

# Toni Rouhana

Curriculum Vitae

[tonirouhana.com](http://tonirouhana.com)

The University of York  
York  
YO10 5DD  
United Kingdom

## PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

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2021-present **The University of York**  
*Postdoctoral Research Associate*  
Department of Politics  
*The Centre for the Comparative Study of Civil War*  
(initially housed at The University of Sheffield)

## EDUCATION

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2021 **PhD** University of California, Santa Cruz  
Sociology and Designated Emphasis in History of Consciousness  
Dissertation: *A Theory of Practice of Sect Identities: A Case Study of the Syrian War*  
Committee: Deborah Gould (Chair), Robert Meister, Nathaniel Deutsch, Lisa Wedeen

2015 **MA** University of California, Santa Cruz  
Sociology  
Thesis: *Sectarian Imaginations: Rethinking Popular Sectarianism in Lebanon*

2009 **MS** Antonine University, Zahle, Lebanon  
Computer Engineering  
Thesis: *Linking Video Presentations to their Source Files Using Pattern Recognition*

2006 **BS** Antonine University, Zahle, Lebanon  
Computer Engineering

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Books

*Civil War as a Social Process: Systems of Relations in Colombia, Lebanon, Nepal, and South Sudan*  
co-authored with Anastasia Shesterinina, Eduardo Álvarez-Vanegas, Hanna Ketola and Sayra van den Berg (under review by Cornell University Press)

*A Theory of Practice of Sect Identities: A Case Study of the Syrian War*  
proposal and full manuscript preparation for submission to Stanford University Press – Middle East Series

## Articles (peer-reviewed)

- 2024 "A Critical Juncture Lived Otherwise? The Case of the "Cedar Revolution," *Ethnopolitics*, 1-20. <https://doi.org/10.1080/17449057.2024.2401244>
- 2023 "Critical Discourse Analysis Guided Topic Modeling: the Case of Al-Jazeera Arabic," *Information, Communication & Society*, 26:5, 904-922, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1080/1369118X.2023.2166364> (impact factor 4.2, 5-year impact factor 6.0)
- 2022 "The Syrian War on Facebook: A Call for Mixed Methods" *First Monday*, Volume 27, Number 9. <https://doi.org/10.5210/fm.v27i5.11557>

(invited contribution, accepted special issue)

"Life history interviews in the study of violent conflict" in Data Collection and Conflict Special Issue, *Civil Wars*. co-authored with Anastasia Shesterinina

## Other Academic Writing

- 2024 "Is Palestine the "Compass"?" SEPAD, Sept 24. <https://www.sepad.org.uk/announcement/is-palestine-the-compass>
- 2022 "Initial Reflections on Life Histories of Ex-Combatants in the Lebanese Civil War," *Civil War Paths*, Jul 1. <https://www.civilwarpaths.org/2022/07/01/initial-reflections-on-life-histories-of-ex-combatants-in-the-lebanese-civil-war/>

## Manuscripts in Preparation

- "Movement, Counter Movement and War in Lebanon" *Journal of Peace Research*
- "Tweeting the Syrian Civil War: Weaponising identities online"
- "Mapping Emotions on Twitter during Syria's Civil War"
- "What Does a Twitter Trend Campaign Mean? A Study of Beirut's Port Explosion on Twitter"
- "Uses and Abuses of Data in Higher Education" co-authored with Rebecca London
- "Surveillance and Online Proctoring in Higher Education" co-authored with Rebecca London

## Podcast

- 2024 "Decolonizing Research Impact" - Episode 3, *Decolonizing Research Podcast*, Interdisciplinary Global Development Centre, University of York, UK

## CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

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### Conferences Organized

- 2024 *Conflict Dynamics in Civil Wars*, The Centre for the Comparative Study of Civil War, University of York (virtual), July 12 & July 19
- 2023 *Civil War as a Social Process*, The Centre for the Comparative Study of Civil War, University of York (virtual), October 6

