

OSTROM WORKSHOP RESEARCH SERIES

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“Time to Go: Explaining Migration Timing during Conflict”

Wednesday, March 22, 2017

12:00 – 1:00 p.m.

Ostrom Workshop, 513 N. Park



How do civilians decide when to leave their homes during conflict? Migration timing can have profound implications for the politics of both origin and destination locations, as floods and trickles of migration can motivate very different kinds of attitudes and public policies. For civilians, it helps reveal which threats are the most salient. This paper uses 179 structured interviews with Syrian refugees in Turkey to investigate this question. Using Cox proportional hazard models, it finds that civilians who perceived that they had *wasta*—the capability to get out of trouble—tended to leave their homes earlier. This is because perceived *wasta* reduces the magnitude of perceived threats from selective violence, which is more likely along migration routes, and not indiscriminate violence, which is more likely in residential areas. The likelihood of civilians with perceived *wasta* to move earlier then increases rural-urban tensions in Syria. Findings contribute to understandings of conflict-induced migration, civil war, and the Syrian conflict specifically.



Justin Schon is a PhD candidate in the Department of Political Science. His research explores a variety of topics in contentious politics, including conflict, migration, and development. Additional information about his work can be found at his [website](#).

Presentations are open to the public (see our website for papers). You are welcome to bring your lunch. For questions, contact Allison Sturgeon (sturgeon@iu.edu; 812/855-3151).