

# Megan M. Ryan

PhD Candidate, Political Science

University of Michigan–Ann Arbor

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## Education

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**University of Michigan, PhD Candidate, Political Science** 2016-2024 (expected)

Major field: Comparative Politics

Minor field: Methodology

Dissertation: *Remobilizing Resentment: Intrareligious Elite Polarization and Interreligious Conflict during Myanmar's Political Transition*

**Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research, Certificate** Summer 2023

Modern Difference in Difference Designs

Collecting, Classifying, and Analyzing Textual Data Using R

**University of Michigan, MA, Southeast Asian Studies** 2011-2013

Thesis: From Free Aceh to Partai Aceh: Wartime Sources of Post-conflict Electoral Success

**University of Michigan, MPH, International Health Epidemiology** 2006-2008

Thesis: The Freedom to Move: A Key Determinant of Prenatal Health Care Use in Morocco

**University of Illinois, BS, Molecular and Cellular Biology** 2002-2006

Minor: Spanish

## Fieldwork

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**United States Institute for Peace-Minerva Peace Scholar** 2019-2020

Innovations for Poverty Action, Yangon, Myanmar

**Boren Fellowship** 2012-2013

International Center for Aceh and Indian Ocean Studies, Aceh, Indonesia

**Fulbright Scholarship** 2009-2010

Universitas Gadjah Mada, Yogyakarta, Indonesia

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

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**Ryan, Megan**, Tran, Mai Van. 2022. "Democratic Backsliding Disrupted: The Role of Digitalized Resistance." *Asian Journal of Comparative Politics*.

**Ryan, Megan**, Tran, Mai Van, and Ye Htut, Swan. "Strange Bedfellows or Trusted Comrades? Digital Solidarity-building among Myanmar's Revolutionaries." *Journal of Contemporary Asia*, *Revise and Resubmit*.

## Other Publications

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**Ryan, Megan** and Darin Self. 2021 "Myanmar's Military Distrusts the Country's Ruling Party. That's Why it Staged a Coup and Detained Leaders and Activists" *The Washington Post*, February 2.

## Working Papers and Projects

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“Experimental Democrats: Military Enmeshment and Democratization in Military Regimes” *Working paper*.

“Autocrat’s Terrain? a Difference in Difference Design to Estimate the Ambivalent Effects of Internet Cuts on Regime-Dissident Contention,” with Alexander Fertig. *Working paper*.

“The limits of Disinformation: Source Credibility and Election Fraud Disinformation During Myanmar’s 2020 Election” *Working paper*.

## Conference Presentations/Guest Lectures

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“The Strength to Cooperate: State Monitoring Capacity and Militia Violence in Indonesia.” *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*. Washington, DC, 2019.

“Buddhist Chauvinism and Muslim Tolerance: Embeddedness and Religious Mobilization in New Democracies.” *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*. *Virtual*, 2020.

“Communal Conflict in Myanmar” *Guest lecture for the course The Politics and Governance of South-east Asia, University of Toronto*, 2020.

“Digital Diversion: Online Pro-military Mobilization During Myanmar’s 2020 Elections.” *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, Seattle, 2021.

“Authoritarian Successor Party Behavior and Voter Perceptions During Myanmar’s 2020 Election.” *Annual Meeting of the European Association for Southeast Asian Studies*, Paris, 2022.

“Organized Activists and Threat Framing in Nationalist Backlash: The Case of Myanmar.” *Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association*, 2022.

## Research Experience

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### **FHI 360**

Networks for Peace Lead Consultant

June 2022 - April 2023

- Led a USAID-funded study on exclusionary Buddhist protectionism (EBP) in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand with FHI360’s Networks for Peace team, and local civil society organizations.
- Developed research design, conducted a literature review, and led data collection efforts on narratives and tactics of EBP movements in Myanmar, Sri Lanka, and Thailand.
- Wrote the final report for dissemination among international organizations, CSOs, and peacebuilding experts in Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

### **Innovations for Poverty Action**

Research Consultant

Manila, Philippines

February - October 2019

- Advised on the design and implementation of a program evaluation of PAMANA, the Government of Philippines flagship development for peace program.
- Led research training for qualitative researchers engaged in case studies of different project sites.
- Co-designed the random sampling strategy for a perception survey and supervised enumerators on field visits.

### **Peace Research Institute Oslo**

Pre-Doc

Oslo, Norway

May - July 2018

- Research assistant to Professor Christian Davenport for the Costs of Contention Project

### **University of Michigan Department of Political Science**

Graduate Student Research Assistant

Ann Arbor, MI

May - August 2017

- Research assistant to Professor Noah Nathan for research project on traditional leaders and public goods distribution in Ghana.

### **The Asia Foundation**

Research Intern

Jakarta, Indonesia  
August 2012 - January 2013

- Research assistant for the Contested Corners of Asia Project

### **Teaching Experience**

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<b>Introduction to American Politics</b> Graduate Student Instructor, Fall 2017	University of Michigan–Ann Arbor
<b>Introduction to Comparative Politics</b> Graduate Student Instructor, Winter 2017	University of Michigan–Ann Arbor
<b>Short Course on Contentious Politics</b> Instructor (Canceled due to COVID)	Yangon School of Political Science

### **Extramural Awards**

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<b>Women in Southeast Asian Studies Collaborative Grant</b> <i>Compromising Democracy: Agents of Democratic Regression in Southeast Asia</i>	2021
<b>Innovations for Poverty Action Peace and Recovery Exploratory Grant</b> <i>Internet cuts and post-coup contention in Myanmar (with Alex Fertig)</i>	2021
<b>Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS)</b> <i>Advanced Indonesian</i>	2020
<b>United States Institute of Peace-Minerva Peace Scholar Fellowship</b> <i>Dissertation fieldwork in Myanmar</i>	2019
<b>Innovations for Poverty Action Peace and Recovery Exploratory Grant</b> <i>Motivation or Signal? Fear-Based Rhetoric and Anti-Muslim Violence in Myanmar</i>	2019
<b>Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS)</b> <i>Advanced Burmese</i>	2019
<b>Southeast Asia Research Group Pre-Dissertation Fellowship</b> <i>Pre-dissertation fieldwork trip to Myanmar</i>	2018
<b>Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS)</b> <i>Intermediate Burmese</i>	2018
<b>U.S. Department of State Meritorious Honor Award</b> <i>For U.S. diplomatic engagement with the Government of Burma</i>	2016
<b>National Security Education Program Boren Fellow</b> <i>Fieldwork for MA thesis</i>	2012
<b>Foreign Language Area Studies Fellowship (FLAS)</b> <i>Intermediate Indonesian</i>	2011
<b>Fulbright Scholarship</b> <i>Independent research on decentralization and health care in Indonesia</i>	2009

### **Intramural Awards**

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<b>Rackham International Research Award</b> <i>Pre-dissertation fieldwork in Myanmar</i>	2018
<b>University of Michigan Center for Political Studies Roy Pierce Scholarship</b> <i>Political connections and rebel reintegration in post-conflict Aceh (with Dr. Nahomi Ichino)</i>	2017
<b>University of Michigan Global Health Research and Training Grant</b> <i>Funding for internship at UNFPA Thailand</i>	2007

### Technical skills

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<b>Programming Languages/Tools</b>	R, L <sup>A</sup> T <sub>E</sub> X
<b>Research methodology</b>	Structured interviews, Random household sampling, Supervised and unsupervised NLP

### Language proficiencies

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<b>Spanish</b>	Advanced
<b>Indonesian</b>	Advanced
<b>Burmese</b>	Intermediate