

SHAHIN BERENJI
4289 Bunche Hall
Los Angeles, CA 90095-1472
sberenji@ucla.edu

EDUCATION

University of California Los Angeles, September 2008-Present
Ph.D, Political Science, expected September 2017
MA, Political Science – International Relations, October 2010

Dissertation: “Accepting Risks and Making Bold Gestures: Why Decision-makers Initiate Conciliation in Rivalries”

Committee: Deborah Larson (Chair), Marc Trachtenberg, Robert Trager, and Stanley Wolpert

Specializations: Political Psychology, Diplomacy/Diplomatic History, Conflict Resolution, Foreign Policy Decision-Making, Qualitative Methods, the International Relations of the Middle East and South Asia, the Cold War

University of Southern California, December 2006
Bachelor of Arts, Political Science
Magna cum laude

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Lecturer, UCLA, 2017-2018

International Relations in an Uncertain World (PS 139), Fall 2017
International Politics, 1914 to the Present (PS 138B), Winter 2018
Peace and War (PS 126), Spring 2018

Instructor, UCLA, 2015-2017

World Politics (PS 20), Summer 2015, Summer 2016, and Summer 2017
2016 Student Rating: 8.05/9
2015 Student Rating: 7.97/9

Teaching Assistant

Political Science Civic Engagement Course (PS 195CE), Elizabeth Goodhue/Michael Thies, Center for Community Learning, Fall 2012-Summer 2016

Data Analysis (PS 6), John Zaller, Fall 2011

International Law (PS 123A), Leslie Johns, Spring 2011

World Politics (PS 20), Leslie Johns, Winter 2011

Environmental Politics & Governance (UP 260) (graduate seminar), Stephanie Pincetl, Fall 2010

Guest Lecturer

World Politics (PS 20), Winter 2011

Environmental Politics and Governance (UP 160), Fall 2010

OTHER EMPLOYMENT

Graduate Student Research Assistant, Barbara Geddes, Summer 2011, Winter-Spring 2012
Researched and coded regime-related information for countries around the world
(particularly those in the Middle East and South Asia) as part of a NSF-funded project on
authoritarian regimes

Editorial Assistant, Comparative Politics and International Relations
American Political Science Review, Fall 2009-Summer 2010

MOST RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Engaging the Reagan Administration, from Small Steps to Bold Proposals: Gorbachev and the Windy Road to Reykjavik,” UCLA IR Reading Group, June 2nd

(Presenter and Chair) “Understanding why Decision-Makers Initiate Conciliation through Bold Gestures: An Examination of Anwar Sadat’s Peace Initiatives from 1977,” *International Society of Political Psychology*, San Diego, July 5, 2015

(Co-presented with Elizabeth Goodhue, Carrier Sanders, and Molly Jacobs) “Fostering Civic, Disciplinary, and Professional Development through Academic Internships,” *18th Annual Continuums of Service Conference*, Long Beach, April 9, 2015.

“Understanding why Decision-Makers make Bold Gestures: An Examination of Sadat’s Jerusalem Initiative and its Effects on the Egyptian-Israeli Rapprochement,” *International Studies Association Annual Convention*, New Orleans, February 19th, 2015.

INVITED TALKS

“U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East,” West Los Angeles College Annual Global Conference, October 21, 2016

WORKING PAPERS

(Revise and Resubmit at *International Security*) “Accepting Risks and Making Bold Gestures: Anwar Sadat’s Jerusalem Initiative”

“Engaging the Reagan Administration, from Small Steps to Bold Proposals: Gorbachev and the Windy Road to Reykjavik”

“Signaling and Reassurance: Ronald Reagan’s 1984 Peace Offensive”

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“On the Brink: The War Scare of 1977”

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

“Consumers and the Case for Labeling Genfoods.” *Journal of Research for Consumers* 13, Spring 2008. Available: http://www.jrconsumers.com/academic_articles.

OTHER WRITINGS

“Jimmy Carter’s Role in Securing Middle East Peace,” *E-International Relations*, April 2016. Available: <http://www.e-ir.info/2016/04/21/the-camp-david-accords-jimmy-carters-role-in-securing-middle-east-peace/>

Book Review written for *History, Politics, and Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Source Document Reader*, ed. Kenneth W. Stein (Atlanta: Center for Israel Education, 2013), March 2015, Available: <https://israeled.org/product/arab-israeli-conflict/>

“Consumers & Genetically Engineered Foods,” *USC Journal of Law and Society* 3, Fall 2007.

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

Fellowship, UCLA Department of Political Science, September 2016-June 2017

Dissertation Research Grant in Political Psychology, UCLA Department of Psychology, Summer 2016

Research Travel Grant, UCLA Graduate Division, Winter 2015

Middle East Studies Research Travel Grant, UCLA Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for Israel Studies, Fall 2014

Research Grant, UCLA Political Science Department, Summer 2014, 2015, 2016

Dispute Resolution Research Center (DDRC) Travel Scholarship, Northwestern University, June 2013

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship, UCLA Graduate Division, Summer 2009, 2010

First Prize in the Professional Writing Category at USC’s Undergraduate Writers’ Conference, 2007

Inducted into Phi Beta Kappa, 2006; Golden Key International Honors Society, 2005

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP), Summer Academy Fellow, June 30-July 2, 2015

REVIEWER FOR

Communication Studies

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

On-Campus Activities:

Presenter and Participant in the IR Reading Group, 2011-2012, 2015-Present

Presenter and Participant in the Israel Studies Colloquium, Fall 2015-Present

Mentor in the Alumni Mentor Program, 2014-2015

Midfielder, “the Avocados” and “Aguacates” IM Soccer Teams, Winter 2011, 2012

Midfielder, Coach, and General Manager for “MWC” IM Soccer Team, Winter 2010

Professional Organizations:

American Political Science Association (APSA)

International Studies Association (ISA)

International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP)

International Association of Conflict Management (IACM)

Part of a UCLA student delegation hosted by Kuwait’s Ministry of Information to learn about the political and economic developments in Kuwait and the broader Middle East, Summer 2011

Language Skills: Proficient in French and Farsi

REFERENCES

Deborah Larson
Professor of Political Science
University of California, Los Angeles
(310) 267-5411
dlarson@polisci.ucla.edu

Robert Trager
Associate Professor of Political Science
University of California, Los Angeles
(310) 825-4331
rtrager@ucla.edu

Marc Trachtenberg
Professor Emeritus of Political Science
University of California, Los Angeles
(310) 267-1904
trachten@polisci.ucla.edu

Michael Thies
Associate Professor of Political Science
University of California, Los Angeles
(310) 825-1976
thies@polisci.ucla.edu

Elizabeth Goodhue
Associate Director for Engaged Teaching
Center for Community Learning
University of California, Los Angeles
(310) 825-7867
bgoodhue@college.ucla.edu