



# JONATHAN LUKE AUSTIN

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## PROFILE

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Jonathan Luke Austin is a political sociologist and Lead Researcher for the Violence Prevention (VIPRE) Initiative at the Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding of the Graduate Institute, Geneva. His research agenda is focused around the ontologies of political violence, the relationships between technology, ergonomic design and world politics, the political status of aesthetics, and the state of critique in contemporary social science. Alongside these foci, Austin also possesses a decade of research and field experience on/in the Middle East (Syria, Lebanon, Iraq, Palestine, Jordan, Turkey) and regularly consults for NGOs and the media on ongoing conflicts. Austin's work has been published in leading journals including European Journal of International Relations, International Political Sociology, Security Dialogue, Review of International Studies, European Journal of International Security and beyond.

## POSITIONS

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- 2017 – *Present*    **Lead Researcher & Designer**  
The Violence Prevention (VIPRE) Initiative, Geneva | [www.vipre.ch](http://www.vipre.ch)
- 2019 – 2019    **Visiting Fellow**  
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro.
- 2018 – 2018    **Visiting Fellow**  
Centre for International Policy Studies (CIPS), University of Ottawa.
- 2016 – 2017    **Researcher**  
Centre on Conflict, Development and Peacebuilding (CCDP).  
The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.
- 2015 – 2016    **Visiting Scholar**  
Centre for the Resolution of International Conflicts (CRIC).  
The University of Copenhagen.
- 2014 – 2015    **Research Affiliate**  
The Orient-Institut Beirut (OIB), Lebanon.

## EDUCATION

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- 2013 – 2017    **PhD International Relations and Political Science** (*Summa cum laude avec les félicitations du jury*)  
The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.
- 2011 – 2013    **MA International Relations and Political Science**  
The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.
- 2008 – 2011    **BA (Hons) Arabic and International Relations (1<sup>st</sup>)**  
The University of St Andrews, United Kingdom.

## PUBLICATIONS

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### MONOGRAPHS

- TBC     **Small Worlds of Violence: *A global grammar for torture.***  
*Manuscript in preparation for submission to University of Minnesota Press.*
- 2019     **Fabricating Critique and Guevarian Ontologies**  
*Manuscript solicited for Cambridge University Press Elements Series.*

### PEER REVIEWED ARTICLES

- 2019     **Towards an International Political Ergonomics**  
European Journal of International Relations, *revise and resubmit.*
- 2019     **Doing and Mediating Critique: An Invitation to Practice Companionship**  
Security Dialogue, 50 (1), with Rocco Bellanova and Mareile Kaufmann.
- 2019     **Security Compositions**  
European Journal of International Security, 4 (2).
- 2019     **Composing the International**  
International Political Sociology, *Forthcoming.*
- 2018     **A Parasitic Critique for IR**  
International Political Sociology, *in press*, DOI: <http://10.1093/ips/oly032>.
- 2018     **(De)Securitization Dilemmas: *The Simultaneous Enaction of Securitisation & Desecuritisation***  
Review of International Studies, 44 (2).
- 2017     ***We have never been civilised: Torture and the Materiality of World Political Binaries***  
European Journal of International Relations, 23 (1): 49-73.
- 2017     **The Political Economy of Business Engagement in Violence Prevention**  
*Conflict, Security & Development*, 17 (6).
- 2017     **Becoming a Torturer: *Towards a Global Ergonomics of Care***  
International Review of the Red Cross, 98 (903).
- 2016     **Torture and the Material-Semiotic Networks of Violence Across Borders**  
International Political Sociology, 10 (1): 3-21.
- 2012     **Facebook and Fanatics: Islam and the Arab Revolutions**  
Regulating Religion, Summer 2012.

### BOOK CHAPTERS

- 2020     **Why Perpetrators Matter**  
In *Torture*, Land, T., Faye, D. & Cox, R. (Eds.), Washington D.C.: Georgetown University Press.
- 2020     **Accessing Lifeworlds: *Getting people to say the unsayable***  
In *Secrecy and Methodology in Critical Security Research*, de Goede, M. & Pallister-Wilkins, P. (Eds.), London: Routledge.
- 2019     **International Practice Theory: *Its Promises and Futures***  
In *Metodologia e Relações Internacionais: Debates Contemporâneos (Methodology and International Relations: Contemporary Debates)*, Rio de Janeiro: PUC-Rio.

