

Michelle D. Weitzel

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Academic Appointments

Assistant Professor of International Relations (Appointed)
IHEID, Graduate Institute of Geneva | Geneva, Switzerland | Fall 2022

SNSF Sinergia Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Social Sciences
University of Basel | Basel, Switzerland | 2020 – 2022

Education

New School for Social Research

2020 Ph.D., Politics

Advisors: Rafi Youatt, Timothy Pachirat, Peter Hall, and Saskia Sassen

Harvard University

2013 A.L.M., Government | Thesis Advisor: Stanley Hoffmann

Dean's Academic Achievement Award

Northwestern University

1998 B.S., Journalism and History

Additional Training

2020 | Antelope Program for Early Career Researchers | University of Basel

2015 | Pedagogy Seminar | New School for Social Research

2014 | Institute for Qualitative Multi-Methods Research | Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs

2014 | GIS for International Crises, Development, and the Environment | New School for Public Engagement

Research and Teaching Interests

International relations theory, comparative politics, sensory politics, political violence, conflict, critical security studies, spatial politics, affect and emotions, interpretive and qualitative methods, field research, Middle East North Africa, Islam in the West

Book Project

Sound Politics: Affective Governance and the State explains how sound—understood as the full range of audible and inaudible physical soundwaves—constitutes a form of political power and how this power manifests in particular political settings. Examining sound across five empirical case studies, the book proposes a mode of thinking that is part explanatory theory and part heuristic lens to offer an innovative, critical grasp on existing relations of power, defamiliarizing political behaviors and strategies that have become so naturalized as to appear self-evident. Each case introduces and analyzes a distinct set of sounds and issues, building a layered narrative of the aural body's entanglement with

conflict and war, nation-building and national belonging, decision-making, and political psychology. In so doing, it lays a foundation for a broad program of research on sensory politics.

- (Honorable Mention) Malcolm H. Kerr Award, Social Sciences. Middle East Studies Association
- (Honorable Mention) Best Fieldwork Award, Democracy and Autocracy Section. American Political Science Association

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

1. Michelle D. Weitzel. 2020. "Common Sense Politics: Religion and Belonging in French Public Space." *French Politics* 18(4): 380-404.
2. Michelle D. Weitzel. 2019. "Engineering Affect: Street Politics and Microfoundations of Governance." *Middle East Law & Governance* 11(2): 203-243.
3. Michelle D. Weitzel. 2018. "Audializing Migrant Bodies: Sound and Security at the Border." *Security Dialogue* 49 (6): 421-437.

Under Review

Michelle D. Weitzel. "Access Denied: Temporal Mobility and Circulation in Contested Spaces," revise and resubmit for special issue on intersecting mobilities at *Borderlands*.

In Progress (Selected Works)

"Sensory Politics and the Discipline: An Evolving Research Paradigm," finalized for submission.

"Qualitative Transparency in Critical Security Studies: Reflections from Ethnographic Fieldwork in Morocco." drafted; finalizing for submission.

"Sound + Text: Discovering Auralty in Archives, Oral histories, and Written Testimonies." Drafted; revising.

"Sensory Warfare and the Colonies: Psyops in the French-Algerian War," data collected, writing in progress.

"Defense Sirens and Political Attitudes: Fear and Anger on the Israeli Border," data mapping in progress.

Reviews

Michelle D. Weitzel. 2019. "Review of Living Emergency: Israel's Permit Regime in the Occupied West Bank, by Yael Berda." *Journal of Palestine Studies* 48 (2).

Michelle D. Weitzel. 2015. "In Conversation with Michel Agier: Borderlands and Borderman: Toward a New Cosmopolis." *Zolberg Institute for Migration and Mobility*.

Other Writing

- 2020. "Perception, Racism, and Islamophobia in French Soundscapes" *Europe Now, Council for European Studies* <http://europenowjournal.org> December 8, 2020.

- 2018. “Rethinking Security through Sound,” *Peace Research Institute Oslo*
<https://blogs.prio.org/SecurityDialogue/author/michelle-d-weitzel/>
- 2008. “Nye/Armitage Report: Steps Toward Restoring U.S. Influence,” *Harvard Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs*.