### Papers Presented

- 2024 “A Meso-Level Analysis of Pre-Civil War Lebanon: Movement and Counter-Movement Dynamics” Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Virtual, Nov 11-16
- “A Critical Juncture Lived Otherwise? The Case of the Cedar Revolution” American Sociological Association (ASA), Montreal, Canada, Aug 9-13
- “Life history interviews in the study of violent conflict” British International Studies Association (BISA), Birmingham, UK, June 5-7
- 2023 “Syria’s Civil War: Sect Habitus and the Evolution of Human Rights Discourse” Middle East Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, Nov 2-5
- “Ethnography in War: Challenges and Dilemmas” Centre d’études et de recherches international de l’Université de Montréal (CÉRIUM), Montreal, CA, Nov 1
- Journée d’étude – Les défis du travail de terrain en Afrique et au Moyen-Orient. Centre d’études et de recherches international de l’Université de Montréal (CÉRIUM) et Équipe de recherche sur le Politique et le Religieux en Afrique et au Moyen-Orient (PRAM), Université de Montréal, Canada, Nov 1
- “A Social Movement Path? Sect-Based Divisions in the Lebanese Civil War” European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Prague, Czech Republic, Sep 4-9
- “What Does a Twitter Trend Campaign Mean in Lebanon: A Study of the August 4, 2020 Explosion on Twitter” Data Journalism for Human Rights Program at the American University of Beirut, Lebanon, Aug 7
- “A Social Movement Path? Sect-Based Divisions in the Lebanese Civil War” British International Studies Association (BISA), Glasgow, Scotland, June
- 2022 “Sect Habitus and the Politics of “Security and Safety” The Case of Syria” Middle East Studies Association (MESA), Denver, CO
- “A Social Movement Path? Sect-Based Divisions in the Lebanese Civil War” American Political Science Association (APSA), Montreal, Canada

Co-organized with Anastasia Shesterinina “The Civil War Paths 2022 End of Year Conference,” University of Sheffield

- 2020 “The Syrian War on Facebook: A Call for Mixed Methods” American Sociological Association (ASA), San Francisco, CA
- 2019 “The Return of the Repressed: Bringing Religion Back into the Study of Sectarianism in the Middle East” - Political Theology Network Conference, New York, NY
- 2018 “When Sectarianism Becomes Lebanese” - Middle East Studies Association (MESA), San Antonio, TX
- “Mapping Emotions on Twitter: A Case Study of the Syrian Civil War Since 2014” - Media Sociology ASA Preconference, Philadelphia, PA
- “Media Segregation: A Case Study of Online Interaction on the Syrian Civil War” Media Sociology ASA Preconference, Philadelphia, PA
- 2017 “Rethinking Religious Sectarianism: A Case Study of Sectarian Imaginations in Lebanon” - American Sociological Association (ASA), Montreal, Canada (accepted)
- “Introduction to GIS” - International Conference on Computational Social Science (IC2S2), Cologne, Germany
- 2015 “Sectarian Imaginations: The Shifting of Sectarian Habitus in Lebanon” Middle Eastern Studies Association (MESA), Denver, CO
- “Sectarian Mobilizations? A Case Study of Sectarian Imaginations In Lebanon.” *Collective Behavior and Social Movements workshop, section of the American Sociological Association, Chicago, IL*

### **Panel Moderation**

- 2024 Chair & Discussant for Panel “From Macro to Micro Level in the Study of Armed Organizations in Syria” *Conflict Dynamics in Civil Wars*, The Centre for the Comparative Study of Civil War, University of York (virtual), July 19
- Panel Chair “From Mobilisation to Re-Integration in Latin America,” *Conflict Dynamics in Civil Wars*, The Centre for the Comparative Study of Civil War, University of York (virtual), July 19
- Co-Discussant and Respondent for Talk by Dr. Rabie Barakat and Dr. Kyle Johnson “Journalism and Conflict Analysis in Contexts of Political Violence: Experiences and Challenges” University of York, Mar 13

