Faculty Name: Marina Henke

Project Title: Intervention Entrepreneurs

Project Description: This project will examine the political decision-making process that leads countries and international governmental organizations (IGOs) such as the UN, NATO, the EU or the AU to launch military interventions. Much of the existing literature on military interventions has focused on why interventions occur. This research project instead tries to illuminate the how: Which actors put the topic of intervention on the agenda of a particular country or IGO and why? What techniques do these actors use to persuade others to support the intervention proposal? The questions of why and how are of course logically inseparable. However, they also lead us to focus on different aspects. The question of why invites us to go in search of categorical causes (e.g., normative motivations, economic interests, threat perceptions). The question of how, instead, leads us to look closely at agency. If we are to understand the logic of past military interventions, and help inform those faced with pending and future ones, then we must understand how such agency affects intervention decisions and maybe even their aftermaths.

Position Expectations: The student will be required to collect data on intervention decision-making processes. S/he will use this data (1) to analyze trends and (2) to conduct preliminary statistical analyses with regards to the effects of these variables on the launch of military interventions.

Skills/Experience Required: Ideally, the student has some familiarity with the statistical program STATA.

What Will the FF Gain? The students will get a glimpse of how to conceptualize and conduct a complex and policy relevant research project. S/he will learn how to collect viable data and how to build a globally accessible database. Moreover, substantively, the student will learn a lot about military interventions and the advantages and pitfalls of quantitative methods in political science.

Time Requirement: I am looking for 2 students who can work over the summer 10hrs/week and 5hrs/week during the Fall, Winter and Spring quarters.