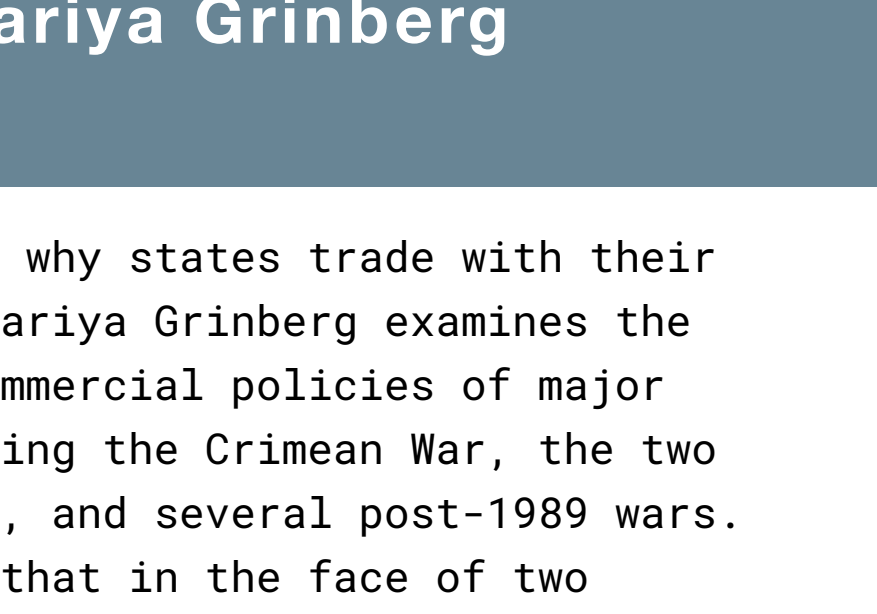
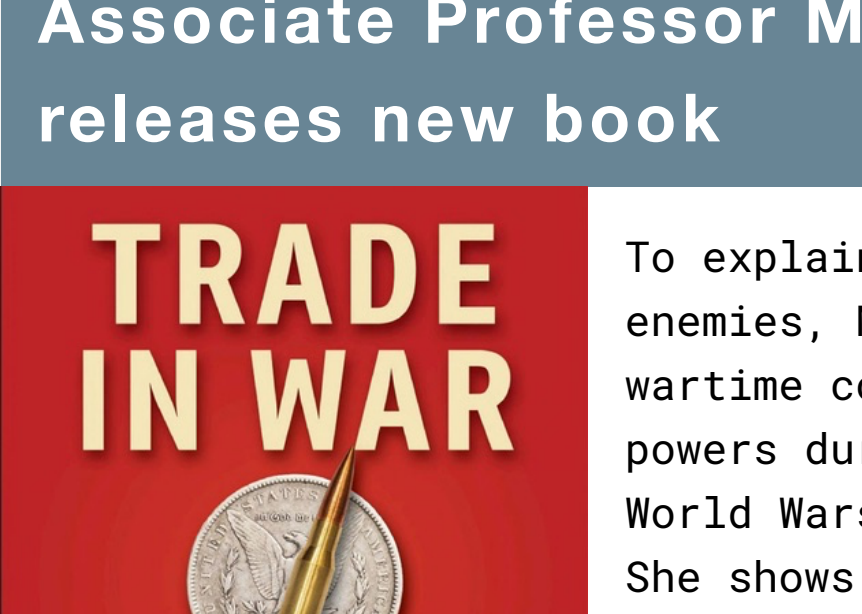




SSP kicks off the new academic year



SSP Director M. Taylor Fravel ushered in the fall semester on September 3, welcoming students, fellows, faculty, researchers, and staff in the Program's temporary space at NE-49. A welcome lunch on the lawn followed, giving everyone a chance to meet and catch up. This academic year, SSP adds five new PhD students and hosts a number of new fellows and researchers, including five military fellows, three Stanton fellows, three international fellows, two research support associates, and one senior researcher. [Learn more](#) about all the new folks joining SSP this year.