- 2019 **Popular Culture and the Elicitation of Practice**  
In *How to do Popular Culture in International Relations*, Salter, Mark. & Yao, Sandra. (Eds). London: Routledge.
- 2019 **Posthumanism and Perpetrators**  
Accepted in *Routledge Handbook of Perpetrator Studies*, Knittel, S. & Goldner, Z. (Eds.). London: Routledge.
- 2019 **Visibility: Practices of Seeing and Overlooking**, with Anna Leander.  
In *Mapping International Practices*, Bueger C., Drieschova, A., and Hopf, T. (Eds), Cambridge: Cambridge University Press
- 2018 **Meaning Making and the Grammar of the City**, with Oliver Jütersonke.  
In *Sustaining Peace in the City: New Perspectives on Urban Safety and Peacebuilding*, Wennmann, A. (Ed), London: Routledge.

## EDITED BOOKS

- TBC **Post-Critical IR? Groundwork for a future**  
*Manuscript in preparation for submission.*  
*Contributors including:* Christian Bueger, Anna Leander, Mareike De Goede, Audra Mitchell, Jef Huysmans, Joao Nogueira, Keith Krause, Vincent Pouliot, Michael C. Williams, Claudia Aradau and Ole Waever. See [www.post-critical.com](http://www.post-critical.com).
- TBC **World Political Compositions: Making sense of the International (with Anna Leander)**  
*Manuscript in preparation for submission.*  
Contributors including: Roland Bleiker, Naeem Inayatullah, Aida Hozic, L.H.M Ling, Charlotte Epstein, Arlene B. Tickner, Anna Leander, Michele Acuto, Sally Butler, Elisabetta Brighi, and Elspeth Van Veen. See [www.worldpoliticalcompositions.com](http://www.worldpoliticalcompositions.com).
- TBC **Doing Visual IR: Methods, Power, and Politics (with Stéphanie Perazzone)**  
Contributors including Lene Hansen Roland Bleiker, Juha Vuori, William Callahan, Francesco Ragazzi, Manni Crone, Rune Saugmann and David Shim.

## OTHER WRITING

- 2017 **The Germination of Abusive Violence and its Restraint**  
Geneva: The Violence Prevention Initiative.
- 2017 **The Private Sector and Violence Prevention in Kenya, 2007-2013**  
Commissioned for the United Nations and World Bank, *Preventing Violent Conflict, a UN-World Bank Group Study*, World Bank Group Chief Technical Specialist Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group, Geneva.
- 2017 **The Private Sector and Violence Prevention in Kenya, 2007-2013**  
Commissioned for the project 'The Business Community as a Peacebuilding Actor' undertaken by CDA Collaborative Learning, the Africa Centre for Dispute Settlement (ACDS), and the Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), with Achim Wennmann.
- 2016 **Understanding the Grammar of the City: A semiotic perspective of the urban safety-peacebuilding nexus**  
Geneva Peacebuilding Platform White Paper Series, for the *Technical Working Group on the Confluence of Urban Safety and Peacebuilding Practice*, UN Habitat. With Oliver Jütersonke.
- 2011 **Hamas and the Peace Process: Resistance, Rejectionism, Reconciliation?**  
Centre for Peace and Conflict Studies, The University of St Andrews.

## IN P R O G R E S S

- R & R.      **Popular Culture and the Elicitation of Practice**  
Revise and resubmit at *International Studies Review*.
- Solicited*      **The Scars of the World: A Portrait of Joy, Violence, and Martial Fracturing**  
*Solicited for special issue on 'Becoming War' at Security Dialogue.*
- Under review*      **Post-Critical IR?**  
*Under Review*
- Under review*      **Violence in Action: The Local Ordering of War Crimes**  
*Under Review*
- In progress*      **Sublime Insecurities and World Politics** (with Anna Leander)  
*In progress, presented at KCL London (18.06.18), Marburg University (05.10.17).*
- In progress*      **(De)Composing the Californian Aesthetic** (with Anna Leander)  
*In progress, presented at ICI-Berlin (16.11.2018).*

