

# Benjamin R. Naimark-Rowse

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## SUMMARY

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Ben is an internationally recognized, results-driven expert in social movements and philanthropy. Through December 2024, he served as the **first social movements advisor anywhere in the U.S. federal government**. In 2022, his doctoral **research on donor support for organizing and movements titled, *Dollars and Dissent*** was published as a policy monograph. It is based on five years of research and was **designed to be a primer and strategic framework for how donors can support grassroots organizers and nonviolent social movements** in the ways and moments most helpful to them.

Ben has two decades of experience managing philanthropic giving, advising governments, mentoring and training students and movement leaders, conducting innovative scholarship, and directing non-profits. He is a **Council on Foreign Relations Term Member** and a **Truman National Security Fellow**. He has been a **Harvard Program on Negotiation Graduate Research Fellow** and a **USIP-Minerva Peace and Security Scholar**.

**He holds deep relationships with philanthropic, governmental, academic, policy, and social movement leaders on five continents.** His experience sitting on both sides of the donor table informs his scholarship and strategic thinking about the relationship between philanthropy, individuals, communities, and social change.

His scholarship and professional work has appeared in numerous publications including **Foreign Policy**, the SAGE Encyclopedia of War, the **Journal of Peacebuilding & Development**, the Austin American-Statesman, **National Public Radio**, the **Atlanta Journal-Constitution**, the Orlando Sentinel, the **Chronicle of Philanthropy**, the Boston Herald, and the **United States Institute of Peace - Peace Frequency**.

## EDUCATION

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**Tufts University, The Fletcher School**, Medford, MA

Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) - Comparative Politics and International Security Studies, Expected 2025  
Dissertation Committee: Dr. Alex de Waal (Chair), Dr. Marshall Ganz, Dr. Richard Shultz  
Dissertation Title: "Dollars and Dissent"

**SciencesPo**, Paris, France

Visiting Scholar – Centre de Recherches Internationales (CERI), 2018-2023

**Princeton University, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs**, Princeton, NJ

Master in Public Affairs (M.P.A.) - International Relations and Public Policy, June 2012

**University of Chicago**, Chicago, IL

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.) with Honors - International Studies, June 2003

## PHILANTHROPIC EXPERIENCE

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**United States Agency for International Development (USAID)**, Hybrid, August 2023 – December 2024  
*Social Movements Advisor*

- Served as the first full-time social movements advisor anywhere in the United States federal government
- Co-managed [Powered by the People](#), USAID's largest single commitment ever to support social movements
- Advised USAID, missions, and the inter-agency on grassroots organizing and social movements
- Designed the first course on grassroots organizing and social movements for USAID University
- [Co-created a pooled fund led by Humanity United](#) leveraging public dollars to unlock private dollars
- Represented USAID at inter-agency and external gatherings

**USAID Consultant** with Nickol Global Solutions, Remote, Jan 2022 – June 2023

*International Social Movements and Nonviolent Collective Action Expert*

- Wrote USAID’s first movements guide, a [Primer on Nonviolent Collective Action in Democratic Development](#)
- Advised USAID on grassroots organizing and social movements
- Designed and led internal USAID socialization efforts on social movements and organizing
- Conceptualized Powered by the People, a \$45 million grant that supports the agency, resiliency, and efficacy of those engaged in nonviolent collective action ecosystems
- Advised USAID on policy related to support for social movements
- Represented USAID at donor coordination gatherings

**Open Society Policy Center / Open Society Institute**, Washington, DC, October – December 2006

*Multilateral Affairs Researcher*

- Co-designed NGO network to monitor the U.N. Human Rights Council
- Coordinated advocacy resulting in U.N. fact-finding mission to Darfur

**Open Society Foundations - Open Society Justice Initiative**, New York, NY, August 2003 – July 2006

*Program Officer and Program Coordinator*

- Managed criminal justice reform projects leading to policy and legislative changes in over a dozen countries
- Conducted technical assistance and site visits to Georgia, Latvia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Peru
- Engaged donor partners in joint philanthropic and policy programming
- Performed political and legal analysis of situation countries in English and Spanish
- Wrote and edited reports, monographs, press releases, a book published in English and Spanish
- Co-developed our philanthropic program’s first mid- and long-term strategic plans
- Managed interns, consultants, media, website, press releases, and international policy conferences
- Managed and monitored an annual budget and grant portfolio of over \$1 million

