

# Melissa McKay, Ph.D.

University of North Texas  
Adjunct Instructor

Department of Political Science  
University of North Texas  
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## Education

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**2019 - Doctor of Philosophy – Political Science** - University of North Texas

Fields: International Relations, Comparative Politics and Law

**2016 - Master of Arts – Political Science** - University of North Texas

Fields: International Relations, Comparative Politics and Law

**2011 - Graduate Certificate – Advanced International Affairs** - Texas A&M University

George Bush School of Government

**2008 – Bachelor of Arts – International Studies** - University of North Texas

## Research Interests

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- Psychological impact of testifying before international tribunals
- Accountability expectations of state agents and non-state actors
- Analyses of accountability and responsibility for committing war crimes
- International humanitarian law
- Impact of socioeconomics, gender, and ethnicity on post-conflict reconciliation
- Domestic and international human and civil rights
- Domestic and international civic engagement

## Teaching Interests

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- American Government Laws and Institutions
- American Government Behaviors and Policies
- International Relations
- International Humanitarian Law
- Transitional Justice
- Peace Studies
- Human & Civil Rights
- Foreign Policy
- Civic Engagement

## Teaching

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### ***Instructor of Record***

University of North Texas at Dallas – Dallas, TX

- International Human Rights – Fall 2019

University of North Texas – Denton, TX

- Introduction to Peace Studies – Summer 2017
- US Political Behavior and Policy – Spring 2018, Fall 2018, Spring 2019
- Dual Credit American & Texas Government (Denton ISD/UNT) – Fall 2019, Spring 2020

Texas Woman's University – Denton, TX

- State Politics and Government – Fall 2018, Spring 2019

Collin College – McKinney, TX

- Texas Government – Fall 2019
- Dual Credit Federal Government (McKinney ISD) – Fall 2019

### ***Platforms of proficiency:***

- Classroom instruction (8-100+ students)
- Blackboard – for both full course instruction as well supporting in-person instruction
- Canvas – for both full course instruction as well supporting in-person instruction
- Create original courses

### ***Teaching Assistant***

Responsible for substantive instruction and general undergraduate administration and advising for two American Government courses per semester (Fall 2014 – Spring 2019)

- American Government: Laws and Institutions
- American Government: Political Behavior and Policy
- *Spring 2015 - Recipient of the Department of Political Science Teaching Assistant of the Year Award*

### ***Instruction and Invited Speaker***

- September 2014 – North Texas Chapter of American Red Cross: Led discussion and classroom lecture on international criminal courts and tribunals, as part of an ongoing International Humanitarian Law series
- October 2016 – guest lecturer for Dr. John Ishiyama, American Government (PSCI 1040)
- September 2017 – guest lecturer for Dr. Yen-Hsin Chen Political Research Methods
- October 2017 – guest lecturer for Dr. Diego Esparza, American Government (PSCI 2306)

## Publications / Presentations

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Meernik, James, Nenad Golcevski, Melissa McKay, Ayal Feinberg, Kimi King, and Roman Krastev. 2016 "Truth, Justice, and Education: Towards Reconciliation in the Former Yugoslavia". *Southeast European and Black Sea Studies*. Volume 16: Number 3 pp.413-431

Meernik, James, Kimi L. King, Rosa Aloisi, and Melissa McKay. 2015 "Judicial Voting Behavior at the Appeals Chambers of the International Tribunals" *Journal of International Organizations Studies*. Volume 6 pp.28-45

### **Academic and Professional Conferences and Presentations**

February 2015 -"Echoes of Voices: A Preliminary Overview of the Victims & Witnesses Post-Testimonial Survey" Presentation to the International Studies Association Annual Conference, New Orleans, LA. Co-presenter with Dr. James Meernik and Dr. Kimi King

June 2015 – "Contact, Education and Reconciliation in the Former Yugoslavia". Presentation at the International Studies Association Human Rights and Justice Conference, The Hague, The Netherlands. Co-presenter with Ayal Feinberg and Roman Krastev.

### **Dissertation:**

**Title:** "Making it Personal: The Psychological Lifecycle of Testifying Before the ICTY"

**Committee:** James Meernik (chair), Kimi L. King, T. David Mason, Jacqueline DeMeritt

**Defended:** May 2019

### **Working papers:**

Melissa McKay – "The Strength of a Witness: The Psychological Impact of Testifying before the ICTY"

Melissa McKay – "Why Witnesses Choose to Testify at ICTY"

### **Research Experience:**

- Dr. James Meernik, 2014. Systematically researched and coded appellate transcripts from ICTY/ICTR records to assist in the creation of Tribunal Sentencing Dataset
- Dr. Kimi King, 2016, coded data of witness testimonies, conducted empirical analyses and literature reviews and assessments for book publications

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### **Memberships and Associations**

- International Studies Association, member
- American Political Science Association, member
- International Association for Political Science Students, member
- Dallas Peacemakers, member
- American Red Cross – International Services volunteer

## Professional Engagements

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In addition to completing all course work and meeting all requirements for a PhD, I had the unique experience of working for a nonprofit organization in both an operations and development management capacity.

**2017-2019** - 22KILL – Mental wellness nonprofit organization focused on combatting suicide in the veteran and first responder communities. (Dallas, TX)

- Oversaw fundraising of over \$1-1,500,000 in individual and corporate donations/funding each calendar year
- Managed programmatic and operational budget for organizational growth from 8-24 employees in 2 years
- Oversaw and planned acquisition of two non-profit partner programs
- Created data management system to measure direct impact on community and donation impact

## References

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**James Meernik**  
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Professor of Political Science  
Coordinator Castleberry Peace Institute  
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