

Dr. ZACHARIAS P. PIERI

Associate Professor, International Relations

University of South Florida

SHORT CURRICULUM VITAE: AUG 2024

Contact Information

School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies,
University of South Florida,
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Education

- 2012** **Ph.D., Ethno-Politics**
University of Exeter, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies. Thesis: “The Contentious Politics of Socio-Political Engagement: The Transformation of the Tablighi Jamaat in London.” Committee: Jonathan Githens-Mazer (chair), Sajjad Rizvi. Examiners: Stuart Croft, Anthony King. July 2012.
- 2008** **M.Res., Middle East Studies**
University of Exeter, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, Modern Middle East Studies, (Distinction with special commendation), September 2008.
- 2006** **M.A. International Relations & Modern History (with Honors)**
University of St. Andrews, International Relations and Modern History, May 2006.

Peer Reviewed Publications

Monographs

Pieri, Zacharias. 2019. *Boko Haram & The Drivers of Islamist Violence*. London & New York: Routledge.

Pieri, Zacharias. 2015. *Tablighi Jamaat and the Quest for the London “Mega-Mosque”*: Continuity and Change. London and New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Pieri, Zacharias. 2012. *Tablighi Jamaat: Handy Books on Religion in World Affairs*. London: Lapido.

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Pieri, Zacharias & Ahmad Partaw. 2024. “Learning the Lessons of Afghanistan?: The Changing Prospects of Negotiations Between JNIM and the Malian Government.” *Small Wars & Insurgencies*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/09592318.2024.2380048>

Pieri, Zacharias. 2024. “Framing the Climate Emergency: The Role of Music in Extinction Rebellion.” *Social Movement Studies*.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/14742837.2024.2304300>

Pieri, Zacharias., Fox, Mary-Jane., Lahoud, Lily., and Jacob Zen. 2023. “Boko Haram’s Child Soldiers: Media Mujahids, Martyrs, and Militants.” *Terrorism and Political Violence*. Advanced Online Copy, May 22.
<https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09546553.2023.2199873>

Pieri, Zacharias and Jessica Grosholz. 2021. “Soldiers of the Faith: A Comparative Analysis of White Power Songs and Islamic State Nasheeds.” *Deviant Behavior*. Advanced Online Copy, October 27.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/01639625.2021.1994359>

Pieri, Zacharias. 2021 “Islamic State in the Maghreb”. *Oxford Research Encyclopaedia of African History*.

Grosholz, Jessica, and **Zacharias Pieri.** 2020 ““A Skinhead at Heart with a Hate-Filled Mind’: Understanding The Themes Present in White Power Music”, *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*. Advanced Online Copy, December 30.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/1057610X.2020.1862818>

Pieri, Zacharias. 2019. “Daily Ritual, Mission and Transformation of the Self: The Case of Tablighi Jamaat”, *NUMEN: International Review for the History of Religions*. 66(4): 360-380

Pieri, Zacharias and Jacob Zenn. 2018. “Under the Black Flag in Borno: Experiences of Foot Soldiers and Civilians in Boko Haram’s ‘Caliphate’”, *Journal of Modern African Studies*. 56(4): 645-672.

Pieri, Zacharias. 2018. “Identifying Counter Radical Narratives from Within British Muslim Communities: The Case of “Muslim Patrol”” *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs*. 38(1): 39-56, DOI: 10.1080/13602004.2018.1432148.

Zenn, Jacob and **Zacharias Pieri.** 2017. “How Much Takfir is too much Takfir? The Evolution of Boko Haram’s Factionalization”. *Journal for Deradicalization*. 11(3): 281-308.

Deckard, Natalie and **Zacharias Pieri.** 2017. “The Implications of Endemic Corruption for State Legitimacy in Developing Nations: An Empirical Exploration of

the Nigerian Case”. *International Journal of Politics, Culture, and Society*, 30(4): 369-384

Pieri, Zacharias and Jacob Zenn. 2016. “The Boko Haram Paradox: Ethnicity, Religion, and Historical Memory in Pursuit of a Caliphate”, *African Security*, 9:1, pp. 66-88

Pieri, Zacharias. 2014. “Anyone For Tabligh?” *Critical Muslim*, Issue 10, pp. 101-113.

Pieri, Zacharias; Woodward, Mark; Yahya, Mariani; Hassan, Ibrahim; Rohmaniyah, Inayah. 2014. “Commanding Good and Prohibiting Evil in Contemporary Islam: Cases from Britain, Nigeria and Southeast Asia.” *Contemporary Islam*, 8:1, pp. 37-55.

DeHannas, Daniel and **Zacharias Pieri**. 2011. 'Olympic Proportions: The Expanding Scalar Politics of the "Olympics Mega-Mosque" Controversy.' *Sociology*, 45:5.

