

Cory Runstedler, MA, MBA

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EDUCATION

PhD Political Science (expected 2026)

University of Connecticut

“It’s About the People, Not the Package: Lessons from the Warehousing Sector” (Dissertation)

Master of Arts Political Science (2023)

University of Connecticut

Master of Business Administration (2018)

University of Kentucky, Lexington, Kentucky

Master of Arts Sociology (2016)

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario

Produced original qualitative analysis of Canadian and American parenting magazines

Honors Bachelor of Arts Sociology, Specialization Crime and Deviance (2015)

University of Waterloo, Waterloo, Ontario

Original quantitative analysis of the impact of the media on an individual’s fear of crime

Ontario College Diploma with Distinction, Law and Security Administration (2013)

Conestoga College, Waterloo, Ontario

SKILLS

SPSS; R; Qualtrics; MS Office Suite; Canva; MailChimp

Mathematical Models: Rational Choice Theories of Politics & Society

July 2022

Social Network Analysis: Introduction

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan

Lean Six Sigma Green Belt

April 2018

LeanCor LLC

Fundamentals of Project Management

June 2017

LeanCor LLC

PUBLICATIONS

Chambers, Rachel, Shareen Hertel, and Cory Runstedler (2026, forthcoming). “Human rights due diligence: Views of process, from the ground up,” *Human Rights Quarterly* 48(1).

Right to Stand Up? Cross-National Analysis of Labor Rights and Union Repression. [*under review*]

Does Coffee Reflect the Assembly Line? Studying small bargaining units at Starbucks stores and how they reflect our understanding of large unions. [*under review*]

AWARDS

The Human Rights Institute Dissertation Writing Fellowship, UConn	2025
SERA-LSA Dissertation Research Grant, Social and Economic Rights Associates	2025
Conference Participation Award, The Graduate School, UConn	2025
Governor Abraham Ribicoff Fellowship, UConn	2024, 25
Pre-Doctoral Research Funds Award, Political Science, UConn	2021, 22, 23, 24, 25
Howard L. Reiter Memorial Award for Political Science Graduate Education UConn	2022, 2023

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

Labor and Employment Relations Association Annual Meeting	
Seattle, Washington	June 2025
<i>It's About the People Not Your Packages - Comparative study of the logistics and warehousing industry in Canada and the United States</i> ; presented on the "Control Regimes and Dynamics"	
Human Rights in the Balance: Safeguarding Social and Environmental Sustainability	
Freiburg, Germany	June 2025
Human rights due diligence: Views of process, from the ground up; poster presentation	
Labor and Employment Relations Association Annual Meeting	
New York, New York	June 2024
<i>Can Coffee Be Red and Blue: How the Starbucks Union Movement Maps on Red and Blue States</i> , finalist for the LERA Competitive Papers: Union Strategies and Campaigns	
<i>It's About the People Not Your Packages - Comparative study of the logistics and warehousing industry in Canada and the United States</i> ; presented on the "Global Supply Chains, Free Trade, and Labor Activism Symposium"	
Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association	
San Francisco, California	April 2024
<i>Human Rights Due Diligence: Views of the Process, from the Ground Up</i> . Paper (co-authored with Dr. Rachel Chambers and Dr. Shareen Hertel) presented on the "Right to Development and Food Security" panel	
CUNY Critical Perspectives on Human Rights	
New York, New York	April 2024
<i>Unionizing the Trafficked: The Untold Stories of Equestrian Workers</i> ; presented on the "Anti-Trafficking Law, Survivors, and Activism"	
Northeastern Political Science Association	
Boston, Massachusetts	November 2023
<i>Right to Stand Up? Cross-National Analysis of Labor Rights and Union Repression</i> (paper presented for a panel on "International Law, Rules, and Soft Power")	
Chair for a panel on "Human Rights and Mobilization Against Oppression"	
Discussant for a panel on "Perspectives of Extremism and Islamism"	

