

# Cyrus Samii

(C.V. as of November 2019)

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## Academic Appointments

New York University Associate Professor of Politics (with tenure) 2017-present.  
Assistant Professor of Politics 2011-2017.

## Education

Columbia University Ph.D., Political Science, 2005-2011.  
M.I.A., School of International & Public Affairs, 2002-2004.  
Post-baccalaureate, Economics, 2000-2001.

Tufts University B.A./B.F.A., Liberal arts, literature, and fine arts, 1994-1999.

## Writing

### Monographs

King, Elisabeth & Cyrus Samii. (2020). *Diversity, Violence, and Recognition: How Recognizing Ethnic Identity Promotes Peace*. Oxford: Oxford University Press.

### Articles, Chapters, and Software

Samii, Cyrus. (2020). "Reasons for Policy Experimentation that Have Nothing to Do with Selection Bias." *World Development* symposium on randomized controlled trials in development (in press).

Zonszein, Stephanie; Peter M. Aronow & Cyrus Samii. (2020). "interference: An R Package for Design-Based Estimation of Spillover Effects." *R Package Version 0.1*. <https://github.com/szonszein/interference>.

Aronow, Peter; Dean Eckles, Cyrus Samii & Stephanie Zonszein. (2020). "Spillover Effects in Experimental Data." In James Druckman & Donald Green, Eds. *Advances in Experimental Political Science*. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press.

Samii, Cyrus & Emily West. (2019). "Repressed Productive Potential and Revolt: Insights from an Insurgency in Burundi." *Political Science Research and Methods* (in press).

Dehejia, Rajeev; Cristian Pop-Eleches & Cyrus Samii. (2019). "From Local to Global: External Validity in a Fertility Natural Experiment." *Journal of Business and Economic Statistics* (forthcoming).

King, Elisabeth & Cyrus Samii. (2018). "Minorities and Mistrust: On the Adoption of Ethnic Recognition to Manage Conflict." *Journal of Peace Research* 55(3): 289-304.

Carnegie, Allison & Cyrus Samii. (2017). "International Institutions and Political Liberalization: Evidence from the World Bank Loans Program." *British Journal of Political Science* (in press).

Aronow, Peter M & Cyrus Samii. (2017). "Estimating Average Causal Effects Under General Interference." *Annals of Applied Statistics* 11(4): 1912-1947.