Peer-Reviewed Chapters

Pieri, Zacharias. 2024. “Tablighi Jamaat in Europe”, in In: Jäger, T., Thiele, R. (eds). *Handbook of Political Islam in Europe*. Springer Handbooks of Political Science and International Relations. https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-46173-6_19

Pieri, Zacharias. 2021. “Tablighi Jamaat”, in Upal, Afzal and Cusack, Carole (eds.). *Islamic Sects and Movements*. New York: Brill. pp. 26-50.

Pieri, Zacharias. 2020. “Daily Ritual, Mission and Transformation of the Self: The Case of Tablighi Jamaat,” in Jung, Dietrich and Kirstine Sinclair (eds.) *Muslim Subjectivities in Global Modernity. Islamic Traditions and the Construction of Modern Muslim Identities*, International Studies in Religion and Society Vol. 35, Leiden and Boston: Brill. [reprint].

Hassan, Idayat and **Zacharias Pieri**. 2018. “The Rise and Risks of Nigeria’s Civilian Joint Task Force: Implications for Post-Conflict Recovery in Northeastern Nigeria”, in Zenn, Jacob (ed.), *Boko Haram Beyond the Headlines: Analyses of Africa’s Enduring Conflict*, West Point: Combating Terrorism Center.

Zenn, Jacob and **Zacharias Pieri**. 2018. “Boko Haram” in Silke, Andrew (ed.), *Routledge Handbook of Terrorism and Counter-Terrorism*, Oxford and New York: Routledge.

Pieri, Zacharias and Jacob Zenn. 2017. “The Boko Haram Paradox: Ethnicity, Religion, and Historical Memory in Pursuit of a Caliphate”, in Hentz, James and Hussein Solomon (eds.), *Understanding Boko Haram: Terrorism and Insurgency in Africa*. New York and London: Routledge. [re-print].

Pieri, Zacharias and Atta Barkindo. 2016. “Muslims in Nigeria: Between Challenge and Opportunity”, in Mason, Robert (ed.), *Muslim Minority - State*

Relations: Violence, Integration and Policy. London and New York: Palgrave Macmillan.

Serrano, Rafael and **Zacharias Pieri**. 2014. "By the Numbers: The Nigerian State's Efforts to Counter Boko Haram" in Pérouse de Montclos, Marc-Antoine (ed.), *Boko Haram: Islamism, Politics, Security, and the State in Nigeria*, Ibadan, Leyden, IFRA-Nigeria, Leyden University Press, Waposos Series, N°2.

Teaching

College of Arts & Sciences, University of South Florida

- **INR 6007** Graduate Seminar in International Relations [in-person]
- **INR 4083** *Conflict in the World* [online asynchronous]
- **INR 4931** *Understanding Extremism* [online asynchronous]
- **POS 3931** *Cultures of Extremism* [online synchronous]
- **ISS 4939** *Senior Capstone* [in-person & online synchronous]
- **REL 4910** *Undergraduate Research in Religion* [in-person]
- **REL 3367** *Islam in the Modern World* [Online asynchronous]
- **IDH 4000** *Honors Research Seminar* [in-person]
- **ISS 3937** *Internship: Interdisciplinary Inquiry* [in-person/online]
- **ISS 3010** *Introduction to Social Sciences* [in-person]
- **INR 4943** *Internships in International Studies* [in-person]

Honors College, University of South Florida

- **IDH 3400** *Understanding Religious Extremism* [in-person] (2016)
- **IDH 4200** *West Africa: History, Culture, Politics* [in-person] (2016)
- **IDH 2010** *Acquisition of Knowledge* [in-person] (2015-2016)

College of Humanities & Social Sciences, University of Exeter

- **ARA 2150** *Muslims in Britain* (2012)
- **ARA 3158** *Armed Islamist Movements* (2011)
- **ARA 3129** *Nationalisms in the Middle East* (2011)
- **ARA 2160** *Islamist Movements: Muslim Brotherhood to Al Qaeda* (2010)
- **ARA 1010** *Politics and Economy of the Contemporary Middle East* (2010)
- **POL 3141** *Power and Politics in North Africa* (2009)

Papers, Presentations and Invited Lectures 2018-2023

2023 "Pushed to Violent Extremes: The Power of Culture in Violent Extremist Groups". USF College of Arts and Sciences Trail Blazers. September 14.

2023 **Exogenous Shocks on Local Governance in the Sahel**. Speaker Series for USAID, January 25. (w/Kevin Fridy).

