

EDUCATION

2017	PhD, Princeton University, Department of Near Eastern studies
2014	MA, Princeton University, Department of Near Eastern studies
2006	MA, University of Arizona, Department of Near Eastern studies
2001	BA, Hastings College, Department of History

EMPLOYMENT

2020-	Non-resident Fellow, The Brookings Institution
2019-	Non-resident Fellow, The Sana'a Center for Strategic Studies
2019	Lead Writer, Syria Study Group – United States Institute of Peace (USIP)
2019	Adjunct Professor, Georgetown University
2018	Resident Scholar for Counterterrorism, The Arabia Foundation
2018	Consultant, Task Force on Extremism in Fragile States – USIP
2016-2018	Yemen Panel of Experts, United Nations Security Council
2014-2015	Writer-at-Large, BuzzFeed
2013-2014	Michael Hastings National Security Reporting Fellow, BuzzFeed

PUBLICATIONS

Book

2012/2014	<i>The Last Refuge: Yemen, al-Qaeda, and America's War in Arabia</i> , WW Norton (US), Oneworld (UK), Scribe (Aus/NZ). The book has been subsequently translated into Arabic and Chinese.
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Peer-Reviewed Articles

In-progress	"A Broadsword Not a Scalpel: How Targeted Sanctions Disrupt the Political Marketplace and Prolong Wars," with Benjamin Spatz
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Journal Articles and Reviews

2012	"A Profile of AQAP's Upper Echelon," <i>CTC Sentinel</i> , Vol. 5 No. 7.
2011	"The Impact of Bin Ladin's Death on AQAP in Yemen," <i>CTC Sentinel</i> , Special Issue.
2010	"AQAP in Yemen and the Christmas Day Terrorist Attack," <i>CTC Sentinel</i> , Special Yemen Issue.
2009	"The Expansion Strategy of al-Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula," <i>CTC Sentinel</i> , Vol. 2 No. 9.
2008	"The Dilemma of the Yemeni Detainees at Guantanamo Bay," <i>CTC Sentinel</i> , Vol. 1 No. 12, with Christopher Boucek.
2008	"Assessing the Strength of al-Qa'ida in Yemen," <i>CTC Sentinel</i> , Vol. 1 No. 10.
2008	"Al-Qa'ida in Yemen's 2008 Campaign," <i>CTC Sentinel</i> , Vol. 1 No. 5.

- 2007 "Securing Yemen's Cooperation in the Second Phase of the War on al-Qa'ida," *CTC Sentinel* Vol. 1, No. 1, 14-15.
- 2007 Review of the film "The Judge and the Fanatic: Koranic Duels Against Terror" in *Middle East Studies Association Bulletin*, Vol. XLI No. 1.
- 2005 "Interview with Qadi Isma'il al-Akwa," *Yemen Update*, with Kamal Ali al-Hijri.
- 2004 Review of "They Die Strangers," by Muhammad Abd al-Wali trans. Bagader and Akers, in *Arab Studies Journal*.