Labor and Employment Relations Association Annual Meeting

Detroit, Michigan

June 2023

Can the Few Replace the Many? Interpreting the New Wave of Union-Based Collective Action Focused on Smaller Groups; presented on “New Research on Unions and Collective Action Best Paper” panel

New England Political Science Association

Mystic, Connecticut

May 2023

Can the Few Replace the Many? Interpreting the New Wave of Union-Based Collective Action Focused on Smaller Groups; presented on “Authority and Agents” panel

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research expert**UConn School of Business/Macy’s Inc. Sustainability Challenge grant**

April 2025

Invited as an industry expert to advise a grant-funded undergraduate research team on human rights dimensions of the logistics and trucking sector.

Graduate Research Assistant

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

May 2025 – Present

National Science Foundation Project, Measuring Changes in Attitudes Towards Human Rights in Engineering Students. Award #2407301. PI: Davis Chacón-Hurtado, Co-PIs: Shareen Hertel, Arash E. Zaghi, SP: Betsy D. McCoach.

Contributed to an NSF-funded project examining human rights perspectives among engineering students by creating the survey and learning modules.

Graduate Research Assistant

University of Connecticut, Storrs, Connecticut

April 2025 – August 2025

Teaching Human Rights in Political Science (Elgar Press, forthcoming), Editors David L. Richards and Shareen Hertel

Assisted with an edited volume organizing submission for publication and facilitating editor comments with chapter authors.

Graduate Research Assistant

University of Connecticut, Human Rights Institute, Storrs, Connecticut

August 2023 – Present

Professor Shareen Hertel, Wiktor Osiatyński Chair of Human Rights

Provide research support and logistical management for multiple academic programs for which Professor Hertel is director. Additionally, collaborate on literature reviews, revisions of scholarly articles in progress, and outreach to colleagues in the human rights field internationally.

Graduate Research Assistant

University of Connecticut, Human Rights Institute, Storrs, Connecticut

August 2022 – August 2023

Business and Human Rights Initiative

Organize and facilitate workshops and invited talks while supporting mixed methods research.

Graduate Research Assistant

University of Connecticut, Human Rights Institute, Storrs, Connecticut August 2021 – August 2022
Human Rights Research Hub

Conduct qualitative and quantitative research related to human rights and armed conflict which contributed to creating a novel data set tracking territory control of armed rebel groups.

Sales Manager

Penske Truck Leasing, Cambridge, Ontario September 2020 – July 2021

Manage and promote sales for three main offices and eight satellite locations, which included mentoring and training junior associates about the sales process to ensure their success. Furthermore, I developed and presented customer pitches to support customers through the entire sales process

Assistant Operations Manager

Penske Truck Leasing, Lexington, Kentucky/ Hamilton, Ontario September 2018 – September 2020

Effectively manage logistics, sales, and customer relations to ensure the success of our clients' businesses. This included analyzing market trends, competitors, and P&L statements to make effective business decisions.

Marketing and Supply Chain Intern

Habitat for Humanity, Lexington, Kentucky September 2017 – May 2018

Lead a team conducting qualitative and quantitative research to inform organizational growth by identifying unique avenues for funding and cost savings.

Teaching Assistant

Wilfrid Laurier University, Waterloo, Ontario September 2015 – April 2016

Worked directly with the course instructor to coordinate coursework, grade assignments, and manage the online student interface while providing the first line of conflict resolution with students.

Inventory Manager

Home Hardware Stores Limited, St. Jacobs, Ontario May 2016 – May 2018

Streamline product location for increased efficiency in multiple warehouse areas in addition to being the lead manager for over 600 storage trailers to ensure product availability and efficient warehouse space use.

Material Handler

Home Hardware Stores Limited, St. Jacobs, Ontario September 2011 – May 2016

Achieved unique distinction as the only student material handler trained across all warehouse functions, demonstrating adaptability, initiative, and capacity to take on advanced responsibilities.