- Bisbee, James; Rajeev Dehejia; Cristian Pop-Eleches & Cyrus Samii. (2017). "Local Instruments, Global Extrapolation: External Validity of the Labor Supply-Fertility Local Average Treatment Effect." *Journal of Labor Economics* 35(S1):S99-S147.
- Mvukiyehe, Eric & Cyrus Samii. (2017). "Promoting Democracy in Fragile States: Insights from a Field Experiment in Liberia." *World Development* 95(1):254-267.
- Samii, Cyrus; Laura Paler & Sarah Daly. (2017). "Retrospective Causal Inference with Machine Learning Ensembles: An Application to Anti-Recidivism Policies in Colombia." *Political Analysis* 24(4):434-456.
- Ditlmann, Ruth; Cyrus Samii & Thomas Zeitzoff. (2017). "Addressing Violent Inter-Group Conflict from the Bottom Up?" *Social Issues and Policy Review* 11(1):38-77.
- Ditlmann, Ruth & Cyrus Samii. (2017). "Does Intergroup Contact Affect Ingroup Dynamics? Insights from a Field Study with Jewish and Arab-Palestinian Youth in Israel." *Peace and Conflict* 22(4):380-392.
- Lawry, Steven; Cyrus Samii, Ruth Hall, Aaron Leopold, Donna Hornby & Farai Mtero. (2017). "The Impact of Property Rights Interventions on Investment and Agricultural Productivity in Developing Countries: A Systematic Review." *Journal of Development Effectiveness* 9(1):61-81.
- Samii, Cyrus. (2016). "Causal Empiricism in Quantitative Research." *Journal of Politics* 78(3):941-955.
- Aronow, Peter M & Cyrus Samii. (2016). "Does Regression Produce Representative Estimates of Causal Effects?" *American Journal of Political Science* 60(1):250-276.
- Aronow, Peter M; Cyrus Samii & Valentina Assenova. (2015). "Cluster Robust Variance Estimation for Dyadic Data." *Political Analysis* 23(4):564-577.
- King, Elisabeth & Cyrus Samii. (2014). "Fast Track Institution Building in Conflict Affected Countries? Insights from Recent Field Experiments." *World Development* 64:740-754.
- Gilligan, Michael J; Benjamin Pasquale, & Cyrus Samii. (2014). "Civil War and Social Cohesion: Lab-in-the-Field Evidence from Nepal." *American Journal of Political Science* 58(3):604-619.
- Samii, Cyrus. (2014). "Military Integration in Burundi." In Roy Licklider, Ed. *New Armies from Old: Military Integration after Civil War*. Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press.
- Samii, Cyrus. (2013). "Perils or Promise of Ethnic Integration: Evidence from a Hard Case in Burundi." *American Political Science Review* 107(3):558-573.
- Samii, Cyrus. (2013). "Who Wants to Forgive and Forget? Transitional Justice Preferences in Post-War Burundi." *Journal of Peace Research* 50(2):219-233. (Mitovsky Award for best student paper, NY-AAPOR, 2011; Runner-up, 2013 best paper award, *Journal of Peace Research*.)
- Aronow, Peter M & Cyrus Samii. (2013). "Conservative Variance Estimation for Sampling Designs with Zero Pairwise Inclusion Probabilities." *Survey Methodology* 39(1): 231-241.
- Gilligan, Michael J; Eric Mvukiyehe & Cyrus Samii. (2013). "Reintegrating Rebels into Civilian Life: Quasi-experimental Evidence from Burundi." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 57(4):598-626.
- Samii, Cyrus & Peter M Aronow. (2012). "On Equivalencies Between Design-Based and Regression-Based Variance Estimators for Randomized Experiments." *Statistics and Probability Letters* 82(2):365-370.
- Samii, Cyrus. (2012). "Review of Steven K. Thompson, *Sampling, Third Edition*." *Journal of Official Statistics* 28(3):466-468.
- Aronow, Peter M & Cyrus Samii. (2012). "ri: R Package for Performing Randomization-Based Inference for Experiments." *R Package Version 0.9*. <http://cran.r-project.org/web/packages/ri/>.

- King, Elisabeth; Cyrus Samii & Birte Snilstveit. (2010). "Interventions to Promote Social Cohesion in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Journal of Development Effectiveness* 2(3):336-370.
- Samii, Cyrus. (2011). "Missing Data." In B. Badie, D. Berg-Schlosser, & L. Morlino, eds. *International Encyclopedia of Political Science*. Thousand Oaks: Sage Publishers.
- Samii, Cyrus. (2006). "Seizing the Moment in Kashmir." *SAIS Review*. 26(1):65-78.
- Samii, Cyrus. (2006). "Conclusion." In Waheguru Pal Singh Sidhu; Bushra Asif & Cyrus Samii, eds. (2006). *Kashmir: New Voices, New Approaches*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.
- Samii, Cyrus. (2006). "Conclusion: Managing Nuclear Threats After Iraq." In R. Thakur & W.P.S. Sidhu, eds. *Arms Control After Iraq*. Tokyo: UN University Press.
- Cockayne, James & Cyrus Samii. (2006). "UN Reform: Structural and Normative Challenges." In R. Thakur & W.P.S. Sidhu, eds. *The Iraq Crisis and World Order*. Tokyo: UN University Press.
- Sidhu, Waheguru Pal Singh & Cyrus Samii. (2003). "Strengthening Regional Approaches to Peace Operations." In M. Pugh & W.P.S. Sidhu, eds. *The UN and Regional Security: Europe and Beyond*. Boulder: Lynne Rienner.