## **TRAINING, MENTORING, ADVISING EXPERIENCE**

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**PartnersGlobal**, Remote, December 2024 - Present

*Senior Advisor*

- Serve as a strategic advisor on Powered by the People
- Lead program portfolio on research and learning to strengthen movements and support for movements

**USAID**, Hybrid, January – December 2024

*Convener, Social Movements Working Group*

- Lead US government inter-agency working group to expand coordination and knowledge about movements

**The Fletcher School, Tufts University**, Medford, MA, 2015 – 2022

*Topol Fellow in Nonviolent Resistance*

- Managed nonviolent resistance fellowship program including events, budget, and fellows’ selection process
- Mentored masters and doctoral students in their research and internships related to nonviolent resistance

**Democracy Kitchen**, August 2020 – January 2021

*Member*

- Developed and shared resources, tools, and tactics to foster a peaceful democratic transition in the United States
- Led trainings using the Hold the Line Guide for the Truman National Security Project, Indivisible, and NARAL

**Seevak Human Rights and Social Justice Fellowship Program**, Boston, MA, June 2006 – 2018

*Founding Director*

- Conceptualized and directed this first-of-its-kind summer program for Boston Latin School students

**Indivisible**, Washington, DC, January 2017 – December 2017

*Volunteer Social Movements Advisor*

- Conducted research and developed strategic framework for Indivisible’s social movement strategy
- Offered strategic advice to leadership of this progressive grassroots network of 5,800 local groups across the US

## **RESEARCH AND ADVOCACY EXPERIENCE**

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**World Peace Foundation**, Somerville, MA, June – September 2013

*Research Consultant*

- Conceptualized “Reinventing Peace” lecture series

**Innovations for Successful Societies**, Princeton, NJ, October 2012 – July 2013

***Research Affiliate***

- Conducted multiple research missions to Mexico including interviews with high-level government officials
- Drafted case studies of police reform in Mexico

**World Bank / Princeton School of Public and International Affairs**, Princeton, NJ, 2011 – 2012

***Yemen Policy Workshop Author***

- Undertook coursework and field research in the U.A.E. and Djibouti
- Co-wrote policy memo on donor coordination for post-conflict development in Yemen

**Tom Perriello and Avaaz**, Cairo, Egypt and Washington, DC, Summer 2011

***Arab Spring Researcher***

- Co-led two research missions to Egypt
- Briefed high-level US government and non-governmental officials, and co-wrote press articles

**Darfurian Voices**, New York, NY, July 2007 – October 2010

***Co-Director***

- Conceptualized and co-led the first survey of Darfurian refugees' views of peace, justice, and reconciliation
- Secured over \$1 million in funding from private foundations and the Office of the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan
- Led multiple multi-month survey research missions in Chad
- Analyzed data from 2,152 survey interviews
- Co-authored *Darfurian Voices* report
- Developed strategic communication materials and education campaign including briefings for key stakeholders such as the US and UK Special Envoys, National Security Council directors, UN Missions, and the ICC
- Research cited by USAID, USIP, Foreign Policy, National Public Radio, the International Criminal Court et. al.

**Avaaz.org**, New York, NY, July 2007 – September 2007

***Consultant***

- Conceptualized and directed a U.N. advocacy campaign supporting a just peace for Darfur
- Co-developed an 800,000-person advocacy and education campaign supporting democracy in Burma

**The Carter Center**, Managua, Nicaragua, November 2006

***Electoral Observer***

- Monitored presidential elections

**Republic of Mexico, Office of the Under-Secretary of Human Rights and Democracy**, Mexico City, Mexico, June 2002 - August 2002

***Assistant to Director of Cases***

- Drafted reports on arbitrary detention and religious tolerance
- Co-coordinated first permanent dialogue mechanism for government agencies and civil society

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## **BOARD MEMBERSHIP AND LEADERSHIP**

