



James Fearon

Theodore and Frances Geballe Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences and Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies

Political Science

 Curriculum Vitae available Online

CONTACT INFORMATION

- **Alternate Contact**

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Bio

BIO

James Fearon is Theodore and Frances Geballe Professor in the School of Humanities and Sciences, a professor of Political Science, and Senior Fellow in the Freeman-Spogli Institute for International Studies. He is a member of the National Academy of Sciences (elected 2012) and a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences (elected 2002). Fearon's research interests include civil and interstate war, ethnic conflict, the politics of economic development, and democratic accountability.

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor, Political Science
- Senior Fellow, Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies

ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS

- Chair, Department of Political Science, Stanford University, (2007-2010)

HONORS AND AWARDS

- Member, Council of Foreign Relations (2017-)
- Member, National Academy of Sciences (2012)
- Program Member, Canadian Institute for Advanced Research (2005-2019)
- Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2002)
- Karl Deutsch Award, International Studies Association (1999)
- Heinz Eulau Award for best article, American Political Science Review (1997)
- Gregory Luebbert Award for best article, Comparative Politics (1996)
- Helen Dwight Reid Award, American Political Science Association (1993)

BOARDS, ADVISORY COMMITTEES, PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS

- Member, Council on Foreign Relations (2017 - present)

- Member, International Organization (2012 - present)
- Member, National Academy of Sciences (2012 - present)
- Member, Journal of Conflict Resolution (2011 - present)
- Member, International Theory (2009 - 2015)
- Member, Annual Review of Political Science (2007 - 2014)
- Member, American Journal of Political Science (2006 - 2009)
- Program Member, Canadian Institution for Advanced Research (2005 - 2019)
- Member, International Organization (2005 - 2009)
- Fellow, American Academy of Arts and Sciences (2002 - present)
- Fellow, Center for Advanced Study in the Behavioral Sciences (1999 - 2000)
- Member, International Organization (1998 - 2003)
- Member, American Journal of Political Science (1998 - 2002)
- Member, American Political Science Review (1997 - 2001)
- Residential Faculty Fellowship, Chicago Humanities Institute (1996 - 1997)

PROGRAM AFFILIATIONS

- Center for Human Rights and International Justice
- Program in International Relations
- Public Policy

PROFESSIONAL EDUCATION

- Ph.D., University of California, Berkeley , Political Science (1992)
- M.A., University of California, Berkeley , Political Science and Economics (1991)
- A.B., Harvard University (1985)

LINKS

- Personal URL: <http://fearonresearch.stanford.edu/>
- FSI Page: https://cisac.fsi.stanford.edu/people/james_d_fearon

Research & Scholarship

CURRENT RESEARCH AND SCHOLARLY INTERESTS

political violence

Teaching

COURSES

2025-26

- International Relations Theory, Part II: POLISCI 410B (Win)
- Introduction to International Relations: INTNLREL 101, POLISCI 101 (Spr)
- Japan's Defense Policy in a Fast-Changing World: OSPKYOTO 9 (Aut)

2024-25

- Introduction to International Relations: INTNLREL 101, POLISCI 101 (Aut)

2023-24

- Formal Theory I: POLISCI 356A (Win)
- International Relations Theory, Part II: POLISCI 410B (Win)
- Introduction to International Relations: INTNLREL 101, POLISCI 101 (Aut)

2022-23

- International Relations Theory, Part II: POLISCI 410B (Win)
- Introduction to International Relations: INTNLREL 101, POLISCI 101 (Aut)

STANFORD ADVISEES

Doctoral Dissertation Reader (AC)

Mae MacDonald, Alexander Pumerantz, Phedias Theophanous

Doctoral Dissertation Co-Advisor (AC)

Jake Yeager

Doctoral (Program)