### **Working Papers**

- Gechter, Michael; Cyrus Samii; Rajeev Dehejia & Cristian Pop-Eleches (2018). "Evaluating Ex Ante Counterfactual Predictions Using Ex Post Causal Inference."
- Burde, Dana; Joel Middleton; Cyrus Samii & Ye Wang. (2018). "Comparing Effects when Access to Alternatives Varies, with Application to a Schooling Experiment."
- Aronow, Peter M; Cyrus Samii & Ye Wang. (2019). "Design-Based Inference for Spatial Experiments."
- Henn, Soeren; Laura Paler; Wilson Prichard; Cyrus Samii & Raul Sanchez de la Sierra. (2017). "Engaging or Avoiding the State: Empowering Tax Payers in the DRC."
- Gilligan, Michael J, Prabin Khadka & Cyrus Samii. (2017). "Social Incentives in State and Non-State Armed Groups."
- Christensen, Darin; Alexandra Hartman & Cyrus Samii. (2019). "Legibility and External Investment: An Institutional Natural Experiment in Liberia." (*Submitted.*)
- Aaronson, Daniel; Rajeev Dehejia; Andrew Jordan; Cristian Pop-Eleches; Cyrus Samii & Karl Schulz. (2018). "The Effect of Fertility on Labor Supply over the Last Two Centuries." (*Submitted.*)
- Daly, Sarah Zukerman; Laura Paler & Cyrus Samii. (2018). "Wartime Networks and the Social Logic of Crime." (*Submitted.*)
- Mvukiyehe, Eric & Cyrus Samii. (2018). "Does Peacekeeping Work from the Bottom Up? Negative Evidence from Liberia." (*Submitted.*)

### **Commissioned Policy Reports**

- Setrini, Gustavo; Cyrus Samii & Cynthia Gonzalez. (2019). *Impact Evaluation of the Democracy, Rights, and Governance Components of USAID/Paraguay's Inclusive Value Chains Project*. Washington, DC: NORC for USAID.
- Burde, Dana; Joel Middleton & Cyrus Samii. (2019). *The Assessment of Learning Outcomes and Social Effects of Community-Based Education: A Randomized Field Experiment in Afghanistan, Phase Two Outcomes Report*. New York: Steinhardt School, New York University.

- Burde, Dana; Joel Middleton & Cyrus Samii. (2017). *The Assessment of Learning Outcomes and Social Effects of Community-Based Education: A Randomized Field Experiment in Afghanistan, Phase Two Baseline Report*. New York: Steinhardt School, New York University.
- Paler, Laura; Wilson Prichard, Cyrus Samii & Raul Sanchez de la Sierra. (2017). *Survey on Total Tax Burden in the Democratic Republic of the Congo*. London: UKAID/DFID.
- Burde, Dana; Joel Middleton & Cyrus Samii. (2016). *The Assessment of Learning Outcomes and Social Effects of Community-Based Education: A Randomized Field Experiment in Afghanistan, Phase One Outcomes Report*. New York: Steinhardt School, New York University.
- Burde, Dana; Joel Middleton & Cyrus Samii. (2016). *The Assessment of Learning Outcomes and Social Effects of Community-Based Education: A Randomized Field Experiment in Afghanistan, Baseline Report*. New York: Steinhardt School, New York University.
- Paler, Laura; Cyrus Samii; Matthew Liesiecki & Adrian Morel. (2015). *Social and Environmental Effects of the Community Rangers Program in Aceh*. Washington, DC and Jakarta: World Bank.
- Samii, Cyrus; Matthew Lisiecki, Parahsar Kulkarni, Laura Paler & Larry Chavis. (2014). "Effects of Payments for Environmental Services on Deforestation and Poverty in Low and Middle Income Countries: A Systematic Review." *International Initiative for Impact Evaluation and Campbell Collaboration International Development Systematic Reviews* 10(11).
- Samii, Cyrus; Matthew Lisiecki, Parahsar Kulkarni, Laura Paler & Larry Chavis. (2014). "Effects of Decentralized Forest Management on Deforestation and Poverty in Low and Middle Income Countries: A Systematic Review." *International Initiative for Impact Evaluation and Campbell Collaboration International Development Systematic Reviews* 10(10).
- Lawry, Steven; Cyrus Samii, Ruth Hall, Aaron Leopold, Donna Hornby & Farai Mtero. (2014). "The Impact of Property Rights Interventions on Investment and Agricultural Productivity in Developing Countries: A Systematic Review." *International Initiative for Impact Evaluation and Campbell Collaboration International Development Systematic Reviews*.
- Samii, Cyrus; Annette Brown & Monika Kulma. (2012). "Evaluating Stabilization Interventions." International Initiative for Impact Evaluation white paper, presented at US Dept. of State and DFID-UK.
- Samii, Cyrus. (2012). "Evaluation." In Adam Smith & Arthur Boutellis, Eds. *The Management Handbook: A Practical Guide for Managers in UN Field Missions*. New York: International Peace Institute and UK Department for International Development.
- Mvukiyehe, Eric & Cyrus Samii. (2010). "Quantitative Impact Evaluation of the United Nations Mission in Liberia," with Technical Appendix. Submitted to UN Office of Internal Oversight Services, February 2010. Basis of UN-OIOS report to the UN General Assembly A/64/712, March 2010.
- Mvukiyehe, Eric & Cyrus Samii. (2009). "Laying A Foundation for Peace? A Quantitative Impact Evaluation of United Nations Operations in Cote d'Ivoire," with Technical Appendix. Submitted to UN Office of Internal Oversight Services, December 2008. Basis of UN-OIOS report to the UN General Assembly A/63/713, February 2009.
- Bartoli, Andrea & Cyrus Samii. (2006). "Review of UN Capacities for the Prevention of Armed Conflict." Submitted to United Nations Department of Political Affairs. Basis of UN Secretary General report to the UN General Assembly A/60/891, July 2006.

