

ELTON SKENDAJ

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EDUCATION

CORNELL UNIVERSITY

Ph.D., Department of Government, August 2011

Committee: Valerie Bunce, Matthew Evangelista, Nicolas van de Walle, David Patel

M.A., Department of Government, 2008

UNIVERSITY OF NOTRE DAME

M.A., Peace Studies, 2001

AMERICAN UNIVERSITY IN BULGARIA (AUBG)

B.A., Political Science/International Relations, 2000

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Director, Democracy & Governance Program, Assistant Teaching Professor, Department of Government, Georgetown University, 2021-

Muir Associate Professor of Peace Studies, Manchester University, 2017- 2021

Lecturer, Department of Political Science, University of Miami, 2015-2017

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, University of Miami, 2013-2015

Visiting Assistant Professor, Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University, 2012-2013

TEACHING AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

Democracy, Governance, International Organizations, Rule of Law Reform, Corruption, Postconflict Democratization, Postcommunist Europe.

ADMINISTRATIVE AND COORDINATION EXPERIENCE

Director / Associate Director, Democracy & Governance Program, Georgetown University, 2021-

Coordinated recruitment & admissions in the MA program, taught core classes in the MA program, overseeing the Democracy & Society student-led journal, served in Executive Committee of the Government Department and Georgetown Main Campus Executive Faculty.

College representative, Executive Committee, Manchester University, 2019-2021

Served as moderator of town hall meeting, coordinated faculty committee assignments, and mentored student government.

Consultant, Freedom House 2015-

Democracy expert on Europe.

Consultant , United States Institute for Peace (USIP)	2004
Served as a facilitator for the United States Institute for Peace program, “Peace Education Program in Divided Societies: A Workshop with Israeli and Palestinian Teachers” conducted in Istanbul, Turkey.	
Executive Director and Founder , Center for Peace and Disarmament Education (CPDE), Tirana, Albania	2003-2005
Supervised staff; Developed and implemented school and community projects; Demonstrated entrepreneurial and leadership capabilities; Fund-raised from international donors; Fostered partnership among schools, government and civil society organizations; Organized educational workshops and conferences; Trained teachers and students in peace education; Managed website.	
Project Coordinator , “Peace and Disarmament Education to Disarm Children and Youth.” 2002-2005	
United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs and Hague Appeal for Peace	
Developed and implemented the international project in Albania; Delivered presentation about the project’s unique civil society – UN partnership model at the United Nations; Co-authored international organizer’s manual for peace and disarmament education; Developed curricular units for local and international peace education.	
Albania Focal Point and Co-organizer of the “Balkan Regional Conference on Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding”	2003-2004
Led workshops and meetings within Albania to mobilize participation in conflict prevention efforts; Participated in regional meetings as an Albanian representative; Contributed to the drafting of the “Albania Civil Society Agenda for Conflict Prevention” and the “Balkan Agenda for Conflict Prevention.”	

PROFESSIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SERVICE

President: Society for Albanian Studies, 2018-2022

Member: Peace Studies Institute and Program in Conflict Resolution, Peace Studies Council, Manchester University, 2017-

Founder and facilitator: Faculty writing support group, Manchester University, University of Miami, Florida International University and University of Notre Dame, 2012-

Referee: *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding, European Journal of Development Research, Nationalities Papers, East European Politics & Societies and Cultures, Southeast European and Black Sea Studies, Public Integrity*, 2011-

Member: *Bridging the Gap* network of scholars who are dedicated to strengthening the relationship between scholars of international relations and the foreign policy community

Research Supervisor of three researchers for project: *Building Knowledge of New Statehood in Southeast Europe: Understanding Kosovo’s Domestic and International Policy Considerations*.

Facilitator: Writing support group for PhD candidates in International Studies, University of Miami, 2015-2017

Faculty mentor: *Horizons*, a pre-orientation program for multicultural students entering the University of Miami, September 2015

Keynote speaker: the Model UN recruitment conference at the University of Miami, 2014

Co-organizer: *East European Circle* seminars, an interdisciplinary area studies group at Cornell, 2007-2008

RESEARCH AND PUBLICATIONS

BOOK

Skendaj, E. (2014). *Creating Kosovo: International Oversight and the Making of Ethical Institutions*. Cornell University Press and Woodrow Wilson Center Press.

Reviewed by *Choice* magazine, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*, *Contemporary Southeastern Europe*, *H-Net reviews*, *Military Review*, *Zeitschrift für Balkanologie*.