Other Selected Articles

- 2020 "Khalid Batarfi and the Future of AQAP," *Lamfare*, March 22.
- 2019 "The UN and Yemen: The Need for Precisely Guided Diplomacy," *The Sana'a Center*, May 18.
- 2019 "Trump and Counterterrorism in Yemen: The First Two Years," *The Sana'a Center*, February 27.
- 2018 "A Roadmap for the Yemen Peace Talks," *The Century Foundation*, December 19.
- 2018 "The Two Faces of al-Qaeda," *War on the Rocks*, October 11.
- 2018 "Yemen's Three Wars," *Lamfare*, September 23.
- 2018 "The Sentence that Enabled Our Endless War Turns 17 Today," *BuzzFeed*, September 14.
- 2018 "It's Time To Stop Talking About Terrorists as if They're Diabolical Geniuses," *The Atlantic*, August 25.
- 2018 "al-Qaeda and ISIS are on Their Heels in Yemen," *Just Security*, August 7.
- 2016 "The Rise of ISIS," *Great Decisions 2016*, Foreign Policy Association.
- 2015 The Untouchable John Brennan," *BuzzFeed*, April 26.
- 2014 "How I Escaped a Kidnapping in Yemen," *BuzzFeed*, November 16.
- 2014 "Nothing Says Sorry Our Drones Hit Your Wedding Party like \$800,000 and Some Guns," *BuzzFeed*, August 8.
- 2014 "The Benghazi that Wasn't," *BuzzFeed*, May 23.
- 2014 "60 Words and a War Without End: The Untold Story of the Most Dangerous Sentence in US History," *BuzzFeed*, January 17.
- 2011 "Resetting US Policy Toward Yemen," *Council on Foreign Relations, Policy Innovation Memorandum No. 8*, September.
- 2011 "See ya, Saleh" *Foreign Policy*, March 23.
- 2010 "Ignoring Yemen at Our Peril," *Foreign Policy*, October 31.
- 2009 "Waning Vigilance: Al-Qaeda's Resurgence in Yemen," Washington Institute for Near East Policy, Policy Watch #1551, July 14.
- 2009 "How Not to Solve Guantanamo," *The American Interest*, July-August, 117-120.
- 2009 "Yemen: Electoral Game of Chicken," *Arab Reform Bulletin*, Vol 7 No. 1 February.
- 2009 "Al-Qaeda's Grip On Yemen," *Jane's Terrorism and Security Monitor*, January 6.
- 2007 "Yemen: Empty Reforms Slow bid to Join GCC," *Arab Reform Bulletin*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Vol 5. No. 1.
- 2006 "Well Gone Dry: A Letter from Sana'a," *The American Interest*, Vol. 2 No. 2. November/December, 131-139.
- 2006 "The Election Yemen was Supposed to Have," *Middle East Report Online*, October 3.
- 2006 "Yemen: Trying to Restore Reform Credentials," *Arab Reform Bulletin*, Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Vol. 4 No. 4.
- 2006 "Salih's Road to Reelection," *Middle East Report Online*, January 13.

Encyclopedia Articles

- 2008 “San’a” in *Encyclopedia of the Modern World*, New York: Oxford University Press.
2007 “Salih, Ali Abdullah,” in *Biographical Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East*, Farmington Hills, MI: Thomas Gale.
2007 “Al-Zindani, Abd al-Majid,” in *Biographical Encyclopedia of the Modern Middle East*, Farmington Hills, MI; Thomson Gale.

Op-eds and Shorter Articles

- 2020 “The End of AQAP as a Global Threat?” *The Sana’a Center*, February 29.
2019 “US Military’s Ambiguous Definition of a Legitimate Target,” *The Sana’a Center*, February 20.
2018 “No Clean Hands: Reaction and Counter-Reaction in the Iranian-Saudi Proxy War in Yemen,” *Just Security*, November 21.
2018 “Assault on Yemen’s Hudaydah Would be Catastrophic,” *New York Times*, June 12.
2013 “How to Beat al-Qaeda in Yemen,” *Bloomberg*, August 15.
2012 “The Wrong Man for the CIA,” *New York Times*, November 20.
2011 “The Boss Falls. Then What?” *New York Times*, March 24.
2010 “A False Target in Yemen,” *New York Times*, November 19.
2010 “Don’t Assassinate the Dangerous Cleric al-Awlaki,” *Newsweek*, April 13.
2007 “Al-Qaeda’s Generational Split,” *The Boston Globe*, November 9.
2004 “Arabs glued to TV News – but not US-sponsored al-Hurra,” *Christian Science Monitor*, March 30.

FELLOWSHIPS

- 2011-2012 William Rea Fellowship, Princeton University
2010-2011 Fulbright-Hays Fellowship, Egypt
2007-2012 University Fellowship, Princeton University
2006 David R. Schweisberg Memorial Scholarship, Overseas Press Club Foundation
2005-2006 Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, University of Arizona
2005 American Institute for Yemeni Studies Fellowship, Yemen
2004-2005 Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, University of Arizona
2003-2004 Fulbright Fellowship, Yemen

AWARDS

- 2015 Peabody Award, “60 Words”. Collaboration with Radiolab
2015 Everett McKinley Dirksen Award for Distinguished Reporting on Congress, National Press Foundation
2015 Society for Features Journalism, First Place General Feature, “60 Words”. Collaboration with Radiolab
2015 New York Festival Best Radio Programs Grand Award, “60 Words”. Collaboration with Radiolab