## **Invited Talks Since 2017**

"Can Communities Take Charge? A Randomized Control Trial on Decentralized School Administration in Afghanistan"

- Sep 2019: Political Economy Lunch Seminar, Hertie School, Berlin.  
 Aug 2019: Petralia Political Economy Workshop, Petralia Sottana, Sicily.  
 Apr 2019: Development Research Institute Speaker Series, New York University.
- “Spillover Effects in Experimental Data”  
 May 2019: Advances in Experimental Political Science, Northwestern University.
- “Evaluating Ex Ante Counterfactual Predictions Using Ex Post Causal Inference”  
 Nov 2019: Development Research Institute Annual Conference, New York University.  
 Sep 2019: Development Economics Network Berlin (DENeB), Berlin Social Science Center (WZB).  
 Mar 2018: Global Priorities Project Workshop on External Validity, Oxford University.
- “Diversity, Violence, and Recognition”  
 Oct 2019: EGAP Policy Workshop, Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.  
 May 2018: Association for the Study of Nationalities Conference, Columbia University.  
 Mar 2018: Innovations for Peace and Development Lab, University of Texas, Austin.
- “Estimating Average Causal Effects Under General Interference.”  
 May 2018: Special Session, Atlantic Causal Inference Conference, Carnegie Mellon University.
- “Comparing Effects When Access to Alternatives Vary, with Application to a Schooling Experiment”  
 Mar 2018: Global Priorities Project Workshop on External Validity, Oxford University.  
 Apr 2017: Association for Analytic Learning about Islam and Muslim Societies (AALIMS), Pomona College.
- “Estimating Spatial Effects.”  
 Mar 2018: Political Science Methods Seminar, Texas A & M University.  
 Feb 2018: Political Science Methodology Seminar, Rochester University.  
 May 2017: Quantitative Social Science Colloquium, Princeton University.  
 Mar 2017: Political Economy Workshop, Harris School, University of Chicago.  
 Jan 2017: Winter Experiments in Social Science Institute, New York University Abu Dhabi.
- “Retrospective Causal Inference with Machine Learning Ensembles: An Application to Anti-Recidivism Policies in Colombia.”  
 Mar 2018: AI & Development Conference, UC-Berkeley CEGA & World Bank, San Francisco.
- “The Effect of Fertility on Mothers’ Labor Supply over the Last Two Centuries”  
 Jul 2017: NBER Summer Institute, Cambridge, MA.
- “Legible Institutions and Land Demand: The Effect of Property Rights Systems on Investment in Liberia.”  
 Jun 2017: European Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Milan.  
 Jun 2017: World Bank Conference on Africa, Berkeley.  
 Mar 2017: World Bank Conference on Land and Poverty, Washington, D.C.
- “On the Mechanics of Kleptocratic States.”  
 Jun 2017: European Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Milan.  
 Mar 2017: Comparative Politics Seminar, University of California, Berkeley.
- “Social Incentives in State and Non-State Armed Groups.”  
 May 2017: Empirical Studies of Conflict Research Meeting, United States Institute of Peace, Washington.  
 Jan 2017: Winter Experiments in Social Science Institute, New York University Abu Dhabi.
- “Promoting Democracy in Fragile States: Insights from a Field Experiment in Liberia.”  
 Mar 2017: Comparative Politics Seminar, University of California, Los Angeles  
 Feb 2017: Comparative Politics Seminar, Columbia University, New York.