EDITED BOOK

Armakolas, I., Demjaha, A., Elbasani, A., Schwandner-Sievers, S., Skendaj, E., Tzifakis, N. (2017). *State building in post-independence Kosovo: Policy challenges and societal considerations*. Kosovo Foundation for Open Society.

PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

Kelmendi, P., & Skendaj, E. (2022). “Protests in Postwar Societies: Grievances and Contentious Collective Action in Kosovo.” *Nationalities Papers*, 1-21.

Skendaj E., Babunski, K., Milivojevic, Z., Bytyci, S. (2019) “Local ownership and international oversight: police reform in post-Yugoslav states.” *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*.

Skendaj, E. (2016). “Social Status and Minority Corruption in the Western Balkans.” *Problems of Postcommunism*.

Skendaj, E. (2014). “International Insulation from Politics and the Challenge of Statebuilding: Learning from Kosovo.” *Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations*, Vol 20 (3).

Skendaj, E. (2009). “Peace Education as a Democratizing Process.” *Southeastern Europe* 33, 63–76.

PEER REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

Dziedzic, M., Mercean, L., and Skendaj, E. (2016). “Kosovo: The Kosovo Liberation Army.” *Overlooked Enemies of Peace: Subduing Illicit Power Structure*, Michael Dziedzic (Ed).Roman & Littlefield.

Skendaj, E. (2014) “Social Scientists or Social Interveners: Exploring the Trade-offs in Reflection and Action.” *After the Dust has Settled: Interdisciplinary Approaches to Post-Conflict Studies*, Chip Gagnon and Keith Brown, (Eds.). Routledge Studies in Peace and Conflict Resolution.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Grodeland, A., Skendaj, E., Babunski, K., Milivojevic, Z., Bytyci, S. *Legal Transfers and Anti-Corruption Reform in Western Balkans*. Book Project.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- Skendaj, E., Lami, R., (2021). “National Security versus Protection of Human Rights in Emergency Situations” Report for Westminster Foundation for Democracy.
- Skendaj, E. (2019). Albania Country Report. *Freedom in the World*. Freedom House.
- Skendaj, E. (2018). Book Review of *Shaping Peace in Kosovo: The Politics of Peacebuilding and Statehood*. By Gëzim Visoka. *Journal of Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*.
- Skendaj, E. (2018). Albania Country Report. *Freedom in the World*. Freedom House.
- Skendaj, E. (2017). Albania Country Report. *Freedom in the World*. Freedom House.
- Skendaj, E. (2016). Book Review of *A Discourse Analysis of Corruption: Instituting Neoliberalism against Corruption in Albania, 1998-2005*. By Blendi Kajsiu. *Slavic Review*.
- Skendaj, E. (2016). Albania Country Report. *Freedom in the World*. Freedom House.
- Skendaj, E. (2016). Clientelism and Challenges of Public Administration Reform in Albania and Kosovo. *Albanian Studies Days III Conference Proceedings*.
- Skendaj, E. (2015). Book Review of *The Foreign Policies of Post-Yugoslav States: From Yugoslavia to Europe*. Edited by Soeren Keil and Bernhard Stahl. *Perspectives on Politics*.
- Skendaj, E. (February 2012). “Learning from Failure to Improve Peace Education Work,” *Global Campaign for Peace Education Newsletter*, Introduction. Issue 91.
- Skendaj, E. (2009). “Book Review of *Besa: Muslims Who Saved Jews in World War II*, by Gershman, N. H. *Albanian Journal of Politics*, V (2).
- Skendaj, E. (2007). “Nation and Conflict,” *Virtual School of Dialogue, Democracy and Peaceful Conflict Resolution Lectures*. Nansen Dialogue Network.
- Skendaj, E. (2005). “Albania: A Transforming Experience.” *Peace and Disarmament Education: Changing Mindsets to Reduce Violence and Sustain the Removal of Small Arms*. Hague Appeal for Peace, New York, NY.
- Skendaj, E. (2005). “Ethnic Violence In Kosovo After The NATO-Yugoslav Peace Agreement,” in *Forced Ethnic Migrations On The Balkans: Consequences And Rebuilding Of Societies*, Popova, E. and Hajdinjak, M. (Eds.). Conference Proceedings, pp. 223-227. Sofia, Bulgaria.
- Gjedia, R., Skendaj, E., and Veshaj, G. (2005). *Together in Peace: Peace education Youth Manual* (in Albanian), Centre for Peace and Disarmament Education, Tirana, Albania.
- Skendaj, E. (2004). “Disarmament Through TV: Peace Education in Albania” *UN Chronicle*, Volume XL1, (3) September-November 4, New York.