- 2015 New York Press Club Radio Documentary, “60 Words”. Collaboration with Radiolab
- 2015 Press Club of Atlantic City 81st Headliner Award, First Place Radio Documentary, “60 Words”. Collaboration with Radiolab

INVITED TALKS (SELECTED)

- 2020 “AQAP, ISIS, and Armed Groups in Yemen” invited briefing to the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen, May.
- 2019 “The Strength of AQAP,” invited briefing to the Office of the Special Envoy for Yemen, December.
- 2018 “AQAP and the War in Yemen,” US Marine Corps, Camp Lejeune, July 17.
- 2015 “AQAP, ISIS, and the Ramifications of US Drone Policy,” Middlebury, January 14.
- 2014 “Yemen After the Spring,” Marine Corps University, February 28
- 2012 “AQAP’s Evolving Narrative,” National Security Agency, Fort Meade, June 28.
- 2012 “Taking back the field from AQAP,” State Department Center for Strategic Counterterrorism Communications, June 27.
- 2010 “Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula,” State Department briefing for new US Ambassador to Yemen, Gerald Feierstein, August 26.
- 2010 “Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula: An Overview,” NSA, July 26.
- 2010 “Al-Qaeda’s Strategy in the Arabian Peninsula,” NCTC Annual Conference July 23.
- 2010 “Yemen Crisis: Some Ground Truths,” Princeton University, January 13.
- 2009 “Yemen Headlined,” National Council on US-Arab Relations, December 10.
- 2009 “Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula,” National Counterterrorism Center’s Second Annual Conference, Airlie House, Virginia, August 19.
- 2009 “The Future of US-Yemeni Relations,” Yemen’s Diplomatic Institute, August 12: Sana’a, Yemen.
- 2008 Counter-Radicalisation in Yemen, UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office, London, July 7.

ROUND TABLES (SELECTED)

- 2009 Convened by: The Council on Foreign Relations, December.
- 2009 Convened by: The office of Daniel Benjamin, Coordinator for Counterterrorism, US Department of State, Army Navy Club, October.
- 2009 Convened by: The office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Strategy, September.
- 2009 Convened by: The American Enterprise Institute, July.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCES

- 2020 “Breaking Session on Yemen,” American Historical Association conference, New York, January.
- 2008 “Inheriting the Republic: Hereditary Succession in Yemen,” Middle East Studies Association conference.

- 2006 “Salafis and Science: The Life and Thought of Shaykh ‘Abd al-Majid al-Zindani,” Middle East Studies Association conference. Sponsored by the American Institute for Yemeni Studies.
- 2005 “Reprogramming the Imagination in Yemen: Hamoud al-Hitar and the RDC,” Middle East Studies Association Conference, 2005. Sponsored by the American Institute for Yemeni Studies.

CONGRESSIONAL TESTIMONY

- 2010 Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, January 20.

MEDIA APPEARANCES (REPRESENTATIVE)

- 2018 *PBS News Hour*, December 13.
- 2018 *PBS News Hour*, June 13.
- 2015 *NPR Fresh Air*, “Saudi Bombing in Yemen”, April 23.
- 2015 *Charlie Rose Show*, January 28.
- 2015 *PBS News Hour*, January 22.
- 2012 *NPR Fresh Air*, “The Last Refuge”, November 26.
- 2012 *Rock Center with Brian Williams*, “The Bomber,” November 15.
- 2011 *All Things Considered* NPR, July 18.
- 2010 *Harper’s*, “Six Questions for Gregory Johnsen”, January 7.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2019 (Spring) Adjunct Professor at Georgetown University
“Yemen: The Anatomy of a Failed and Broken State” (IPOL 340)
- 2010 Guest Lecturer at CIA University
“Al-Qaeda in the Arabian Peninsula,” July 22
- 2008 (Fall) Preceptor at Princeton University
“Political Islam” (NES 269)
Instructor: Bernard Haykel
- 2008 (Spring) Preceptor at Princeton University
“Militant Islamism” (NES 206)
Instructor: Thomas Hegghammer

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

- 2020- History Editor for the Yemen Update Online, English edition.

LANGUAGES

Arabic (Proficient), Persian (Reading Knowledge), French (Reading Knowledge)