## Research Funding

Centre of Excellence for Development Impact and Learning, project on Predicting Optimal Policies for New Contexts Using Existing Studies (\$ 258,000), with Rajeev Dehejia, Cristian Pop-Eleches, and Michael Gechter.

Folke Bernadotte Academy (Govt. of Sweden), Colombia ex-combatant reintegration study, 2018-2020 (\$24,500), with Mateo Vasquez.

Innovations for Poverty Action, Colombia ex-combatant reintegration study, 2018-2019 (\$149,999), with Sarah Daly, Laura Paler, Mounu Prem, Jacob Shapiro, and Juan Vargas.

UKAID/DFID and Evidence in Governance and Politics Metaketa III, Liberia forest resource management study, 2017-2019 (\$240,000), with Darin Christensen, Alexandra Hartman, and Gregory Kitt.

Folke Bernadotte Academy (Govt. of Sweden), ethnic recognition research grants, 2013-2018 (\$25,000 and \$20,000), with Elisabeth King.

USAID, Paraguay governance and inclusive value chains study, 2014-2018 (\$300,000), with Gustavo Setrini and Cynthia Gonzalez.

UKAID/DFID, Democratic Republic of the Congo fiscal burdens study, 2014-2016 (\$675,000), with Laura Paler, Wilson Prichard, and Raul Sanchez de la Sierra.

International Growth Centre, Pakistan affirmative action study, 2014-2016 (\$83,000), with Saad Gulzar and Shah-Bano Ijaz.

Asian Development Bank and Innovations for Poverty Action, Mindanao armed group integration study, 2014-2016 (\$150,000), with Ben Oppenheim and Yuhki Tajima.

USAID, Afghanistan education and sustainable service provision study, 2014-2017 (\$7.2 million), with Dana Burde and Joel Middleton.

Folke Bernadotte Academy (Govt. of Sweden), Mindanao military integration study, 2013-2014 (\$31,000), with Ben Oppenheim and Yuhki Tajima.

DANIDA, Afghanistan education and sustainable service provision study, 2013-2014 (\$250,000), with Dana Burde and Joel Middleton.

Asian Development Bank and Innovations for Poverty Action, partnership development grants for conflict & development research in Burma, Indonesia, and the Philippines, 2013 (\$45,000), with Ben Oppenheim and Yuhki Tajima.

United States Institute of Peace, inter-group reconciliation in Israel/Palestine, 2013-2015 (\$120,000), with Ruth Ditzmann.

3ie, environmental protection in developing countries research grant, 2012-2013 (\$69,000), with Larry Chavis and Laura Paler.

World Bank, environmental protection and post-conflict reintegration in Aceh evaluation study, 2010-2014 (\$200,000), with Laura Paler.

3ie social cohesion in Africa research grant, 2009 (\$11,000), with Elisabeth King.

UN-OIOS, Cote d'Ivoire and Liberia research grant, 2008, (\$135,000), with Eric Mvukiyehe.

Folke Bernadotte Academy (Govt. of Sweden), Burundi and Nepal research grant, 2006-2009 (\$172,000), with Michael Gilligan, Macartan Humphreys, Eric Mvukiyehe, and Gwendolyn Taylor.

United States Institute of Peace, Burundi research grant, 2007 (\$53,000), with Michael Gilligan, Macartan Humphreys, Eric Mvukiyehe, and Gwendolyn Taylor.

## **Fellowships**

Goddard Fellow, New York University, 2014.  
MacMillan Center, Order, Conflict & Violence Pre-doctoral Fellow, Yale University, 2010-2011.  
Eisenhower Institute Dissertation Fellow, 2009-2010.  
William T.R. Fox Fellow, Columbia University, 2008-2009.

