

# James Ron

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## EDUCATION

**University of California, Berkeley (1999)**  
PhD, sociology

**Stanford University (1992)**  
BA, political science

## ACADEMIC POSITIONS

**Institute for Advanced Catholic Studies, University of Southern California (2024-)**  
Affiliated scholar.

**University of Minnesota, Minneapolis (2011-20)**  
Tenured associate and full professor of political science and public affairs. Harold Stassen Chair of International Affairs. Co-director, Master's of Human Rights.

**CIDE, Mexico City (2011-16)**  
Visiting and affiliated professor of international studies.

**Carleton University, Ottawa (2006-11)**  
Tenured associate professor of international studies.

**McGill University, Montreal (2001-06)**  
Assistant and tenured associate professor of sociology. Canada Research Chair (Tier 2).

**Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore (1999-01)**  
Assistant professor of sociology and political science.

**Brown University, Providence (1998-99)**  
Postdoctoral research fellow.

**Brookings Institution, Washington DC (1997-98)**  
Predoctoral research fellow.

## CONSULTING & ADVISORIES

**International Agency (2025)**  
Evaluation of support to governments and families for forensic work in Central America.

**European Bilateral Aid Agency (2023)**  
Evaluation of a European bilateral donor's financial support to human rights organizations in the Middle East.

**Fetzer Institute (2022-24)**  
Advisories on social movements.

**Life for a Child (2010-23)**  
Evaluation of programs distributing insulin and blood glucose equipment in India, Mexico, Morocco, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan.

**Engage Health (2020-21)**  
Data analysis on patient experiences with rare diseases.

**Center for Victims of Torture (2016-21)**  
Poll of US attitudes towards human rights (N=3,000).

**Human Rights Watch (1992-20)**  
Human rights and war crimes investigations in Chechnya, Israel/Palestine, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, and Nigeria.

**Open Societies Foundations (2015-16)**  
Population-based surveys of citizen willingness to donate to local human rights groups in Bogota and Mexico City (N=2,000).

**Canadian Foreign Ministry (2006-08)**  
Advisories on transitional justice, armed conflict & human rights, and public health.

**CARE (1998-99)**  
Advisory on politics, programs, and ethics in the Goma refugee camp.

**International Committee of the Red Cross (1996-97)**  
Advisory on civilian protection in the former Yugoslavia (1996-97).

## PUBLICATIONS

(See individual publications on [ResearchGate](#) for co-authors)

### Books

2017. *Taking Root: Human Rights & Public Opinion in the Global South*. Oxford University Press.  
2003. *Frontiers & Ghettos: State Violence in Serbia & Israel*. University of California Press.

### Scholarly Articles

2020. "Do Global Publics View Human Rights Organizations as Handmaidens of U.S. Empire?" *Political Science Quarterly*. 135/1: 9-35.  
2018. "Caregiving for Children with Type 1 Diabetes and Clinical Outcomes in Central India." *Pediatric Diabetes* 19/3: 527-533.

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2017. "Management of Type 1 Diabetes in a Limited Resource Context." *Journal of Diabetology* 8/2: 37-44. |
2017. "Local Resources for Local Rights? The Mumbai Fundraiser's Dilemma." *Journal of Human Rights* 16/3: 370-387.
2016. "Hands Off My Regime! The Backlash Against Foreign Funding to Local NGOs." *World Development*. 84: 299-311.
2016. "Universal Values, Foreign Money: The Political Economy of Local Human Rights Organizations." *Review of International Political Economy*. 23/1: 29-64.
2015. "Who Survived? Ethiopia's Regulatory Crackdown on NGOs." *Review of International Political Economy*. 22/2: 419-456.
2015. "Who Trusts Local Human Rights Organizations? Evidence from Three World Regions." *Human Rights Quarterly*, 37: 188-239.
2014. "Human Rights Familiarity and Socio-Economic Status: A Four Country Study." *Sur: International Journal of Human Rights*. 11/20: 335-351.
2013. "The Latin Bias: Regions, the Anglo-American Media, and Human Rights." *International Studies Quarterly*, 57/3: 474-491
2012. "Rights-Based Development: Implications for NGOs." *Human Rights Quarterly*, 34/2: 472-506
2010. "State-Level Transitional Justice Impacts: What Do We Know?" *International Journal of Transitional Justice* 4/3: 329-354
2009. "Seeing Double: Human Rights through Qualitative & Quantitative Eyes." *World Politics* 61/2: 360-401
2007. "Public Health, Conflict, & Human Rights: An Agenda for Collaborative Research." *Conflict & Health* 11/1: 1-38
2007. "Do Human Rights Violations Cause Internal Conflict?" *Human Rights Quarterly* 29/3: 674-705
2007. "Shaping the Northern Media's Human Rights Coverage, 1986-2000." *Journal of Peace Research* 44/4: 385-406
2007. "Human Rights Institutions: Rhetoric & Efficacy." *Journal of Peace Research* 44/4: 379-384
2006. "What Shapes the West's Human Rights Focus?" *Contexts* 5/3: 23-28.
2005. "Transnational Information Politics: Human Rights NGO Reporting, 1986-2000." *International Studies Quarterly* 49/3: 557-587
2004. "Paradigm in Distress? Primary Commodities & Civil Wars." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49/4: 443-450
2004. "Primary Commodities & War: Congo-Brazzaville's Ambivalent Resource Curse." *Comparative Politics* 37/1: 61-81.
2002. "NGO Scramble: Organizational Insecurity & the Political Economy of Transnational Action." *International Security* 27/1: 1-33
2001. "Ideology in Context: Sendero Luminoso's Tactical Escalation." *Journal of Peace Research* 38/5: 569-592
2000. "Boundaries & Violence: Patterns of State Action along the Bosnia-Yugoslavia Divide." *Theory & Society* 29/5: 609-647
2000. "Savage Restraint: Israel, Palestine, & the Dialectics of Legal Repression." *Social Problems* 47/4: 445-472.
1997. "Varying Methods of State Violence." *International Organization* 51/2: 275-300

