions-about-the-assassination-of-ayman-al-zawahiri/>.

¹Ungated access as a *Journal of Global Security Studies* "most-read" article. https://academic.oup.com/jogss/pages/most_read

- Best, Rebecca. May 25, 2022. "Why Isn't there a Domestic War on Terror in the US?" *Political Violence at a Glance*. Available: <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2022/05/25/why-isnt-there-a-domestic-war-on-terror-in-the-us/>.
- Best, Rebecca. May 10, 2022. "Why Risk for Violence in U.S. Rises without Roe." *Washington Post* Monkey Cage. Available: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2022/05/10/roe-civil-conflict-military-democracy-gender/>.
- Leiter, Debra and Rebecca Best. Feb. 25, 2022. "How Germany's Coalition Change Contributed to Putin's Strategic Miscalculation in Ukraine." *Political Violence at a Glance*. Available: <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2022/02/25/how-germanys-coalition-change-contributed-to-putins-strategic-miscalculation-in-ukraine/>.
- Best, Rebecca & Elizabeth Brannon. Feb. 17, 2022. "Rubber-stamping Women's Inclusion." *Political Violence at a Glance*. Available: <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2022/02/17/rubber-stamping-womens-inclusion/>.
- Bapat, Navin, Rebecca Best, and Simanti Lahiri. Nov. 4, 2021. "Israel Designates Palestinian Groups Terrorist Organizations." *Political Violence at a Glance*. Available: <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2021/11/04/israel-designates-palestinian-groups-terrorist-organizations/?fbclid=IwAR0K7EmcPCS2Y1IJnL2VJbfDLA75ppmJbjS2NLtbni7HQpxNNvot3DjWxuE>.
- Best, Rebecca. Sept 1, 2021. "Why the "terrorist" label helps some groups and hurts others." *Political Violence at a Glance*. Available: <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2021/09/01/why-the-terrorist-label-helps-some-groups-and-hurts-others/>
- Bapat, Navin & Rebecca Best. Aug 30, 2021. "The Revolt of Islamic State-Khorasan." *Political Violence at a Glance*. Available: <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2021/08/30/islamic-state-khorasans-revolt/>
- Bapat, Navin & Rebecca Best. Jan 30, 2020. "Can the Taliban Trust Trump." *Political Violence at a Glance*. Available: <https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2020/01/30/can-the-taliban-trust-trump/>
- Schroeder, Theresa, Jeremy Teigen, & Rebecca Best. Nov 15, 2019. "The Democrats are running more female veterans for office than ever before - but can they win?" *The Conversation*. Available: <https://theconversation.com/the-democrats-are-running-more-female-veterans-for-office-than-ever-before-but-can-they-win-125417>
- Bapat, Navin and Rebecca Best. Sept 12, 2019. "Here's why the Taliban might still want to negotiate with the U.S." *Washington Post/Monkey Cage*. Available: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/09/12/heres-why-taliban-might-still-want-negotiate-with-us/>
- Best, Rebecca, Kyleanne Hunter, Theresa Schroeder, & Jeremy Teigen. Sept. 6, 2019. "Military service was once a fast track to U.S. citizenship. The Trump administration keeps narrowing that possibility." *Washington Post* Monkey Cage. Available: <https://www.washingtonpost.com/politics/2019/09/06/military-service-was-once-fast-track-us-citizenship-trump-administration-keeps-narrowing-that-possibility/>
- Best, Rebecca and Jeremy Teigen. Nov 14, 2018. "An unprecedented number of female military veterans ran as Democrats this year. Here's why they were unusually successful." *Washington Post* Monkey Cage. Available: https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2018/11/14/an-unprecedented-number-of-women-military-veterans-ran-as-democrats-this-year-heres-why-they-were-unusually-successful/?utm_term=.2e482c681c0a

Hosted Podcasts

Best, Rebecca and Alexis Petri. 2023. "Research and Rescue." Season 1 (7 episodes). <https://researchandrescue.buzzsprout.com/>

Working Papers

"The Double Bind and How Female Veterans are Changing the Face of Congress and the Country."

"Veteran Reintegration and Office Seeking: Understanding the Gendered Dynamics of Veteran Political Candidates."

"Surviving Victims and International Attitudes toward Peace Efforts."

"The Human Rights Implications of FTO Designation."

Conference Presentations

International Studies Association - 2009, 2012, 2019, 2022

International Studies Association (Midwest) - 2013, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023

Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society - 2019, 2023

Peace Science Society (International) North American Meeting - 2010, 2011, 2014, 2017

Annual Conference of the Midwest Political Science Association - 2010, 2011, 2013, 2017, 2018

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting - 2014, 2017

New Horizons in Conflict Analysis: Applications to the Middle East - 2011

Selected Invited Talks

Panelist, Kansas City Chamber Centurions, Panel on Extremism, December 2022

Guest lecture on Women Veterans for the Public Leadership Program at University of San Francisco - 2020, 2021

Lecture on Israel-Palestine Conflict for Vanguard Club, Kansas City, July 2021

Panelist, "America's Long War," Park University, Parkville, MO - 2019

Women at War, United States Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, KS - 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019

Kansas City Repertory Scholars' Forum, Copaken Stage, Kansas City, MO - 2016

"Terrorist Motives and the Portrayal of Terrorism in *the Invisible Hand*." The Artist in Society, University of Missouri at Kansas City, Oct 25, 2016.