## GRANTS & FUNDING RECEIVED

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Dates	Amount	Project Title / Funding Details
<i>In preparation.</i>	2.55 million CHF	<p><b>Violence Prevention Technology (VIPRE-Tech): A new agenda for bridging social and natural scientific societal impact on human rights enforcement</b></p> <p>In preparation for submission to the BRIDGE Discovery Programme, Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF), (16<sup>th</sup> February 2019).</p>
<i>In preparation.</i>	295,000 CHF	<p><b>Autonomous Abuse in Detention Detection and Recoding (ADDER)</b></p> <p>In preparation for submission to the Swiss Network for International Studies (SNIS) research funding scheme (16<sup>th</sup> January 2019).</p>
2017 - 2021	1,070,688 CHF	<p><b>Violence Prevention (VIPRE): Towards a Material-Semiotic Approach to the Prevention of Violent Human Rights Abuses</b></p> <p>The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF). With Keith Krause, Anna Leander &amp; Riccardo Bocco.</p> <p><i>Project conceived and designed by Jonathan Luke Austin as Lead Researcher. Project and proposal based on Austin's earlier work. Participants &amp; partners for project recruited by Austin. Full grant proposal written by Austin.</i></p> <p>Project platform: <a href="http://www.vipre.ch">www.vipre.ch</a>.</p>
2017-2019 <i>Declined.</i>	105,750 CHF	<p><b>Preventing Violent Human Rights Abuses through the Material-Semiotic Analysis of Military Training Regimes</b></p> <p>The Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF).</p>
2015-2016	19,950 CHF	<p><b>Transnational Fields of Torture</b></p> <p>Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Researcher Mobility Grant.</p>
2014-2016	126,000 CHF	<p><b>Transnational Fields of Torture</b></p> <p>Swiss National Science Foundation (SNSF) Research Grant.</p>
2013-2014	45,000 CHF	<p><b>Teaching Assistant Fellowship</b></p> <p>The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.</p>
2013-2014 <i>Declined.</i>	23,000 CHF	<p><b>Full Scholarship</b></p> <p>The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.</p>
2011-2013	46,000 CHF	<p><b>Full Scholarship (x2)</b></p> <p>The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.</p>
2010	1,800 GBP	<p><b>Research Stipend Award</b></p> <p>The University of St Andrews.</p>
<b>Total Awards Received</b>	~ <b>1,500,000</b> USD	

## PUBLIC IMPACT

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### MEDIA & OUTREACH

- 2012 – Present *Dozens of (on and off the record) interviews with international media on on-going Syrian conflict and human rights violations (torture; ethnic divisions; targeting of civilians) therein.*
- 2017 – 2018 **Guest Blogger: *The Duck of Minerva***  
*Invited guest blogger for the leading International Relations blog *The Duck of Minerva*.*
- 2018 **Research Profile: *Jet d'Encre***  
*Research interview published in [French and English](#).*
- 2017 **International Geneva - Faces of Peace**  
***Genève Internationale – Visages de la Paix***  
*Research and practice profile for Swiss and International Peacebuilding communities.*  
**Available [in English](#) or/ou [en Français](#).**

### PRESENTATIONS & TALKS

- 09.11.2017 **Designing Against Evil: *Breakthroughs in Violence Prevention***  
Geneva Peacebuilding Week, Geneva.
- 13.04.2017 **The Germination of Abusive Violence and its Restraint**  
International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva.
- 10.03.2016 **A Portrait of the Syrian Torturer**  
Danish Institute Against Torture (DIGNITY), Copenhagen.
- 03.10.2016 **A Portrait of the Syrian Torturer**  
Swedish Red Cross Center for Persons affected by War and Torture, Malmö, Sweden.
- 07.11.2015 **Who are the torturers?**  
International Committee of the Red Cross, Geneva.

### EXPERT CONSULTING

- 2018 **Security Coffee Meeting**  
Czech Diplomatic Consultation, Institute for International Relations (IIR) Prague.
- 2017 – **Expert Pool Member (NKE), *European Union***  
*Building National Stability in Lebanon Programme; European Union Neighbourhood Policy (ENP)*
- 2016 **Expert Consultant, *United Nations & World Bank***  
*United Nations and World Bank project on *Preventing Violent Conflict, a UN-World Bank Group Study, World Bank Group Chief Technical Specialist Fragility, Conflict and Violence Group, Geneva.**
- 2016 **Expert Consultant, UN-Habitat**  
*Technical Working Group on the Confluence of Urban Safety and Peacebuilding Practice, UN Habitat.*