## **Teaching and Advising**

### **PhD-level Courses**

Quantitative Methods II (causal inference), Politics Department, New York University, 2012-2020.  
Quantitative Field Research (research design and field experiments), Politics Department, New York University, 2012-2019.

### **Undergraduate Courses**

Diversity and Society (co-taught with Eric Knowles, psychology), Politics Department, New York University Abu Dhabi January Term, 2017-2020.  
International Relations Senior Honors Thesis Seminar, Politics Department, New York University, Fall 2013.  
Comparative Politics Field Seminar, Politics Department, New York University, Fall 2012.

### **Dissertation Committees** (*placement*)

Stephanie Zonszein, NYU Politics, 2019-present.  
Rafael Chduran, NYU Politics, 2019-present.  
Dongil Lee, NYU Politics, 2018-present.  
Ye Wang, NYU Politics, 2018-present.  
Peter Vining, NYU Politics, 2017-present.  
Prabin Khadka, NYU Politics, 2017-present.  
Nicholas Haas, NYU Politics, 2017-present.  
Antonella Bandiera, NYU Politics, 2018-present (*ITAM, postdoc.*).  
Mateo Vasquez, NYU Politics, PhD 2019 (*ITAM, assistant prof.*).  
Alessandro Vecchiato, NYU Politics, PhD 2019 (*Stanford U., postdoc.*).  
Emine Deniz, NYU Politics, PhD 2018 (*Ozyegin University, assistant prof.*).  
Maria Carreri, NYU Politics, PhD 2018 (*UC San Diego, assistant prof.*).  
Renard Sexton, NYU Politics, PhD 2017 (*Princeton U., postdoc.; Emory U., assistant prof.*).  
Saad Gulzar, NYU Politics, PhD 2017 (*Stanford U., assistant prof.*).  
Emily West, NYU Politics, PhD 2017 (*U. of Pittsburgh, assistant prof.*).  
Drew Dimmery, NYU Politics, PhD 2016 (*Facebook, Data Science Team*).  
Adam Harris, NYU Politics, PhD 2015 (*U. of Gothenburg, postdoc; U. College of London, assistant prof.*).

External PhD thesis reader: Mai Nguyen (NYU Politics, 2018); Omar Garcia Ponce (NYU Politics, 2016); Parashar Kulkarni (NYU Politics, 2015); Benjamin Pasquale (NYU Politics, 2014); Manuela Travaglianti (NYU Politics, 2013); Andrew Conway (NYU Politics, 2013); Andrew Therriault (NYU Politics, 2011).

## **Academic Service**

### **Service Appointments**

Executive Director, Evidence in Governance and Policy (EGAP), 2019-2021.

Steering Committee member, EGAP Taxation and Conflict Metaketa Research Programs (2016-2019).

### **Working Groups and Centers**

Northeast Workshop in Empirical Political Science (NEWEPS), co-convenor (2013-present).

Contemporary African Political Economy Research Seminar (CAPERS), co-sponsor (2012-present).

Evidence in Governance and Politics (EGAP), invited member (2012-present).

Folke Bernadotte Academy (FBA), research working group invited member (2006-present).

NYU Center for the Promotion of Research Involving Innovative Statistical Methodology (PRIISM), invited faculty affiliate (2013-present).

### **Peer review**

*American Journal of Political Science*

*American Political Science Review*

*Annals of Applied Statistics*

*Economics and Politics*

*International Security*

International Initiative for Impact Evaluation

*Journal of the American Statistical Association, TM & AC*

*Journal of Business & Economic Statistics*

*Journal of Causal Inference*

*Journal of Conflict Resolution*

*Journal of Development Economics*

*Journal of Development Studies*

*Journal of the European Economic Association*

*Journal of Human Resources*

*Journal of Peace Research*

*Journal of Politics*

*Journal of Royal Statistical Society, A & B*

Princeton University Press

*Political Analysis*

*Political Science Research & Methods*

*Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences*

*Review of Economic Studies*

*Review of Economics & Statistics*

*Science*

*Sociological Methodology*

*Statistical Science*

W.W. Norton

*World Development*

*World Politics*

### **Past Professional Affiliations**

Program Officer, International Peace Institute, New York, 2001-2005.

United Nations Intern, UN Office on Drugs and Crime, Tehran, 2003.