

Sarah CheikhAli

PhD Candidate – University of California

RESEARCH INTERESTS

War and security studies | Society and Technology studies | Human Geography | Geopolitics, and Geo-economics | International Relations | International Law | International Political Economy

EDUCATION

University of Sussex (2013-2017):

Master of Arts in International Relations [First Class with Distinction]. Focused on:
Terror and Security Studies - The Politics of Terror - The Middle East in Modern Global Order - Political Theory
Bachelor of Arts in International Relations and Development [with Honors]

University of California Santa Cruz (2018 - present)

MA in Politics [completed all coursework, passed with Honors].
Advanced to PhD Candidacy [Spring 2021]

TEACHING

At the University of California, Santa Cruz

- POLI 116: Comparative Law
with Professor Jackie Gehring
- POLI 17: US and the World Economy
With Professor Matthew Sparke
- POLI 160B: International Law
With Professor Mark F. Massoud
- POLI 105C: Contemporary Political Theory: Modernity and its Discontents
With Professor Yasmeen Daifallah
- LGST 10: Introduction to Legal Studies
With Professor Jackie Gehring
- POLI 70: Global Politics
With Professor Shawn Nichols
- POLI 60: Comparative Politics
With Professor Roger Schoenman

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Cheikhali, S. (2021). “Biomedical Delivery Drones: Problematizing the Hype,” Presented with a panel titled “Globalization, Global Health, and Human In-Security in the Time of Covid” at the International Studies Association in April, ISA 2021.

Cheikhali, S. (2021) “The Geo-economics of Drone Space,” to be presented with a panel titled “New approaches to Necropolitics amidst Covid-19” at the International Studies Association in September, ISAWest 2021.

WORKING PAPERS

The Geo-economics of Drone Space (*Thesis*)

Drone Infrastructures (*Journal Article*)

Violence in Political Theology (*Journal Article*)

GUEST LECTURES

On Political Theorists: Hannah Arendt for Dr. Daifallah’s *Political Theory: Modernity and its Discontents*. Winter 2020, UCSC.

AWARDS

Highest Ranking Master’s Research Dissertation in the University of Sussex (2017). Titled: The Transformation of War and the Hyperreality of the Human Bomb

DISSERTATION FOCUS

I am conducting research that contributes to the growing academic interest in the proliferation of drone technology in a way which brings together the debates on military warfare drones and humanitarian aid delivery drones. A common denominator between both drones that kill and drones that care is their selling point — governments contract drone provider services because they are marketed as new technologies that can overcome geographic constraints to the reach of state governance, such as natural and urban terrain, remoteness, the “problem of the last mile” or “the tyranny of distance.” However, it is my position that while these technologies market themselves as de-territorializing extensions of governing capacity, in reality, space needs to be reshaped in advance to accommodate for drone use in both conflict and humanitarian emergency settings. This respatializations is a direct effect of the neoliberalization and globalization of the global political economy. This research thus counters the common conception of the drone’s newness and its ability to overcome geography while adding another ‘condition of possibility’ to the growing body of literature that discusses the conditions of possibility of drones: physically permissive ground space.