

Kirsten Stefanik is a current PhD candidate in Law at the University of Western Ontario. Her PhD dissertation, under the supervision of Dr. Valerie Oosterveld, is tentatively entitled *Bringing Non-State Actors into the Fold: Re-Framing International Humanitarian Law for the Realities of Modern Conflicts*. This thesis research focuses on the involvement of non-state actors in non-international armed conflicts with a particular emphasis on the motivations of armed groups for compliance and deviance from international humanitarian law.

Kirsten holds an LLM from the University of Western Ontario as well as BA and JD degrees from the University of British Columbia. She is a 2013 recipient of the Governor General's Academic Gold Medal and a 2014 recipient of the Ronald St. John MacDonald Award in International Law, both for her work on civilian and environmental protection in armed conflict, under the supervision of Dr. Sara Seck. She currently holds a Doctoral Fellowship from the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council.

Kirsten has forthcoming publications in edited volumes from University of Toronto and Oxford University Presses. She has presented at Conferences in Ottawa, Vancouver, The Hague, and Kigali. In the 2015-2016 academic year Kirsten will be conducting fieldwork for her thesis in Geneva and New York, as well as in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Uganda.