

# Nukhet A. Sandal

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## EDUCATION

- **University of Southern California** Los Angeles, CA  
*Ph.D. Politics and International Relations* Expected 2010

– Dissertation Title: “Religious Actors as Epistemic Communities in Conflict Transformation: The Case of Northern Ireland”

The central claim of the dissertation is that in order to achieve political stability in divided societies, exclusive/vertical theologies need to be superseded by inclusive/horizontal theologies and this can only be done by the faith leaders. I apply the Epistemic Communities framework to Northern Ireland in order to place the religious actors in contemporary conflict settings and explain the process of theology replacement. As data, I use four Northern Irish Newspapers published between the years 1968-2007, 50 interviews conducted with religious leaders and civil society members in Northern Ireland as well as church documents/pamphlets.

– Committee Chair: Patrick James

- **Bilkent University** Ankara, Turkey  
*B.A. International Relations* 2004

## Other Academic Training

- **International Studies Association** New York City, NY  
*Active Learning in International Affairs Working Group* 2009
- **Arizona State University** Tempe, AZ  
*The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-method Research* 2008
- **Boston University** Boston, MA  
*The Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs* 2007  
– Religion and Economic Globalization: Intensive Summer Seminar for Professionals
- **The International Institute for Political and Economic Studies** Crete, Greece  
*The Fund for American Studies* 2004

## PUBLICATIONS

### Forthcoming

- “Religion and International Relations Theory: Towards a Mutual Understanding,” *European Journal of International Relations* (with Patrick James).

- “State Religious Exclusivity and International Crises between 1990 and 2002,” (with Jonathan Fox) in Patrick James (ed.) *Religion, Identity and Global Governance: Ideas, Evidence and Practice*, Toronto: University of Toronto Press (2009).

### Under Review

- “Religious Actors as Epistemic Communities in Conflict Transformation: The Cases of Northern Ireland and South Africa,” (resubmitted with minor revision, *Review of International Studies*).
- “Conservative Peacemakers: Center Right Parties in the Northern Irish and Cypriot Peace Processes,” (with Neophytos Loizides).
- “The Center-Right and Transformation in Greek Cypriot Politics,” (with Neophytos Loizides) in Umut Bozkurt, Sebnem Oguz, and Nicos Trimikliniotis (eds.) *Beyond a Divided Cyprus: A State and Society in Transformation*.
- “Poliheuristic Theory and Crisis Decision-making: A Comparative Analysis of Turkey with China,” (with Patrick James, Enyu Zhang and Carolyn James).

### Work in Progress

- *Religion in IR Theory: Concepts, Tools, and Debates* (with Jonathan Fox), book manuscript.
- “Representation in Tradition: Public Theologies of Governance in Catholicism and Shi’a Islam.”
- “Back to the Scripture: Knowledge Production and Dissemination in Evangelical Christianity.”
- “Battle of Holy Discourses: Language and Knowledge Production in the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict.”
- “Holding the Sacred Accountable: The Effect of Government Involvement in Religion on Media Freedom,” (with Jenifer Whitten-Woodring).

## ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

### Conference Presentations

- “Tradition in Practice: Theologies, Governance, and Political Violence.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *International Studies Association-West (ISA-West)*, San Francisco, CA, 2009.
- “Conservative Peacemakers: Center Right Parties in the Northern Irish and Cypriot Peace Processes.” (with Neophytos Loizides) Presented at the annual meeting of the *American Political Science Association (APSA)*, Toronto, Canada, 2009.
- “The Politics of Ethnoreligious Conflict and Conciliation: The Case of Northern Ireland.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *International Studies Association (ISA)*, New York City, NY, 2009.
- “Religion and International Relations Theory: Towards a Mutual Understanding.” (with Patrick James) Presented at the annual meeting of the *International Studies Association (ISA)*, New York City, NY, 2009.
- “Emerging Epistemic Communities: Integrating Religious Actors into IR Theory.” Presented at the annual meeting of the *International Studies Association-West (ISA-West)*, San Francisco, CA, 2008.

- “State Religious Exclusivity and International Crises between 1990 and 2002.” (with Jonathan Fox) Invited paper presented at the *Religion, Identity and Global Governance Conference*, Los Angeles, CA, 2007.
- “Poliheuristic Theory and Crisis Decision-making: A Comparative Analysis of Turkey with China.” (with Patrick James, Enyu Zhang and Carolyn James) Presented at the annual meeting of the *International Studies Association (ISA)*, San Diego, CA, 2006.
- “The War on Terror in Southeast Asia: Hopes, Expectations and Reality.” Presented at *The East-West Center Graduate Student Conference*, Hawaii, 2005.
- “The European Union’s ”CFSP” Towards the Middle East.” Presented at *UCLA Graduate Student Conference on the Political Change in the E.U.*, Los Angeles, CA, 2005.