Invited Talks and Lectures

2021	<p>Upcoming:</p> <p>Fachhochschule Nordwestschweiz FHNW, Basel. “Cognition, Perception, Politics,” Fall 2021.</p> <p>The Graduate Institute of Geneva, Department of International Relations and Political Science. “Finding a Research Question,” November 16.</p> <p>The Graduate Institute of Geneva, Department of International Relations and Political Science. “Navigating Academic Presentations” (with Dr. Christiana Parreira), December 7.</p> <p>The Methods Clinic (Virtual). Hosted by Dvora Yanow (Wageningen University) and Peregrine Schwarz-Shea (University of Utah). “Beyond Documents,” May 21.</p> <p>The Graduate Institute of Geneva, Department of International Relations and Political Science. “Sensory Politics: Sound in Conflict and Security,” April 21.</p> <p>McGill University, Department of Political Science. “Sensory Politics,” March 8.</p>
2019	<p>Princeton University, Politics Department. “Political Resonances in Research Methodology,” April 9.</p> <p>Silent Green Kulturquartier, Belin, Germany. “Beyond Borders: Trans-Saharan Migration,” May 25.</p>
2018	<p>The London School of Economics, Department of International Relations. “Drones, sirens, and Prayer Calls,” November 15.</p> <p>Eugene Lang College, New York City. “Participant-Observation,” October 30.</p>
2017	<p>Eugene Lang College, New York City. “Sound Walking: Sensory Encounters in Research and Method” March 21.</p>
2016	<p>Parsons School of Design, New York City. “Sonic Ethnography,” Feb. 8.</p>

Presentations

2021	<p>Upcoming: Princeton Mamdouha Bobst Center-American University of Beirut Collaborative Initiative, “Workshop on the Politics of Everyday Contestation in the Arab World,” Beirut, Lebanon</p> <p><i>International Studies Association</i>, April, Virtual</p> <p>Middle East Studies Association, October, Montreal</p>
2020	<p>American Political Science Association, Virtual</p> <p>Middle East Studies Association, Virtual</p> <p>POMEPS Middle East North Africa Workshop, Virtual</p> <p>International Studies Association, Honolulu, Hawaii</p> <p>Association for Political Theory, UMass Amherst/Virtual</p> <p>Politics of the Ordinary Conference, Chicago University/Virtual</p>

2019	Middle East Studies Association, New Orleans American Political Science Association, Washington D.C. Western Political Science Association, San Diego
2018	American Political Science Association, Boston Zeit-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius, Trajectories of Change, Berlin
2017	American Political Science Association, San Francisco Middle East Studies Association Conference, Washington DC Western Political Science Association, Vancouver, BC
2016	American Political Science Association, Philadelphia Council for British Research in the Levant, Kenyon Institute, Jerusalem Sonic Interventions in Middle East and North Africa, Northwestern University, Evanston, IL Western Political Science Association, San Diego
2015	Graduate Institute for Design, Ethnography, and Social Thought, New York
2014	American Anthropological Association, Washington D.C. Abiding Cities, Remnant Cities, CUNY Graduate Center, New York

Awards, Grants, and Honors

2021	Best Fieldwork Award (Honorable Mention), Democracy and Autocracy Section, American Political Science Association
2020	Malcolm H. Kerr Dissertation Award Social Sciences (Honorable Mention) <i>Middle East Studies Association</i> .
2019	Fieldwork Grant, <i>American Institute for Maghrib Studies</i> .
2018	The Wilson Award for the best paper on French politics presented at <i>American Political Science Association</i> in 2017.
2018	ZEIT-Stiftung Ebelin und Gerd Bucerius Foundation “Trajectories of Change” Dissertation Completion Fellowship.
2018	Global, Urban, and Environmental Studies Faculty Research Award, The New School for Social Research.
2017-2018	Fellowship and Fieldwork Grant, <i>Palestinian American Research Center</i> .
2017-2018	Ford Foundation Dissertation Completion Fellowship (Honorable Mention.)
2017	The Hayward R. Alker Award for best graduate student conference paper in interpretive methods presented at the <i>American Political Science Association</i> in 2016.
2017	Outstanding Teaching Award nomination for “The Politics of the Arabian Peninsula.”
2017	Awarded three Teaching Fellowships in the departments of Global Studies and Urban Studies.
2016-2017	Dissertation Fellowship, New School for Social Research.
2016	Outstanding Teaching Award nomination for “Remaking America: Immigration in the 21 st Century.”
2015-2016	Andrew W. Mellon Foundation’s Graduate Institute for Design, Ethnography, and Social Thought (GIDEST) Doctoral Fellowship.
2015-2016	Aristide Zolberg Institute on Migration and Mobility Doctoral Fellow.
2015	Awarded a Teaching Fellowship in Global Studies.
2012-2015	Dean’s Fellow, The New School for Social Research.
2012 -2018	Conference Travel Awards, The New School for Social Research.
2012	Dean’s Academic Achievement Award, Harvard University.