REPORTS AND POLICY BRIEFS

- Skendaj, E. (2011). “EU in Kosovo: How to Make a Difference?” *Policy Brief: The Working Group on the Western Balkans*. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars.

Skendaj, E. (2008). "Creating Mechanisms for Cooperation between Civil Society and the Government." *Civil Society and Development: Kosovo Human Development Report 2008*; pp. 86-97.

Gounev, P. Hajdinjak, M., (Eds.) and Skendaj, E. (2006). "*The rifle has the devil inside*": *Gun Culture in South Eastern Europe*, Contributing researcher to the SEESAC report.

GRANTS, SCHOLARSHIPS, AND RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS

Westminster Foundation for Democracy, Principal Investigator, *National Security versus Protection of Human Rights in Emergency Situations*, 2020 (£6,100)

Norwegian Research Council, Co-Principal Investigator, *Legal Culture and Anti-Corruption Reform: The Case of West Balkans*, 2010-2014, (\$700,000)

Biosophical Institute, Co-Principal Investigator, *Peace Education and the Construction of Ethical Institutions*. June-July 2014, (\$4,600)

International Research and Exchange Board (IREX), Short Term Research Grant for Kosovo, June – July 2013, (\$3600)

University of Notre Dame, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, Visiting Fellow, January – May 2012, (\$20,000)

Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, European Studies Program Research Scholar, Washington D.C., June – July, 2010 & August – December, 2011

American Council of Learned Societies (ACLS), Dissertation Fellowship in Southeast European Studies, 2008-2009, (\$17,000)

Cornell University, Peace Studies Fellowship, 2008 and 2009

Smith Richardson Foundation, World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship, Fall 2008, (\$7500)

Cornell University, Sage Fellowship, 2005-2006

University of Notre Dame, Kroc Scholarship, 2000-2001

American University in Bulgaria, Soros/Open Society Scholarship, 1996-2000

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Dilemmas and tradeoffs in democracy and governance in postwar contexts: Lessons from the Western Balkans. Uppsala University, Sweden, May 2023.

In Your Shoes: Engaging Dialogue Across the Curriculum. Teaching, Learning & Innovation Summer Institute (TLISI), Georgetown University, May 2023.

Rule of Law and struggle against corruption in the western Balkans. American University in Bulgaria, March 2023.

Supporting International Students. Teaching, Learning & Innovation Summer Institute (TLISI), Georgetown University, May 2022.

Politics and Conflict, Democracy and Reconciliation, organizer and presenter of at a panel on decline of democratic institutions globally and the USA, Manchester University, March 2021.

Who Protests in Post-Conflict Societies? Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), San Francisco, November 2019.

Student Stories: Using Digital Media for Civic Engagement in Peace Studies Courses. Commemorating Violent Conflicts and Building Sustainable Peace conference, Kent State University, October 2019.

Re-presenting “Albanian studies” in the West. International Conference of the Bulgarian Comparative Education Society, Bulgaria June 2019.

Externally-driven Rule of Law: International Experts, Political Patronage and Domestic Accountability in Weak States. Internationalizing Kosovo conference, Arizona State University, January 2019.

Strategic Peacebuilding: Rebuilding Institutions after Civil War, University of Toledo, 2018.

The influence of International Actors on Statebuilding in Kosovo. Presentation at International Workshop: From the EU Peacebuilding to the EU Statebuilding: Changes & Challenges in the Western Balkans and the Middle East, Jerusalem, April 2018.

Acting the Change through Theatre of the Oppressed. Values, Ideas and the Arts (VIA) interactive presentation, Manchester University, April 2018.

Student Stories: Using Digital Media for Civic Engagement, Fort Wayne Teaching Conference, February 2018.

Migration: Myths and Controversies. Rotary World Affairs Conference, Manchester University, November 2017.

Student Stories: using digital media for civic engagement in peace studies courses. Peace and Justice Studies Association, October 2018.

Stepping Forward or Moving Backward?: Albania's 2017 Parliamentary Elections. Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), Chicago 2017.

Who Protests in Post-Conflict Societies? International Studies Association (ISA). Baltimore 2017.