## WORKSHOPS & CONFERENCES ORGANIZED

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- 06.2019      **Politics Beyond Technology: *Fabricating a Future***  
Geneva and Beirut, Lebanon.
- 06.2019      **Post-Critical IR? *Groundwork for a future***  
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro.
- 09.11.2017    **Doing Visual IR**  
European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS), European International Studies Association (EISA), Groningen, NL.
- 12-15.09.2018    **Post-Critical IR? *Hope for changing the world political***  
Section convenor, 12<sup>th</sup> Pan-European Conference in International Relations, Prague, European International Studies Association (EISA).
- 03.04.2018    **World Political Compositions: *Making Sense of the International***  
San Francisco, 2018.
- 05.2018      **Designing Against Evil: *Breakthroughs in Violence Prevention***  
Geneva Peacebuilding Week, Geneva. In collaboration with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).
- 14-16.03.2018    **Post-Critical International Relations: *How to change the world political***  
*International workshop organized at the Centre for the Resolution of International Conflicts (CRIC) at the University of Copenhagen.*
- 05.05.2016    **New Perspectives on Violence**  
*International seminar series organized at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, in collaboration with the Danish Institute Against Torture (DIGNITY).*

## INVITED ACADEMIC TALKS

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- 25.03.2019    **Security Dialogue *Horizon Scan* Workshop**  
The University of Toronto.
- 06.12.2018    **Towards an International Political Ergonomics**  
Centre for International Police Studies (CIPS), University of Ottawa.
- 21.11.2018    **Prison Segregation Policy**  
The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.
- 16.11.2018    **(De)Composing the Californian Aesthetic (with Anna Leander)**  
Institute for Cultural Inquiry (ICI) Berlin.
- 05.11.2018    **InterZone**  
EISA Exploratory Symposium, Rapallo, Italy.
- 18.06.2018    **The State of the Sublime (with Anna Leander).**  
Language and Everyday (In)Securitisation Workshop, Kings College London (KCL).
- 15.06.2018    **Post-Epistemic Critique and Practice Theory**  
New International Relations Theory (NIRT) Workshop at the Graduate Institute, Geneva.
- 24.05.2018    **A Portrait of the Syrian Torturer**  
Institute for International Relations, Prague.

- 15.04.2018 **The Scars of the World**  
International Studies Association Catalytic Workshop, San Francisco (*attendance declined*).
- 03.04.2018 **Towards an International Political Ergonomics**  
The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.
- 21.11.2017 **Normative Reserves and their Practice**  
New International Relations Theory (NIRT) Workshop at the University of Hamburg.
- 16.11.2017 **Torture Agenda Scoping Meeting**  
The University of St Andrews.
- 05.10.2017 **Visibility, Aesthetics, and the International**, with Anna Leander.  
*Localizing Global Security Workshop*, Dynamics of Security Centre, University of Marburg.
- 21.02.2017 **Visibility: Practices of Seeing and Overlooking**, with Anna Leander.  
International Studies Association Catalytic Workshop, Baltimore.
- 15.10.2016 **Visibility: Practices of Seeing and Overlooking**, with Anna Leander.  
The University of Cardiff, Mapping International Practices Workshop.
- 31.05.2016 **The Sentimentality of Evil: Torture and Biopolitics from Below**  
Copenhagen Business School (CBS).
- 20.04.2016 **Transnational Fields of Torture**  
Centre for Advanced Security Studies (CAST) at University of Copenhagen.
- 25.01.2016 **Visual Knowledge and Osmotic Pedagogies of Violence**  
Centre for the Resolution of International Conflicts (CRIC), University of Copenhagen.
- 14.12.2015 **Transnational Fields of Torture**  
Centre for the Resolution of International Conflicts (CRIC), University of Copenhagen.
- 19.08.2015 **Being-Mutamash and Being-at-peace: Virtual transformations of the Middle Eastern literary milieu**  
Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO).
- 10.03.2015 **Learning & Forgetting Violence: Cinema and the Visual Circulation of Atrocity** The Orient-Institut Beirut, Lebanon.
- 31.03.2015 **The Globalization of Evil: Torture and Social Theory**  
The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva
- 27.02.2015 **The Visual Inscription and Circulation of the Standing-Reserve of Violence**  
International Studies Association (ISA) Venture Research Grant Workshop.
- 13.01.2015 **Visual Breaching Emotions in the Field: Totem, Tattoo, & Hezbollah**  
Centre for the Resolution of International Conflicts (CRIC), University of Copenhagen.
- 26.03.2014 **Hot Tea with Sugar and the Translation(s) of Torture** (see [cast.ku.dk](http://cast.ku.dk))  
Centre for Advanced Security Studies (CAST), University of Copenhagen.



## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

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*(P)aper, (C)hair, (D)iscussant, (R)oundtable*

- 2019 SPSA (P, D), ISA (P, P, C, D, R).  
2018 SPSA (P, D), ISA (P, P, C, D, R), EISA (P, P, P, C, R).  
2017 ISA (P, P, P), EISA (P, P, P, P).  
2016 ISA (P, P), EISA (P).  
2015 ISA (P, P), EISA (P, D).  
2014 ISA (P, P, D).  
2013 SPSA (P), EISA (P), Millennium (P).