Teaching Experience

Primary/Sole Instructor

- The Spatial Politics of Israel-Palestine | Global Studies, The New School (Fall 2017)
- Power, Memory, and the Middle East | Global Studies, The New School (Fall 2017)
- Global Politics of the Arabian Peninsula | Global Studies, The New School (Spring 2017)
- Sensory Power in Geopolitics | Global Studies, The New School (Spring 2015)

Teaching Assistant

- Immigration, Politics, and America Today | Politics Department, TNS (Spring 2016)
- U.S. and the World in the 21st Century | Politics Department, TNS (Spring 2015)
- Power and Visuality | TNS Core University Lecture Course (Spring 2013 and Fall 2014)

Fieldwork and Research Experience

Israel and Palestine: June 2015, September-December 2016, April-May 2018

Morocco: July-August 2015, August 15-31, 2016

France: June-August 1-15, December-January 2016, January-February, March 29 – April 4, 2018

Pakistan: December-January 2010

Archival and Text-based Research

Archives Nationales d'Outre Mer, Aix-en-Provence, France

Service Historique de la Défense, Vincennes, France

Bibliothèque National de France, Paris, France

Institut National de l'Audiovisuel Délégation Méditerranée, Marseille, France

Departmental Service

- 2021 Sinergia Swiss National Science Foundation workshop organizer.
Invited speaker: Dr. Bernardo Zacka.
- Fall 2020~ Fieldwork advisor to Urban Studies PhD candidates, University of Basel.
- Fall 2015 Politics Department Hiring Committee Student Representative, NSSR
Served on the search and hiring committee for a junior faculty hire;
represented the graduate student body's vote at meetings.

University Service

- 2015-2016 Conference Co-organizer, MENA Working Group interdisciplinary graduate student conference at The New School. With Benoit Challand (Sociology) and Aaron Jakes (History), April 2016.
- 2013-2014 Dean's Advisory Council Representative, The New School
Served as liaison between Politics Department and the Dean of NSSR.
- 2012 Project Organizer, Center for European Studies, Harvard University
Organized and raised money for the Books for Pakistan Project to ship over 10,000 academic texts to the University of Malakand in Pakistan.

Service to the Discipline

2022	Coordinator, Hayward Alker Award. APSA.
2021	Early Career Workshop Co-Organizer; European International Studies Association. “What do We Know About War?” Co-host, Interpretive Methods Clinic, co-sponsored by the Women’s Caucus in Political Science and the Interpretive Methodology and Methods Group, APSA. Panel Organizer, “Governing through the Senses: Garbage and other ‘Slow Violences,’” Middle East Studies Association. Discussant and Panel Organizer: “Critical Methods in International Relations,” International Studies Association.
2021-2024	Executive Committee Member, Interpretive Methodologies and Methods Research Group, APSA.
2021	Hayward Alker Award Selection Committee Member, Interpretive Methods and Methodologies Research Group, APSA.
2020	Discussant /Co-host, “Political Ethnography Roundtable” at the APSA Methods Café, Virtual. Discussant, The Challenges of State Weakness, International Security Group, American Political Science Association, Virtual.
2019	Chair, “Beyond Monarchy? Political Economy and Society in Contemporary Morocco,” Middle Eastern Studies Association, New Orleans. Discussant, “Positionality and Reflexivity in Political Science: The Domestic Context.” American Political Science Association, San Francisco.
2016	Panel Organizer, “Constituting the Global: Migration as Critical Geopolitics,” Migration and Citizenship Group. American Political Science Association.
2016-present	Reviewer: <i>Geopolitics; Feminist Theory; Design & Culture.</i>

Professional Memberships

- American Political Science Association
- International Studies Association
- Middle Eastern Studies Association
- Western Political Science Association

Languages

English	Native
French	Professionally Proficient
German	Professionally Proficient
Spanish	Intermediate
Arabic (MSA, Palestinian dialect)	Level III Beginner