Sunny Li, Yunchong Ling, Emily Russell, Tomer Zaidman

Publications

PUBLICATIONS

- **The Conventional Balance of Terror America Needs a New Triad to Restore Its Eroding Deterrence** *FOREIGN AFFAIRS*
Lim, A. S., Fearon, J. D.
2025; 104 (3): 122-135
- **Understanding Intimate Partner Violence** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
Blaydes, L., Fearon, J. D., Macdonald, M.
2025; 28: 351-374
- **In Memoriam: Robert L. Powell** *INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION*
Fearon, J. D., Lake, D. A., Meng, A., Paine, J.
2022
- **Directions for Research on Climate and Conflict.** *Earth's future*
Mach, K. J., Adger, W. N., Buhaug, H., Burke, M., Fearon, J. D., Field, C. B., Hendrix, C. S., Kraan, C. M., Maystadt, J., O'Loughlin, J., Roessler, P., Scheffran, J., Schultz, et al
2020; 8 (7): e2020EF001532
- **Climate as a risk factor for armed conflict.** *Nature*
Mach, K. J., Kraan, C. M., Adger, W. N., Buhaug, H. n., Burke, M. n., Fearon, J. D., Field, C. B., Hendrix, C. S., Maystadt, J. F., O'Loughlin, J. n., Roessler, P. n., Scheffran, J. n., Schultz, et al
2019
- **Cooperation, Conflict, and the Costs of Anarchy** *INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION*
Fearon, J. D.
2018; 72 (3): 523–59
- **Civil War & the Current International System** *DAEDALUS*
Fearon, J. D.
2017; 146 (4): 18-32
- **How Does Development Assistance Affect Collective Action Capacity? Results from a Field Experiment in Post-Conflict Liberia** *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
Fearon, J. D., Humphreys, M., Weinstein, J. M.

2015; 109 (3): 450-469

- **Socially relevant ethnic groups, ethnic structure, and AMAR** *JOURNAL OF PEACE RESEARCH*
Birrir, J. K., Wilkenfeld, J., Fearon, J. D., Laitin, D. D., Gurr, T. R., Brancati, D., Saideman, S. M., Pate, A., Hultquist, A. S.
2015; 52 (1): 110-115
- **A Conversation with Kenneth Waltz** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL SCIENCE, VOL 15*
Waltz, K., Fearon, J.
2012; 15: 1-12
- **Self-Enforcing Democracy** *QUARTERLY JOURNAL OF ECONOMICS*
Fearon, J. D.
2011; 126 (4): 1661-1708
- **Sons of the Soil, Migrants, and Civil War** *WORLD DEVELOPMENT*
Fearon, J. D., Laitin, D. D.
2011; 39 (2): 199-211
- **Two States, Two Types, Two Actions** *SECURITY STUDIES*
Fearon, J. D.
2011; 20 (3): 431-440
- **Comments on R. Harrison Wagner's War and the State: The Theory of International Politics** *INTERNATIONAL THEORY*
Fearon, J. D.
2010; 2 (2): 333-342
- **Can Development Aid Contribute to Social Cohesion after Civil War? Evidence from a Field Experiment in Post-Conflict Liberia** *121st Annual Meeting of the American-Economic-Association*
Fearon, J. D., Humphreys, M., Weinstein, J. M.
AMER ECONOMIC ASSOC.2009: 287-91
- **Evaluating Community-Driven Reconstruction: Lessons from post-conflict Liberia.** *Development Outreach*
Fearon, J. D.
2009 ; 11 (2): 50-52
- **Review Symposium on "State Failure and Challenges to Democratization in Africa," comments on Robert Bates' When Things Fell Apart: State Failure in Late-Century Africa** *Perspectives on Politics*
Fearon, J. D.
2009 ; 7 (2): 361-363
- **Integrating Quantitative and Qualitative Methods** *Oxford Handbook of Political Methodology*
Fearon, J. D., Laitin, D. D.
edited by BoxSteffensmeier, J. M., Brady, H. E., Collier, D.
Oxford: Oxford University Press .2008
- **International Institutions and Collective Authorization of the Use of Force** *CAN THE WORLD BE GOVERNED: POSSIBILITIES FOR EFFECTIVE MULTILATERALISM*
Fearon, J. D.
edited by Alexandroff, A. S.
2008: 160-195
- **International Institutions and Collective Authorization of the Use of Force** *Can the World Be Governed? Possibilities for Effective Multilateralism*
Fearon, J. D.
edited by Alexandroff, A.
Waterloo, Ontario: Wilfred Laurier University Press.2008
- **The Rise of Emergency Relief Aid.** *Humanitarianism in Question: Politics, Power, Ethics*
Fearon, J. D.
edited by Barnett, M., Weiss, T. G.

Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press.2008

- **Economic Development, Insurgency, and Civil War.** *In Institutions and Economic Performance*
Fearon, J. D.
edited by Helpman, E.
Harvard University Press.2008
- **Iraq's Civil War** *FOREIGN AFFAIRS*
Fearon, J. D.
2007; 86 (2): 2-15
- **Ethnic minority rule and Civil War onset** *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
Fearon, J. D., Kasara, K., Laitin, D. D.
2007; 101 (1): 187-193
- **Reforming International Institutions to Promote International Peace and Security** *Peace and Security*
Fearon, J. D.
2006
- **Ethnic Mobilization and Ethnic Violence.** *Oxford Handbook of Political Economy*
Fearon, J. D.
edited by Weingast, B. R., Wittman, D.
Oxford: Oxford University Press.2006
- **Primary commodity exports and civil war** *JOURNAL OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION*
Fearon, J. D.
2005; 49 (4): 483-507
- **Comments of the Report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change** *Reforming the United Nations for Peace and Security, Proceedings of a Workshop to Analyze the Report of the High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges, and Change*
Fearon, J. D.
New Haven, CT: Yale Center for the Study of Globalization.2005
- **Separatist wars, partition, and world order** *Conference on EthnoNational Conflicts*
Fearon, J. D.
ROUTLEDGE JOURNALS, TAYLOR & FRANCIS LTD.2004: 394-415
- **Why do some civil wars last so much longer than others?** *JOURNAL OF PEACE RESEARCH*
Fearon, J. D.
2004; 41 (3): 275-301
- **Neotrusteeship and the problem of weak states** *INTERNATIONAL SECURITY*
Fearon, J. D., Laitin, D. D.
2004; 28 (4): 5-43
- **Two Questions about Ethnicity and Nationalism: Explaining Motivations versus Explaining Variation** *The Evolution of Political Knowledge: Democracy, Autonomy, and Conflict in Comparative and International Politics*
Fearon, J. D.
Ohio State University Press .2004
- **Ethnic and cultural diversity by country** *Annual Meeting of the American-Political-Science-Association/Western-Political-Science-Association*
Fearon, J. D.
SPRINGER.2003: 195-222
- **Ethnicity, insurgency, and civil war** *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
Fearon, J. D., Laitin, D. D.
2003; 97 (1): 75-90
- **Selection effects and deterrence** *INTERNATIONAL INTERACTIONS*
Fearon, J. D.

2002; 28 (1): 5-29

- **Rationalism and Constructivism in International Relations Theory** *Rationalism and Constructivism in International Relations Theory*
Fearon, J. D., Wendt, A.
Sage Publications .2002
- **Violence and the social construction of ethnic identity** *INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION*
Fearon, J. D., Laitin, D. D.
2000; 54 (4): 845-877
- **Electoral Accountability and the Control of Politicians: Selecting Good Types versus Sanctioning Poor Performance** *Democracy, Accountability, and Representation*
Fearon, J. D.
edited by Manin, B., Przeworski, A.
Cambridge University Press .1999
- **Bargaining, enforcement, and international cooperation** *INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION*
Fearon, J. D.
1998; 52 (2): 269-?
- **Deliberation as Discussion** *Deliberative Democracy*
Fearon, J. D.
edited by Elster, J.
Cambridge University Press .1998
- **Commitment Problems and the Spread of Ethnic Conflict** *In The International Spread of Ethnic Conflict: Fear, Diffusion, and Escalation*
Fearon, J. D.
edited by Lake, D., Rothchild, D.
Princeton: Princeton University Press.1998
- **Domestic politics, foreign policy, and theories of international relations** *ANNUAL REVIEW OF POLITICAL SCIENCE*
Fearon, J. D.
1998; 1: 289-313
- **Signaling foreign policy interests - Tying hands versus sinking costs** *JOURNAL OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION*
Fearon, J. D.
1997; 41 (1): 68-90
- **Explaining interethnic cooperation** *91st Annual Meeting of the American-Political-Science-Association*
Fearon, J. D., Laitin, D. D.
CAMBRIDGE UNIV PRESS.1996: 715-35
- **Counterfactuals and Causation in Social Science: Exploring an Analogy between Cellular Automata and Historical Processes** *Counterfactual Thought Experiments in World Politics*
Fearon, J. D.
edited by Tetlock, P., Belkin, A.
Princeton University Press .1996
- **RATIONALIST EXPLANATIONS FOR WAR** *89th Annual Meeting of the American-Political-Science-Association*
Fearon, J. D.
MIT PRESS.1995: 379-414
- **DOMESTIC POLITICAL AUDIENCES AND THE ESCALATION OF INTERNATIONAL DISPUTES** *AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE REVIEW*
Fearon, J. D.
1994; 88 (3): 577-592
- **SIGNALING VERSUS THE BALANCE OF POWER AND INTERESTS - AN EMPIRICAL-TEST OF A CRISIS BARGAINING MODEL** *JOURNAL OF CONFLICT RESOLUTION*
Fearon, J. D.
1994; 38 (2): 236-269

- **COUNTERFACTUALS AND HYPOTHESIS-TESTING IN POLITICAL-SCIENCE** *1990 ANNUAL MEETING OF THE AMERICAN POLITICAL SCIENCE ASSOC*
Fearon, J. D.
PRINCETON UNIV PRESS.1991: 169-95
- **INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND ECONOMIC-POLICY REFORM IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA** *JOURNAL OF MODERN AFRICAN STUDIES*
Fearon, J. D.
1988; 26 (1): 113-137