## Guest editorials in newspapers (selected)

2019. "American Jews and American Muslims have a Common Antagonist." *New York Times*
2019. "To Protect Human Rights Abroad, Preach to Trump Voters." *Foreign Policy*
2019. "No, Americans Don't Support Airstrikes that Kill Civilians, Even When They Target Terrorists." *Washington Post*
2018. "Democracies Need a Little Help from Their Friends." *Foreign Policy*
2017. "Across the Globe, Governments are Cracking Down on Civic Organizations. This is Why." *Washington Post*
2016. "Human Rights Groups are Secretly U.S. Agents. True or False?" *Washington Post*
2009. "Why are the United States & Israel at the Top of the Human Rights Hit Lists?" *Foreign Policy*
2006. "Trapped in a Vengeful Machismo." *Toronto Star*
2005. "Finding Bias in Human Rights Reporting." *Globe & Mail*
2004. "Responsibility for Abu Ghraib may be Difficult to Unravel." *Baltimore Sun*
2003. "Lift the Sanctions – Economic Weapons of Mass Destruction." *Globe & Mail*
2003. "Protect Iraqi People from Looming Disaster." *Baltimore Sun*
2002. "What Happened in Jenin?" *Toronto Star*
2001. "Relief Business Bears Watching." *Baltimore Sun*
2001. "Self-Critical Foreign Policies Could Enhance Our Security." *Baltimore Sun*
2000. "US Has Own Record of Atrocities." *Boston Globe*
2000. "Desperate Logic of Arms." *International Herald Tribune*
2000. "Suppose Israel Leased the Jordan Valley from the Palestinians." *International Herald Tribune*

## Evaluations & Advisory Reports

2025. *Evaluation of the Forensic Program in Central America*. Prepared for an International Agency.
2023. *Evaluation of Aid to Human Rights Organizations in the Middle East*. Prepared for a European Bilateral Donor.
2018. *Can Local Human Rights Organizations Raise Funds from the General Public in Bogotá?* Prepared for the Open Societies Foundations
2017. *Will Publics Pay to Protect Rights in Mexico City?* Prepared for the Open Societies Foundations.
2008. *The State-Level Effects of Transitional Justice Mechanisms*. Prepared for Global Affairs Canada.

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1998. *Human Rights & Humanitarian Assistance: Evaluating CARE's Performance in the Eastern Zaire Refugee Camps, 1994-1996*. Prepared for CARE-USA
1996. *Compete or Collaborate? Civilian Protection in the Former Yugoslavia*. Prepared for the International Committee of the Red Cross: Geneva.

1995. *Weapons Transfers & Violations of the Laws of War in Turkey*. Prepared for Human Rights Watch.
1994. *Israel's Interrogation of Palestinians from the Occupied Territories*. Prepared for Human Rights Watch
1993. *Israeli Undercover Operations against "Wanted" & Masked Palestinians*. Prepared for Human Rights Watch

## FUNDING

- 2018-19 Fulbright research scholar, Israel (declined)
- 2018-19. Ford Foundation grant # 0175-1236. *Open Global Rights*. (USD 200,000).
- 2018-19. Open Society Foundation grant # OR2017-39966. *Open Global Rights*. (USD 120,000).
- 2016-18. Open Society Foundation grant # OR2015-25486. *Polling Publics in Mexico and Colombia: Human Rights Attitudes and Willingness to Donate*. (USD 160,855)
- 2016-17. Ford Foundation. *Open Global Rights* (USD 200,000).
- 2016-17. Open Society Foundation. *Open Global Rights* (USD 75,000)
- 2013-16. Ford Foundation. *Open Global Rights* (USD 560,000).
- 2009-11. Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada. *Rights-Based Organizations for Development & Social Justice: Legitimacy & Sustainability* (CAD 106,800)
2008. Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs & International Trade. *Transitional Justice: Policy Implications*. (CAD 50,000)
2007. Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs & International Trade. *Public Health Research Methods: Implications for Conflict Analysis & Human Rights*

- Research* (CAD 67,000)
2006. Canadian International Development Agency. *Human Rights Violations & Civil War Onset: Tracing the Links* (CAD 25,000)
- 2007-10. National Science Foundation. *Issue Adoption in Human Rights Advocacy Networks* (USD 647,000).
- 2003-7. Social Sciences & Humanities Research Council of Canada. *The International Human Rights Movement: Prospects & Efficacy* (CAD 150,000)
- 2001-06. Canada Research Chairs Program. *Conflict & Human Rights* (CAD 500,000)
- 2001-06. Canada Fund for Innovation. *Conflict & Human Rights* (CAD 122,000)
- 2001-02. U.S. Institute of Peace. *Civil War in Congo-Brazzaville* (\$32,000 USD)
- 1998-99. Brown University. *State Violence in Serbia & Israel* (USD 35,000)
- 1997-98. Brookings Institution. *State Violence in Serbia & Israel* (USD 13,000)
- 1995-97. Social Science Research Council. *State Violence in Serbia & Israel* (USD 40,000)
1994. John D. & Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. *Human Rights Abuses During the First Intifada*. (USD 12,000)