SPSA = *Swiss Political Science Association*

ISA = *International Studies Association*

EISA = *European International Studies Association*

## CLASSES TAUGHT

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- 2018 **Visual Global (In)Security**  
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.
- 2018 **Qualitative Methods in International Relations and Political Science**  
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.
- 2018 **Making Fieldwork Work**  
Institute for International Relations (IIR) Prague.
- 2017 **The Practice Turn and World Politics: *Seeing the International Differently***  
Pontifical Catholic University of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 2017 **Violence, Memory and Cinema: Comparative Perspectives**  
Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.
- 2015/2016 **Political Violence and Social Theory**  
The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.
- 2013/2014 **Teaching Assistant**  
The Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.
- Research Design and Qualitative Method; Political Economy of Development; Negotiation and Regulation; Humanitarian Intervention & Responsibility to Protect; Water Management: Global Theories.

## SUPERVISION

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- 2017-2021 **Violence Prevention (VIPRE) Initiative PhD Candidates**  
Ms. Alice Baroni (Political Science), 2017-2021;  
Mr. Basil Farraj (Sociology and Anthropology), 2017-2021.

## ACADEMIC PRIZES

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2017	<b>Winner, Best Paper in International Political Sociology Award</b> International Studies Association (ISA).
2015	<b>Nominee and Commendation Arditi Prize in International Relations</b> Nominee of International Relations faculty at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva, for best masters thesis in International Relations.
2011	<b>Nisbet Prize</b> First in Graduating Class, University of St Andrews.
2011	<b>Professor Paul Wilkinson Prize</b> First in International Relations Class, University of St Andrews.
2011	<b>Honeyman Foundation Prize</b> First in Arabic Class, University of St Andrews.
2007 – 2011	<b>Dean's List Award for Academic Excellence</b> Four awards, University of St Andrews.

## SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES

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<i>Conference Organisation</i>	Regular organiser of panels at the International Studies Association (ISA) annual meeting, the European International Studies Association (EISA) annual meeting and workshops at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies, Geneva.
<i>Manuscript reviewer</i>	International Political Sociology; Journal of International Relations and Development; Millennium: Journal of International Studies; Small Arms Survey; European Journal of International Security; Review of International Studies.
<i>Boards</i>	<i>New Perspectives</i> , Associate Editor. <i>Contexto Internacional</i> : Journal of Global Connections (Brazil, ComsTeam), 2016-2019.
<i>Sections</i>	Communications Officer, International Studies Association (ISA) Section on Science, Technology, and Art in International Relations (STAIR). <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• Creator and lead editor for section website (<a href="http://www.stair-isa.com">www.stair-isa.com</a>);</li><li>• Raised <i>Twitter</i> account follower numbers from ~100 to + 1,000;</li><li>• Curator of online syllabi and lecture databases;</li><li>• Developed new 'travel cost sharing' initiative for ISA members.</li></ul>
<i>Member</i>	International Studies Association (ISA), European International Studies Association (EISA), Swiss Political Science Association (SPSA), European Sociological Association (ESA).
<i>Committees</i>	Science, Technology, and Art in IR (STAIR) Best Paper Award, 2018. Science, Technology, and Art in IR (STAIR) Best Book Award, 2018.

## OTHER SKILLS

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<i>Fieldwork</i>	Beirut/Tripoli, Lebanon (~12 months); Ramallah, Palestinian territories (~18 months); Erbil/Mosul, Iraq (~3 months); Amman, Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan (~2 months); Damascus, Syrian Arabic Republic (~12 months).
<i>Programming</i>	Advanced STATA   R   HTML   C++   C#   Python   Java   MathLab.

<b><i>Software</i></b>	Advanced Mac OS X   Microsoft Windows   Linux (Various)   Adobe Photoshop & Illustrator   NVivo   Pajek   LaTeX   QGIS   Final Cut Pro   AutoCAD.
<b><i>Languages</i></b>	English [ L1   Native ]   Standard Arabic (الفصحى) [ C2 ]   Levantine and Iraqi Arabic (شامي و فراتي) [ C2 ]   French [ B2 - C1 ]   Russian [A2]   Kurdish (Kurmanji) [A2].
<b><i>Photography</i></b>	Professional photographic services provided for ( <i>inter alia</i> ) Reuters, APF, Defence for Children International, German International Development Corporation (GIZ).

## REFERENCES

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*Available on request.*