

KERIN SHILLA

Department of Political Science · George Washington University
Monroe Hall, 2115 G St. NW, Washington, DC 20052
kshilla@gwu.edu · kerinshilla.com · +1 646-684-7245

EDUCATION

The George Washington University, Washington DC

August 2022 – Present

Ph.D., Political Science (expected May 2027)
Dissertation: "The Anti-Racist Capture of International Institutions"
Committee: Eric Grynviski (Chair), Martha Finnemore, Zoltán Búzás
Specializations: International Relations (major), Comparative Politics (minor)

The George Washington University, Washington DC

May 2025

M.A., Political Science (with Distinction)

Macauley Honors College at CUNY Hunter College, New York, NY

June 2021

B.A., Political Science; Minor in International Relations
University Scholar (four-year merit scholarship) · Dean's List (Fall 2017 – Spring 2021) · Major GPA: 3.97/4.0
Senior Honors Thesis: "A Functional & Institutional Phenomenon of Compliance with International
Environmental Agreements: A Study of the Montreal, Kyoto, and Paris Protocols"

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Race and Racism in International Relations. International Institutions and Law. Human Rights. Transnational Advocacy.
Network Theory. Migration and Deportation Policy. Technology and International Affairs

WORKING PAPERS

"The Anti-Racist Capture of International Institutions." Preparing for submission.

"Third-Country Deportations and the Racial Hierarchy of Migration Diplomacy" (with Thomas J. Rachko, Jr.). Preparing for submission.

"The Efficacy of a 'Digital Witness' for Transnational Advocacy Organizations." Preparing for submission.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

"The Formation of Political and Economic Elites in Liberia, 1822–1990"
(with Michael Miller and Polina Protozanova).

"The ICC's Race Issue"

"State Legitimacy and Civil War Onset: Cases of Nigeria and Tanzania."

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

Tanzania: Human Rights Watch World Report 2026. Human Rights Watch, 2026.
as Research Consultant, Human Rights Watch (May 2026 – Present).

Hungary: Human Rights Watch World Report 2023. Human Rights Watch, January 2023.
as Associate, Technology and Human Rights Division (2022).

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS & INVITED TALKS

Critical Migration and Deportation Studies Conference

August 2026

International Studies Association Annual Conference	March 2026
United States Holocaust Memorial Museum, Atrocity Prevention Workshop	March 2026
Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference (Chair & Discussant)	January 2026
International Relations Theory Annual Colloquium	2025–2026
American Political Science Association Annual Conference	September 2025
Workshop on Human Rights and International Relations, University of Notre Dame	April 2025
International Studies Association Annual Conference	March 2025
GW Institute for Security and Conflict Studies Workshop	2025
International Studies Association Northeast Annual Conference	2024

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Institute for Security and Conflict Studies Graduate Scholar in Residence, GWU	Fall 2024 – Present
Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research Scholar, Syracuse University	June 2025
Haight Family Award for Graduate Studies, Hunter College	May 2021
Eva Kastan Grove Fellowship, Hunter College	May 2020

TEACHING

George Washington University, Elliott School of International Affairs

Teaching Assistant, International Security Politics	Fall 2025
Delivered guest lectures on academic writing in political science.	
Teaching Assistant, Introduction to International Affairs (PSC 1005)	Spring 2023 – Spring 2025
Led discussion sections across five semesters; designed, administered, and graded written assignments.	
Delivered guest lectures on IR theory, the causes of war.	

Peer Health Exchange, New York, NY

Senior Health Educator & Fellow (undergraduate)	2018 – 2020
Taught health curriculum to high school students	
Trained and supervised fellow health educators across multiple cohorts.	

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Human Rights Watch, Washington DC	May 2026 – Present
Research Consultant	
Researching and authoring report on post-election violence in East Africa, utilizing open-source investigations.	
Human Rights Watch, Washington DC	March 2022 – November 2022
Research Consultant, Technology and Human Rights Division	
Researched, edited, and disseminated reports, briefing papers, and op-eds on technology and human rights; coordinated publication processes and maintained divisional documentation on budgets, research, and donor relations.	
Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington DC	June 2021 – August 2022
Program Coordinator, Africa Program	
Provided research and editorial support to senior staff; contributed to reports, policy briefs, and commentaries on US foreign policy toward Africa; liaised across publication, production, and external relations teams.	

SKILLS & TRAINING

Languages: Fluent in Swahili; limited proficiency in Spanish
 Methods & Software: Qualitative methods, process tracing, case study research; R (statistical analysis)
 Certification: Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, Syracuse University (2025)