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Dissertation Title: *Territorial Conflict and Ethnic Cleansing*

I am a Ph.D. candidate in political science at the University of Chicago and a research fellow at the Program on Order, Conflict, and Violence at Yale University. My dissertation, *Territorial Conflict and Ethnic Cleansing*, develops a theory that explains the conditions under which states decide to deport or exterminate ethnic groups living in their territory. My research demonstrates that the fundamental cause of ethnic cleansing is to be found in the territorial competition between states and/or actors aspiring to become states. My argument proceeds in four steps. First, I point to a key difference between ethnic cleavages and other prominent political cleavages such as class: the former are primarily defined by their territoriality. I contend that actors who want to unify the population in a given territory and distinguish it from outsiders will be more likely to rely on ethnicity than other politically relevant categories. Hence, when actors seeking to capture the territory of existing states wage war, they form alliances with ethnic rather than other types of groups. These alliances result in mass deportations or killings either at the beginning of wars (“anticipatory ethnic cleansing”) or in the aftermath of a failed annexation or occupation (“reactionary ethnic cleansing”).

To test my theory against the existing explanations for ethnic cleansing I have compiled an original data-set that covers the minority-state dyads in Europe between 1900 and 1950. In addition to large N analysis, I use several research methods including comparative case studies and micro-level field research. My fieldwork in Bosnia-Herzegovina has been supported by the National Science Foundation Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grant during the 2004-2006 academic years. I have also received fellowships from the Program on Order, Conflict, and Violence at Yale University, the United States Institute of Peace, and the Program on International Security Policy at the University of Chicago, and the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs at Harvard University. My general research interests include comparative state formation, civil wars, territorial conflict and its implications, church-state relations, and European history.