Security Sector Reform: Comparing the Effectiveness of Police Forces in the Western Balkans. International Studies Association (ISA). Atlanta, GA, 2016.

Demystifying Local Ownership and Knowledge in Vertical Peacebuilding. International Studies Association. (ISA). New Orleans 2015.

Trying Harder: Ethnic Minority Corruption in the Western Balkans. Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES), New Orleans 2014.

Intervention in Syria: Sovereignty and the Responsibility to Protect. International Law Lecture Series, University of Miami, September 2013.

Acting the Change: Theatre of the Oppressed in the Classroom. Global Learning Conference. Florida International University, April 2013.

Islam, Christianity and Post-Communist Transitions in the Balkans. Middle East Studies Program. Florida International University, April 2013.

Legal Culture and Anti-Corruption Reform in the Western Balkans. Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars. Washington D.C., June 2012.

Trade-offs between State Building and Democracy Building: The Influence of International Actors in Kosovo. Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies. University of Notre Dame, March 2012.

Insulating From Politics: How International Actors Build State Institutions.

- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting in Seattle, WA., September 2011
- Mt. Holyoke College conference on “Building Coalitions to Build States: The Lessons of the Balkans, Iraq, and Afghanistan Conference,” October 2010
- U.S. State Department, Washington D.C., August 2010
- Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington D.C., April 2010.

Success and Failure in International Supported Bureaucracies after Civil War: The Kosovo Experience. Cornell Peace Studies Program Seminar, Ithaca, NY., April 2010.

Building versus Destroying Institutional Capacity in Post-war State-building. International Studies Association. New Orleans, LA., February 2010.

What Works? How International Actors Build State Institutions.

- American Association for the Advancement of Slavic Studies annual conference in Boston, MA, November 2009;

Weak State Institutions in Kosovo. IREX / Woodrow Wilson Center Regional Policy Symposium on "Frozen Conflicts and Unrecognized States." Washington, DC, April 2008.

Learning from Peace Education Programmes. Peace and Justice Studies Association conference “Who Speaks for the Common Good.” New York, NY, October 2006.

Peace Education in Albania.

- International seminar on “Education for Peace and Development” presented in Lima, Peru, February 2005;
- Workshop facilitated at the U.S. Institute for Peace program, “Peace Education Program in Divided Societies: A Workshop with Israeli and Palestinian Teachers,” Istanbul, Turkey, August 2004;
- Presented at the 56th Annual United Nations DPI/NGO Conference, “Human Security and Dignity: Fulfilling the Promise of the United Nations.” United Nations Headquarters, New York, NY, September 2003.

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

Association for Slavic, East European, and Eurasian Studies (ASEEES)

Peace and Justice Studies Association (PJSAA)

International Studies Association (ISA)

Alliance for Peacebuilding

Society for Albanian Studies

RESEARCH SKILLS AND TRAINING

Language Skills	Fluent: English and Albanian Advanced: Italian Conversational: Spanish, Bulgarian, and Macedonian
Methods Training	2008 Institute for Qualitative and Mixed-Methods Research, Arizona State University, Tempe, AZ

TEACHING AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

University of Miami:

Civic Engagement Fellow, 2016
Faculty Learning Community Fellow, 2016
Online teaching Fellow 2016
Summer Writing Institute Fellow, 2015
Nominee for outstanding faculty member (Apple Polishing award), 2014

Cornell University: Center for Teaching Excellence Fellow, Future Faculty Teaching Certificate, 2010-2011

Open Society Institute (OSI): Academic Fellowship Program & Civic Education Project Fellowship, University of Tirana, 2003-2005

COURSES TAUGHT

Conflict and Democracy
Democracy and Governance Research Methods
Comparative Political Institutions
Counteracting Political Polarization: Theory and Practice
Postcommunist Balkan Politics
Facilitating workshops in peace and development
Nonviolent Social Movement
International Organizations
Refugees and Migrants
Introduction to International Relations
Introduction to Comparative Politics
Ethnicity in World Politics
Development of International Relations Thought
Conflict Resolution
Introduction to Peace Studies
Ending War & Building Peace

REFERENCES

Dr. Valerie Bunce
Emeritus Faculty
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Ithaca, NY 14853
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Dr. Matthew Evangelista
Cornell University
320 White Hall
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Emeritus Faculty
Peace Studies
University of Notre Dame
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