**Peace Direct**, 2023 – Present

***US Board Member*** guiding this international NGO that supports local people to stop war and build lasting peace

**Leading Change Network**, 2017 – 2020

***Advisory Committee Member*** supporting a global community of grassroots organizers and movement leaders

**The Fletcher School**, Medford, MA

***Eight Annual Fletcher Doctoral Conference Co-Chair***, October 2013 – October 2014

***Leir Chair in Human Security Search Committee Member***, January 2014 – February 2014

**University of Chicago Human Rights Program**, Chicago, IL, January 2002 – June 2003

***Board Member***

## PUBLICATIONS

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### *Academic Publications*

- **“Surviving Success: Nonviolent Rebellion in Sudan”**  
Author, *Journal of Peacebuilding and Development: Civil Resistance Special Issue*, December 2017
- **“Nonviolent Resistance”**  
Author, *The SAGE Encyclopedia of War: Social Science Perspectives*, October 2016
- **“The Founding Myth of the United States of America”**  
Author, *Political Violence at a Glance*, July 2015
- *Journal of Public and International Affairs*, Princeton, NJ, 2012 Edition  
Assistant Editor

### *Popular Publications*

- **“People Power: How USAID is incorporating a movement mindset to its work”**  
Author, Medium, February 2024
- **“Liberating the ‘Enemy’”**  
Author, *Atlanta Journal-Constitution*, August 2018
- **Naila and the Uprising – Discussion Guide**  
External Reviewer, *Just Vision*, 2017
- **“¿Que Bolá Cuba?”**  
Author, *Austin America-Statesman*, *Boston Herald*, *Las Vegas Sun*, and *Orlando Sentinel*, March 2016
- **“The Trial Behind the Mubarak Trial”**  
Co-author with former Congressman Tom Perriello, *Huffington Post*, August 2011
- **TPMCafe Table for One: The Crisis in Darfur**  
Author, TPMCafe, September 2007

### *Policy Publications*

- **Primer on Nonviolent Collective Action in Democratic Development**  
USAID, Winter 2024
- **Donors Leery of Supporting Grassroots Organizing Need to Rethink How They Approach Such Work**  
*Chronicle of Philanthropy*, March 2023
- **“Dollars and Dissent: Donor Support for Grassroots Organizing and Nonviolent Movements”**  
Special Report Author, International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, September 2022
- **Minds of the Movement Blog Post - How Can Donors Best Support Nonviolent Movements?**  
International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, September 2022
- **DRG Learning Digest – Understanding Nonviolent Collective Action**  
USAID, Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance (DRG) Center, June 2022
- **“USIP Peace Frequency: Episode 32” – Strategic Communication in Nonviolent and Violent Movements**  
Sole interviewee for hour-long USIP podcast, February 2016
- **Darfurian Voices**  
Report, Co-author and Project Director, May 2010  
Film, Co-producer and Project Director, May 2010
- **Costos Sociales de la Prisión Preventiva en México**  
Co-editor and Project Coordinator, Random House Mondadori, 2008
- **Handbook of Basic Principles and Promising Practices on Alternatives to Imprisonment**  
Expert Review Group Member, U.N. Office on Drugs and Crime, 2005
- **Myths of Pretrial Detention in Mexico**  
Co-editor and Project Coordinator, Spanish and English editions, Open Society Justice Initiative, 2004-2005

## SELECTED LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

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- **USAID – Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Bureau**, Hybrid, November, 2023  
Global Gathering Session, “People Power”
- **USAID – Democracy, Human Rights, and Governance Center**, Hybrid, January 2023  
Tuesday Group Talk, “Donor Support for Grassroots Organizing and Nonviolent Social Movements”
- **American Political Science Association Annual Conference**, Virtual, September 2022  
Roundtable, “External Support for Nonviolent Movements and Grassroots Organizing”