- 2023 Discussant and Respondent for Talk by Prof. Lisa Wedeen “Ideology, Affect, and the Politics of Disavowal: Notes on Syria” University of York, Mar 8
- 2021 Discussant and Respondent for Talk by Prof. Wendy Pearlman “Narrative Identity and the Experience of Violence” University of Sheffield, Dec 8

### **INVITED TALKS**

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- 2022 “The Civil War Paths Project: The Case of Lebanon,” [PhD seminar], UC Santa Cruz
- 2019 “Capital,” [Undergraduate three hundred student core course lecture] Classical Social Theory, UC Santa Cruz
- 2018 “Religious Sectarianism in the Age of Big Data,” [Undergraduate one hundred eighty student upper division lecture] Sociology Capstone, UC Santa Cruz
- 2015 “Studying Social Movements in the Middle East: Theory, Methods, and analysis.” Sociology 203 Graduate [PhD seminar] Sociological Methods, UC Santa Cruz

### **AWARDS, HONORS and FELLOWSHIPS**

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- 2023-present Fellow (non-resident), Sectarianism, Proxies and De-sectarianisation (SEPAD), The Richardson Institute, Lancaster University
- 2021-22 Fellow (non-resident), Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES), American University of Beirut (AUB)
- 2019 Political Theology Network Conference Travel Award (\$500)
- 2018-19 Global Religion Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship - The Global Religion Research Initiative (GRRI) of the Center for the Study of Religion and Society (CSRS) at the University of Notre Dame, IN (\$30,000)
- 2017 Sociology Department Travel Support, UC Santa Cruz (\$3,500)
- 2016-17 Fellow (non-resident) at the Center for Arab and Middle Eastern Studies (CAMES) at American University of Beirut (AUB)
- 2016 Graduate Student Association Travel Grant, UC Santa Cruz (\$500)
- 2015-16 Campus Wide Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, UC Santa Cruz
- 2012-13 Regents Fellow, UC Santa Cruz

### **RESEARCH COLLABORATIONS**

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- 2024                    **Workshop Co-organizer with SEPAD**  
Transnational Dynamics of Post October 7, Lancaster University
- 2024                    **Co-editor of Special Issue**  
Transnational Dynamics of Post October 7
- 2021-present        **Director of Technology and Digital Humanities Researcher**  
*The Minhag Project: A Crowd-Sourced Archive of Jewish Customs*  
Digital Humanities participatory survey project with Nathaniel Deutsch
- 2021                    **Graduate Student Researcher**  
*Uses and Abuses of Data in Higher Education* with Rebecca London
- 2020 – 2021        **Graduate Student Researcher**  
*The Minhag Project: A Crowd-Sourced Archive of Jewish Customs*  
Digital Humanities participatory survey project with Nathaniel Deutsch
- 2015 – 2016        **Graduate Student Researcher**  
Regional Epistemic Communities  
Big Data & Social Network Analysis with Chris Benner

## **UNIVERSITY TEACHING**

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### **Instructor at University of California, Santa Cruz**

- 2018                    Intro to GIS for Social Scientists  
2016                    Statistical Methods

### **Teaching Assistant at University of California, Santa Cruz**

- 2021                    Intro to 2D Animation  
2021                    Intro to Programming in the Arts  
2020                    Intro to 2D Animation  
2019                    Classical Social Theory  
2018                    Statistical Methods  
2017                    The Evaluation of Evidence  
2015                    Sociology of Social Movements  
2015                    Logic and Methods Social Inquiry  
2015                    Statistical Methods  
2015                    Statistical Methods  
2014                    Classical Sociological Theory  
2014                    Statistical Methods  
2014                    Logic and Methods Social Inquiry  
2013                    Classical Sociological Theory  
2012                    Sociology of Social Movements (Reader)

## **Instructor at Platt College, San Diego, CA**

2012 Scripting for the Web

2012 PHP

## **OTHER TEACHING**

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### **2023-2024 Technology Instructor at Arab Image Foundation, Beirut**