### Invited Lectures & Presentations

- Lecture/Seminar: “Conservative Peacemakers: Center-Right Parties in Cyprus and Northern Ireland,” Irish Studies Seminar Series, Queen’s University, Belfast, Northern Ireland, November 2009.
- Lecture: “Public Theologies in Divided Societies: The Cases of Northern Ireland and South Africa,” Center for Religion and Civic Culture, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, October 2008.
- Lecture: “Israeli-Turkish Strategic Partnership: Regional Implications and Challenges,” Pepperdine University, Malibu, CA, September 2008.
- Discussant: “Russia and Kosovo: The Nationalist Background to Realpolitik,” presentation by Robert English at the Center for International Studies, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, April 2008.
- Discussant: “Israel’s Strategic Challenges,” presentation by Efraim Inbar at the Center for International Studies, University of Southern California, Los Angeles, CA, February 2007.

## EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

### Teaching

- **California Lutheran University** Thousand Oaks, CA  
*Adjunct Lecturer* *Sept. 2009 - present*
  - Global Studies
  - International Security
  - Political Violence and Revolutions
- **University of Southern California** Los Angeles, CA  
*Teaching Assistant*
  - The International Relations of the Contemporary Middle East (Fall 2006)
  - International Relations: Introductory Analysis (Summer 2006)
  - Formulation of U.S. Foreign and Defense Policy (Spring 2006)
  - International Relations: Introductory Analysis (Fall 2005)

## Research

- **University of Southern California** Los Angeles, CA  
*Research Assistant, Near Crises Project* May 2009 - present  
– Supervising event data coding.
- **University of Southern California** Los Angeles, CA  
*Research Assistant, Religion, Identity and Global Governance Project* 2007 - 2008  
– Prepared course syllabi, developed teaching cases, organized conferences and seminars, supervised undergraduate research groups.
- **University of Southern California** Los Angeles, CA  
*Research Assistant, Supervisor: Laurie Brand* Fall 2006  
– Conducted literature review on the Christians in the Middle East and refugee issues within the context of Israeli-Palestinian conflict; collected data and conducted press review (in French and Spanish) on distance voting in Algeria and Mexico.

## PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES AND SERVICES

- Editor, Ethnicity, Nationalism and Migration Section, *International Studies Compendium* (with Patrick James and Gallya Lahav), *forthcoming*, 2009.
- Chair, Compendium Panel on Nationalism and Migration, International Studies Association (ISA) Convention, 2008.
- Contributing Editor, *Journal of Public and International Affairs*, Woodrow Wilson School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, 2007.
- Secretary, International Studies Association, Ethnicity, Nationalism and Migration Section, 2008-2009.
- Communications Chair, International Studies Association, Ethnicity, Nationalism and Migration Section, 2007-2010.
- President, USC Politics and International Relations Graduate Student Association, 2006-2007.

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND HONORS

- ISA Travel Grant, School of International Relations, University of Southern California, 2009.
- Dissertation Fellow, Center for International Studies, University of Southern California, 2008.
- Field Research Grant, School of International Relations, University of Southern California, Summer 2008.
- Advanced Language Training (Arabic) Grant, School of International Relations, University of Southern California, Summer 2006.
- Conference Travel Grant, Graduate and Professional Student Senate, University of Southern California, 2005.

- First Year Fellowship, School of International Relations, University of Southern California, 2004.
- Graduated with High Honors (GPA: 3.99/4.00), Department of International Relations, Bilkent University, Ankara, Turkey, 2004.

## SKILLS

**Languages:** Turkish(native), French, Spanish, Arabic and Hebrew (all five languages are operational on the academic research level).

**Computer Languages and Software:** Proficient in STATA, SPSS, MATLAB and LaTeX.

## REFERENCES

- **Prof. Patrick James** (Dissertation Committee Chair)  
 Director, Center for International Studies  
 University of Southern California  
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 Social Sciences Building B2B  
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- **Prof. Laurie Brand**  
 School of International Relations  
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 Von KleinSmid Center, 330  
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 Web: <http://www.usc.edu/dept/LAS/ir/faculty/g-brand.htm>
- **Assoc. Prof. Jonathan Fox**  
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 Ramat Gan, Israel  
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