

About:

In her dissertation project, Cana develops and tests a new theoretical explanation for how social identity constrains foreign policy decision making. First developed within the rationalist framework, audience costs have become one of the central components of international relations. But as Cana points out, domestic constraints do not operate consistently as theory would predict. Even within seemingly identical bargaining scenarios, the public sometimes exerts greater pressure to constrain leaders' decision making. The explanation she develops crosses IR paradigms to consider how relational understandings of state identity influence citizen expectations of appropriate foreign policy. She develops an original conceptual framework for theorizing state identities, which she uses to predict when the mass public will become more invested in constraining foreign policy. Expectations from the theory are tested using a multi-method research design leveraging large-sample survey experiments and comparative process tracing.