- 2022** **Violent Extremist Organizations in the Sahel.** US Special Operations Command + US Africa Command, Ft. Bragg. September 15.
- 2021** **Great Power Competition in West Africa’s Counter Terrorism Operations.** International Studies Association, International Security Studies Section Conference, Indiana University, Bloomington. November 13.
- 2020** **“Briefing on Security in West Africa and the Sahel”.** 2nd Special Forces Groups. Fort Bragg. December 7-9.
- 2020** **“Navigating Extremism and Terrorist Groups in West Africa”.** 3rd Special Forces Group. Fort Bragg. July 20-24.
- 2020** **“West Africa Security Overview” and “Jihadists’ use of new technologies”.** FLINTLOCK 2020: Senior Leaders Seminar. US Special Operations Command & The Center for Near East and South Asian Studies, Nouakchott, Mauritania February 25-28.
- 2020** **“China in West Africa”.** Workshop on China in East Africa: Exploring How International Needs Drive Behavior Abroad. University of Rhode Island & Joint Special Operations University. January 14-16.
- 2019** **“Shari’a compliant banking & finance in the UK”**, Middle East Studies Center & Georgia State Law School, Georgia State University, Atlanta, March 8.
- 2019** **“Illiberal Groups in Liberal Democracies: Challenges to Citizenship”**, Workshop on Reengaging Citizenship: Past Promise, Present Challenges, and Future Blueprints, St Petersburg, FL, January 2-4.
- 2018** **“The White Power Music Scene: The Role of Hatecore Music in Extremist Group Recruitment”.** *American Society of Criminology*, Atlanta, GA, November 17. (With Jessica Grosholz).
- 2018** **“Work, Ritual and Self-Transformation: The Case of Tablighi Jamaat”**, Symposium on Constructing Images of Modern Muslim Selfhoods, Kochel, Germany, 5-9 April.

Grants

- 2023** **USF Office of Research Internal Awards.** “White Power Music: Understanding the Drivers of White Supremacy”. \$45,000 (Approved) (w/Jessica Grosholz).

- 2023** **USF Office of Research Internal Awards.** “Evidence-Based Cybersecurity: An Assessment of Active Hackers’ Motivations, Modus Operandi, and Pathways to Offending”. \$20,000 (Approved). (With Jordan Howell + Giti Javidi).
- 2021** **USF Humanities Institute Summer Research Award,** “Ballads of Hate: An analysis of White Power Music and what this tells us about the drivers of white supremacy.” \$5,000 (Approved).
- 2020** **Joint Special Operations University,** “Great Power Competition in West Africa: Implications for Special Operations Forces.” (PI with Kevin Fridy), \$17,500 (Approved).
- 2020** **Joint Special Operations University,** “Countering Violent Extremism in West Africa: Implications for Special Operations Forces.” (PI with Kevin Fridy), \$17,500 (Approved).
- 2019** **USFSM Accelerator Grant,** “Mapping the Drivers of Ethno-Religious Conflict in the Sahel: The Rise of Ethno-Religious Terrorism.” \$10,000 (Approved).
- 2012-2015** **Air Force Office of Scientific Research,** “Al-Qaeda and Islamist Militant Influences on Tribal Dynamics: Mali and Northern Nigeria Regions,” (Nigeria, Project Manager), \$1.3 million (PI: David Jacobson).
- 2009 – 2014** **Minerva Initiative,** Academic Consultant. (\$16 million grant project): “Finding Allies for the War of Words: Mapping the Diffusion and Influence of Counter-Radical Muslim Discourse.” (PI: Mark Woodward).

Awards

- 2021** Regional Chancellor’s Professional Development Award.
- 2019** USF Excellence in Research (non-Tenured) Award.
- 2018** USFSM Summer Research Grant.
- 2017** Teaching Excellence Award, Nomination.
- 2017** Regional Vice Chancellor’s Professional Development Award.
- 2014** Arizona State University Conference Travel Award.
- 2012** MINERVA Conference Travel Award.
- 2011** HRH Prince Al Waleed Al Saud Award for field research in Jerusalem.
- 2008** Ph.D. Bursary Award, Institute of Arab and Islamic Studies, University of Exeter (paid for PhD tuition costs).
- 2008** Special Commendation Award, best Master of Research dissertation.
- 2007** HRH Prince Al Waleed Al Saud Award for Arabic studies in Yemen.

University Committee Positions & Service

2022-present	Provost's Advisory Committee, Academic Analytics
2022	Hiring Committee, International Security, SIGS
2021-2022	USF Task Force on Strategic Planning
2021	USF Task Force Sub-Committee on National Security (co-chair).
2021	USF SACSOC Accreditation, Faculty Representative
2020 – Present	National Security Initiative (NSI), USF
2020 – Present	Graduate Comprehensive Exams. International Relations Committee, SIGS, USF.
2020 – Present	Graduate Committee, SIGS, USF.
2020	Interdisciplinary Social Sciences (ISS) Search Committee, Committee Chair.
2020 – 2021	Center for Entrepreneurship and Counter Extremism, Steering Committee. USFSM
2020	Tenure & Promotion; Faculty Governance Review Committees, SIGS, USF.
2020	Awards and Rewards Committee, USFSM
2019 – Present	USF Night at the Opera, coordinator
2018 – 2021	Faculty Senate, Senator.