- **Human Rights Funders Network and International Center on Nonviolent Conflict**, Virtual, September 2022  
Launch Webinar for “Dollars and Dissent”
- **Harvard Program on Negotiation**, Virtual, February 2022  
PON New Findings, “Friend of Enemy? Social Movement Strategy, Negotiation, and Democratization”
- **American Political Science Association**, Seattle, WA, October 2021 (Accepted)  
Paper Presentation, “Dollars and Dissent”  
Roundtable, “External Support for Nonviolent Movements and Grassroots Organizing”
- **Harvard Political Violence Workshop**, Cambridge, MA, December 2020  
Paper Presentation, “Dollars and Dissent”
- **International Studies Association**, Honolulu, HI, March 2020 (Accepted)  
Paper Presentation, “Dollars and Dissent”
- **Philanthropy and Civil Society Working Group, CUNY Graduate Center**, New York, NY, February 2020  
Paper Presentation, “Dollars and Dissent”
- **How We Fund: A Movement Funders Workshop, Open Society Foundations**, New York, NY, January 2019  
Invited Expert Presentation, “Donor Support for Social Movements: Trends, Tensions, and Ideas”
- **London School of Economics Contentious Politics Workshop**, London, UK October 2018  
Paper Presentation, “Liberating the Enemy in South Africa’s Anti-Apartheid Struggle”
- **African Studies Association**, Chicago, IL, November 2017  
Paper Presentation, “Dear Friend: Correspondence Across Enemy Lines”
- **Truman National Security Project National Conference**, Washington, DC, June 2017  
Presenter/Workshop Leader, “Defending Democracy: Movement Building”
- **Mobilization Conference on Social Movements and Protest**, San Diego, CA, May 2017  
Paper Presentation, “The Predation-Repression Paradox”
- **Yale Law School**, New Haven, CT, May 2017  
Invited Participant: “Informal Roundtable on Illiberal Democracy”
- **The Fletcher School, The Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies**, March 2017  
Moderator and Panelist: “Protecting Our Democracy: Lessons from Tunisia and Egypt”
- **International Studies Association**, Baltimore, MD, February 2017  
Paper Presentations, “Dear Friend: Correspondence Across Enemy Lines” and “Predation-Repression Paradox”
- **United States Institute of Peace**, Washington, DC, January 2017  
Invited Workshop Speaker, “External Support for Movements and Movement Building”
- **International Studies Association**, Atlanta, GA, March 2016  
Co-authored Paper Presentation, “The Strategic Utility of Diversity of Conflict”
- **United States Institute of Peace**, Washington, DC, February 2016  
Invited Speaker, “From Civil Resistance to Peaceful Resolution”
- **Harvard University, Mahindra Humanities Center**, Cambridge, MA, April 2015  
Paper Presentation, “Dying for Democracy? Civilian Fatalities during Nonviolent Rebellion in Sudan”
- **International Studies Association**, New Orleans, LA, February 2015  
Paper Presentation, “Dying for Democracy? Civilian Fatalities during Nonviolent Rebellion in Sudan”
- **Yale University, Conflict Resilience and Health Program**, New Haven, CT, February/March 2014  
Invited Workshop Participant: “Youth, Conflict & Governance in Africa”
- **University of Denver, Sié Chéou-Kang Center**, Denver, CO, October 2013  
Invited Workshop Participant: “Non-violent Strategies in Violent Contexts”
- **World Peace Foundation**, Somerville, MA, February 2013  
Invited Workshop Participant: “Western Advocacy in Conflict”
- **University of Chicago Taking the Next Step Program**, Chicago, IL, January 2007, 2008, and 2010  
Invited Panelist and Moderator: “Careers in NGOs, Policy and International Relations: Globetrotting”
- **Open Society Institute Due Process Training**, Aguascalientes/Zacatecas, Mexico, August 2005  
Expert Speaker: “*Experiencias Globales*”
- **Eleventh U.N. Crime Congress**, Bangkok, Thailand, April 2005  
Speaker: “Cost-Benefit Analysis of Pretrial Detention in Mexico”
- **International Center for Crime Prevention**, Paris, France, December 2004  
Experts’ group meeting participant
- **Latin America Prep Meeting, Eleventh U.N. Crime Congress**, San Jose, Costa Rica, April 2004  
Open Society Justice Initiative representative

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### *Teacher of Record*

**Course Designer and Instructor**, USAID University, Washington, DC, Fall 2024

*Social Movements and Grassroots Organizing: Nonviolent Collective Action in Democratic Development*

**Guest Instructor, *Matérialité du vote et circulation de norms***, SciencesPo, France, November 2020

“Voting Rules, Fraud, and Suppression: The 2020 United States Presidential Elections”

**Guest Instructor, *Transnational Mobilization***, SciencesPo, October 2018

“Nonviolent Power and Researching South Africa’s Anti-Apartheid Struggle”