Led two-week workshop on CMS and DAMS, provide technical workshops as needed on topics such as git, command line, etc

### **2010-2014 Educational Program Manager and Instructor at FAB LAB MIT - San Diego**

Developed and taught courses Intro to Programming, Intro to Java, Intro to HTML, Intro to C++, Intro to CSS, Intro to Creative Computing 101 & 102, DIY Robotics, Intro to Android Mobile Apps

## **INDUSTRY EXPERIENCE**

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### **2009-2012 Freelance Web Developer and Digital Humanities Specialist**

Developed DH archival and memory work web projects

### **2008-2009 Team Leader and Flash Developer at Educational Research Center, Beirut, Lebanon**

Developed active book projects

Built the engines as frameworks for the projects

Worked on creating assessments, activities and supplementary exercises

Developed CMS for the active books

## **RESEARCH TRAINING AND COURSES**

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2024 Conducting Fieldwork in Trauma Affected Communities, advanced training workshop to navigate field research with Trauma affected interlocutors and communities, such as Refugee communities. Led by Beatrice Murunga

2023 Use of NVivo for Qualitative Analysis, advanced training workshop. Led by Dr Christina Silver at Qualitative Data Analysis Services (QDAS)

2022 Vicarious Trauma and Field Research, advanced training workshop organized by the Civil War Paths research project to train team members on risks and mitigation strategies for conducting ethnographic fieldwork with vulnerable populations in fragile environments. Led by Maureen Freed, licensed psychotherapist and Deputy Head of the Oxford University Counselling Service

## **SERVICE**

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2022-present Fellowship Scheme and Annual Conference Lead at Civil War Paths

2024	Reviewer for <i>Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism</i>
2023	Reviewer for <i>Humanities and Social Sciences Communications</i>
2023	Reviewer for <i>Information, Communication &amp; Society</i>
2022	Reviewer for <i>First Monday</i>
2020	Reviewer for UCLA's Modern Endangered Archives Program

## **ADVISING & MENTORSHIP**

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2024	Provided Feedback for Masters' and PhD Dissertations – University of York
2023	Advising and Providing Mentorship for PhD applications – University of York
2018-2022	Mentor for Undergraduate Student Applications to Graduate School
2018 - 2021	Graduate Advising Committee – UC Santa Cruz
2018	TA mentor for Sociology Department – UC Santa Cruz
2014 – 2019	Statistical Consultant Center for Statistical Analysis in the Social Sciences – UC Santa Cruz
2012 - 2013	Advisor for GIIP Center – UC Santa Cruz

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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American Sociological Association  
Middle East Studies Association  
British International Studies Association  
American Political Science Association  
European Consortium for Political Research

## **SKILLS**

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### **Quantitative Analysis**

Machine Learning, Generative AI, Big Data Analysis, Descriptive Statistics, Inferential Statistics, classical hypothesis testing, categorical data analysis, log-linear analysis, bivariate, multiple, and logistic regression

### **Qualitative Analysis**

Ethnography: participant observation, interviews  
Content Analysis

### **Software**

**Languages** R, Python, STATA, JavaScript, JSON, AJAX, jQuery, PHP, HTML, CSS

**Web** Drupal, Wordpress, Omeka, Joomla, Moodle



<b>Software</b>	TensorFlow, Keras, Apache Kafka, SPSS, Apache Spark, Matlab, Stata, Microsoft Visual Studio, Microsoft Suite
<b>Geospatial Software</b>	ArcGIS, Google Maps, Open Street Maps
<b>Applications</b>	Flash, Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver, 3DsMax, AutoCad, CorelDraw
<b>Database Systems</b>	SQL Server, MySQL, Oracle, mongoDB, JSON
<b>Operating Systems</b>	Mac, Windows, Win2k, Linux (Suse, Red Hat), Ubuntu, Mint, Fedora, UNIX

## LANGUAGES

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<b>English</b>	native reading, speaking, and writing
<b>Arabic</b>	native reading, speaking, and writing
<b>French</b>	native reading, speaking, and writing