"ISIS: An Introduction," Asbury United Methodist Church, Prairie Village, KS, 2015.

Additional Training

Bridging the Gap Project International Policy Summer Institute, 2021

Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models, Washington University in St. Louis, 2010

Grants and Awards

- NEH Dialogues on the Experience of War Grant (with Viviana Grieco and Whitney Terrell)
\$99,997, 2022.
- UMKC Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence Fellow \$9,000, 2022
- UMKC Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence Fellow \$5,000, 2021
- Haskell Distinguished Research Award, UMKC College of Arts and Sciences \$5,000, 2021
- Carrie Chapman Catt Prize for Research on Women and Politics, \$2,000, 2020
- Chancellor's Early Career Award for Excellence in Teaching, \$1,500, 2019
- Dirksen Congressional Center Congressional Research Award, \$3,500, Spring 2019
- College of Arts and Sciences Alumni Outstanding Teaching Award, \$1,000, 2017
- UMKC Friends of the Library Grant to purchase *The International Relations Encyclopedia*,
\$3,170, Spring 2014.

Teaching

Courses Taught

Introduction to International Relations; Politics of the Middle East; Terrorism and Political Violence; Graduate Seminar in International Relations; International Conflict and Cooperation (previously International Security); International Conflict Resolution and Cooperation; Women and Conflict; Women, Gender, and Conflict (General Education version); International Political Economy, Culture and Diversity: Bridging the Civil-Military Divide

Dissertation Committees

Brian Steed, 2020

Chris Johnson, in progress

Academic Service

Service to the Discipline

President, International Studies Association - Midwest, 2023

Program Chair, International Studies Association - Midwest, 2022

Editorial Board Member, *International Interactions*, 2019 - 2023

Section Chair, Positive Political Theory, Southern Political Science Association, 2022

Chair, Best Book Award Committee, International Studies Association - Midwest, 2021

Chair, Best Data Paper Award Committee, *International Interactions* 2020

Member, Hermann Award for the Best Paper Utilizing Text Analysis in Leadership Studies,
International Studies Association - Midwest, 2021

Outstanding Reviewer, *Political Research Quarterly*, 2019

Governing Council, Member at Large: International Studies Association - Midwest, Nov 2018 - Nov 2020

Peer Reviewer

Oxford University Press, Polity Press, University of Missouri Research Board Grant Proposal, *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *International Interactions*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *International Studies Review*, *Poverty and Public Policy*, *Social Science Computer Review*, *International Studies Perspectives*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *Political Psychology*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Parameters*, *Armed Forces & Society*, *Legislative Studies Quarterly*, *Social Science Quarterly*, *Civil Wars*, *European Journal of Politics and Gender*, *Journal of Legislative Studies*

Department and University Service

Chair, Department of Political Science and Philosophy, Fall 2023 - present

UMKC University Assessment Committee, Fall 2022 - present

UMKC Undergraduate Curriculum Committee, Fall 2022 - present

School of Humanities and Social Sciences Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion Committee, Fall 2022-present

School of Humanities and Social Sciences Public Facing Research Group, Fall 2022-present

Center for Advancing Faculty Excellence (CAFE) Faculty Fellow for Research and Creativity, University of Missouri, 2021-2023.

Chair, College of Arts and Sciences Rules Committee, Spring 2022

Member, College of Arts and Sciences Rules Committee, Fall 2020-Fall 2021

Director of Study Abroad, Department of Political Science, 2020-present

President's Award Committee for Excellence (Early Career and Sustained), University of Missouri, 2019-2021.

Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science, 2019-2021

Member, College of Arts & Sciences Award Committee, 2018 - 2020

Guest Speaker Coordinator, Department of Political Science, 2015-present

Departmental Representative, Freshmen and Transfer Orientation, 2013-2019

Departmental Representative, Experience UMKC, 2014-2019

Social Media Coordinator, Department of Political Science, 2013-present

Judge, Undergraduate Research Symposium, University of Missouri at Kansas City, 2017, 2018, 2019

Member, Graduate Admissions and Curriculum Committee, Department of Political Science,
2012-present

Senior Thesis Advisor, 2013-2019

Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Political Science, 2012-2017

Reviewer, University of Missouri Research Board Grants, 2014

Member, Development Committee for IS Minor, 2014-2015

Member, Comparative Politics Search Committee, Political Science Department, 2012

Member, Judicial Politics Search Committee, Political Science Department, 2012

Updated September 11, 2023.