

Sarah Cheikhali, PhD

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 - 2023)

PhD in Politics. Dissertation title: Drone Territories: On the Spatial Politics of Military and Humanitarian Drones

PUBLICATIONS

Cheikhali, S. (2025). Making space for healthcare delivery by drone in Ghana: A case study. *Human Geography*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/19427786251347699>

Cheikhali, S. (2025). "From High-Footprint to Low-Footprint Intervention in US Counterterrorism Strategy: What Changed?" *Annals of the American Association of Geographers (RAAG)*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/24694452.2025.2476088>

Cheikhali, S., Higazy, I., Howard, M., McLaughlin, H., Segura-Ballar, G., Sparke, M., & Vitale, L. (2024). "Alternative Archives: Researching Politics with Chunks of Reality." *Politics*, 0(0). <https://doi.org/10.1177/02633957241292492>

Cheikhali, S. (2023). The spatial antecedents for drone governance in Afghanistan. *Human Geography*, 16(2), 117-129.

Cheikhali, S. (2023). The spatial politics of military and humanitarian governance by drone. *Dissertation*.

CONFERENCE PAPERS

Cheikhali, S. (April 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. (September 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

Introduction to Globalization 2.0: Ties, Tensions, and Uneven Integration (*Co-authoring 2nd Edition of Textbook, original by Matthew Sparke*)

Drone Infrastructures (*Submitted 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

The Institute of Human Geography’s Editors Choice Awards: Best Paper by Early Career Academic

TEACHING

Lecturer At the University of Santa Clara (2022-2023)

- POLI 125: International Law
- POLI 125: International Law (asynchronous summer online course)
- POLI 124: Law, Security, and Force
- POLI 1: Introduction to US Politics
- POLI 99: Intro to Poli Research / Qualitative Methods

TA At the University of California, Santa Cruz (2018 – 2022t)

- POLI 116: Comparative Law (recurring)
- POLI 17: US and the World Economy
- POLI 160B: International Law (recurring)
- POLI 105C: Contemporary Political Theory: Modernity and its Discontents
- LGST 10: Introduction to Legal Studies (recurring)
- POLI 70: Global Politics
- POLI 60: Comparative Politics