**Guest Instructor, *Internal Conflict and War***, The Fletcher School, November 2015

“Nonviolent Power and Resisting Daesh/ISIS Strategy Session”

**Guest Instructor, *Introduction to Peace and Justice Studies***, Tufts University, September 2015

“Power, Violence, and Nonviolence”

**Lecturer**, Tufts University, School of Arts and Sciences, Fall Semester 2014

*From Gandhi to the Arab Spring: Theory and Practice of Nonviolent Resistance*

“Top Category of Excellent Teachers” citation based on student evaluations

### *Teaching Assistant*

**Teaching Assistant to Maciej Bartkowski & Hardy Merriman**, The Fletcher School

*Civil Resistance: Global Implications of Nonviolent Struggles for Rights and Accountability*, Spring 2018

*Civil Resistance: Global Implications of Nonviolent Struggles for Rights and Accountability*, Spring 2017

*Civil Resistance: Global Implications of Nonviolent Struggles for Rights and Accountability*, Spring 2016

**Teaching Assistant to Alex de Waal & Dyan Mazurana**, The Fletcher School, Spring Semester 2015

*Engaging Human Security: Sudan and South Sudan*

## FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS AND AWARDS

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- Dissertation Completion Fellowship, The Fletcher School (2021-2022)
- American Political Science Association, Accessibility and Human Rights Section Support Grants (2021)
- International Security Studies Program Research Grant, The Fletcher School (2021)
- Harvard Program on Negotiation Graduate Research Fellowship (2020-2021)
- USIP-Minerva Peace and Security Scholar (2020-2021)
- World Peace Foundation, Ph.D. Research Grant (2020)
- Henry J. Leir Institute, Human Security Fellow (2019-2020)
- Term Member, Council on Foreign Relations (2018-Present)
- Security Fellow, Truman National Security Project (2012-Present)
- Doctoral Conference Grant, The Fletcher School (Apr/Nov 2014; Jan/Dec 2016; Nov 2017; Apr 2018; Jan 2020)
- Ph.D. Fellow, Fares Center for Eastern Mediterranean Studies (2016-2019)
- Doctoral Research Fellowship, International Center on Nonviolent Conflict, (2018)
- Topol Research Fellowship (2018)
- John Roche Memorial Scholar (2014-2017)
- Henry J. Leir Institute, Human Security Research Travel Grant (May 2016)
- Doctoral Research Grant, The Fletcher School (2014, 2016 and 2018)
- Harvard Program on Negotiation Summer Fellowship (2015)
- Tufts University, Top Category of Excellent Instructors (2014-2015 Academic Year)
- Harvard University, Mahindra Humanities Center, Violence/Nonviolence Seminar Associate (2014-15)
- Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Doctoral Fellowship (2014-2015)
- Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace, Middlebury College (2014 - Declined)
- ICNC Civil Resistance Curriculum Development Fellowship (2014)
- Olympia Summer Academy Scholarship (2014)
- H.B. Earhart Fellowship (2013-2014)

## RECOMMENDERS

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- **Dr. Alison Boden**, Dean of Religious Life and the Chapel, Princeton University
- **Dr. Alex de Waal**, Research Professor, The Fletcher School, and Executive Director, World Peace Foundation
- **Dr. Marshall Ganz**, Senior Lecturer in Public Policy, Harvard Kennedy School
- **Tom Perriello**, U.S. Special Envoy for Sudan
- **Rosarie Tucci**, Deputy Assistant Administrator, USAID
- **Shannon Green**, Assistant to the Administrator, USAID

## ADDITIONAL TRAINING

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- **Summer Institute on Conducting Archival Research**, Washington, DC, May 2018
- **Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research**, Syracuse, NY, June 2015
- **Olympia Summer Academy - Conflict and Political Violence Course**, Olympia, Greece, July 2014
- **SELS - Research Design for Causal Inference Workshop**, Chicago, IL, July 2014
- **Fletcher Summer Institute for the Advanced Study of Nonviolent Conflict**, Boston, MA, June 2013
- **ICTJ - Essentials of Transitional Justice Course**, North Hempstead, NY, February 2008

## LANGUAGE

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- **Spanish** - Fluency including political, criminal justice and human rights terminology
- **French** - Basic