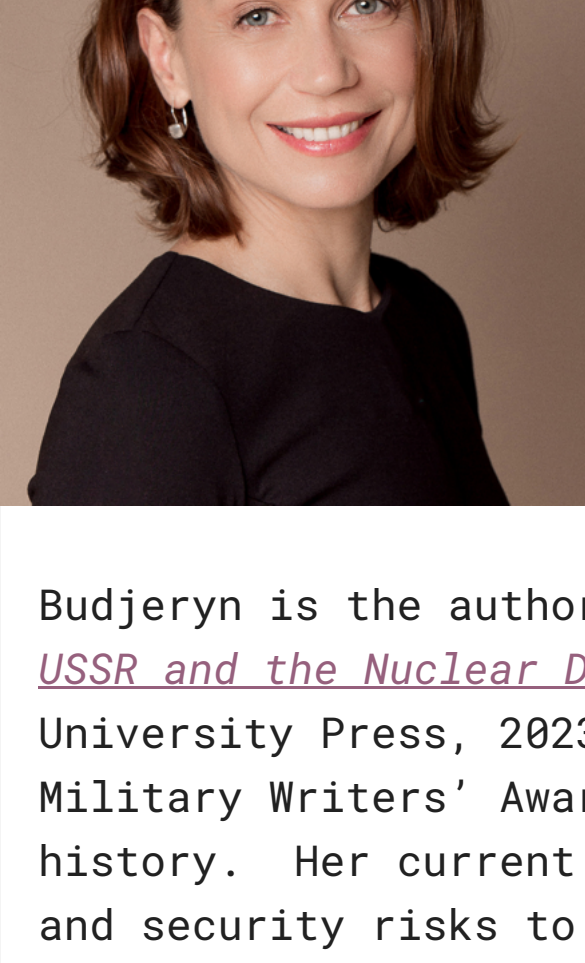
Associate Professor Mariya Grinberg releases new book



To explain why states trade with their enemies, Mariya Grinberg examines the wartime commercial policies of major powers during the Crimean War, the two World Wars, and several post-1989 wars. She shows that in the face of two competing imperatives—preventing an enemy from increasing its military capabilities, and maintaining its own long-term security through economic exchange—states at war tailor wartime commercial policies around a product's characteristics and war expectations.

[Read more](#) about Grinberg's new book [Trade in War: Economic Cooperation Across Enemy Lines](#).

The Center for Nuclear Security Policy welcomes Austin Long and Mariana Budjeryn



Dr. Austin Long joins the Center for Nuclear Security Policy (CNSP) as a senior nuclear fellow. From October 2022 to June 2025, Long served as the Joint Staff deputy director, Strategic Stability Strategy, Plans and Policy Directorate. "We are beyond thrilled for Austin to return to the SSP and CNSP family, where he did his PhD," said CNSP Director Vipin Narang.

Long added, "I am excited to join CNSP and help develop the next generation of thinkers on nuclear policy, strategy, and operations." [Learn more about Long](#) and his work.

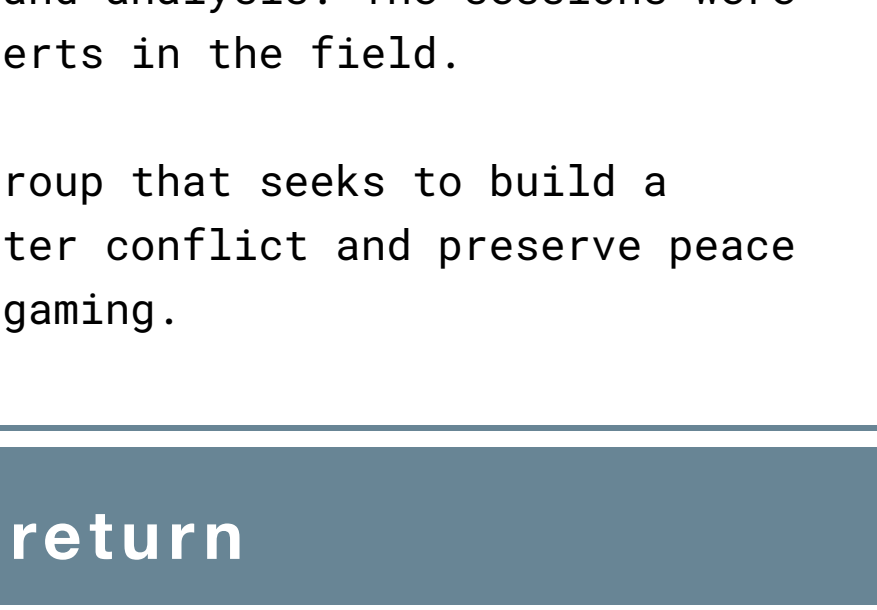
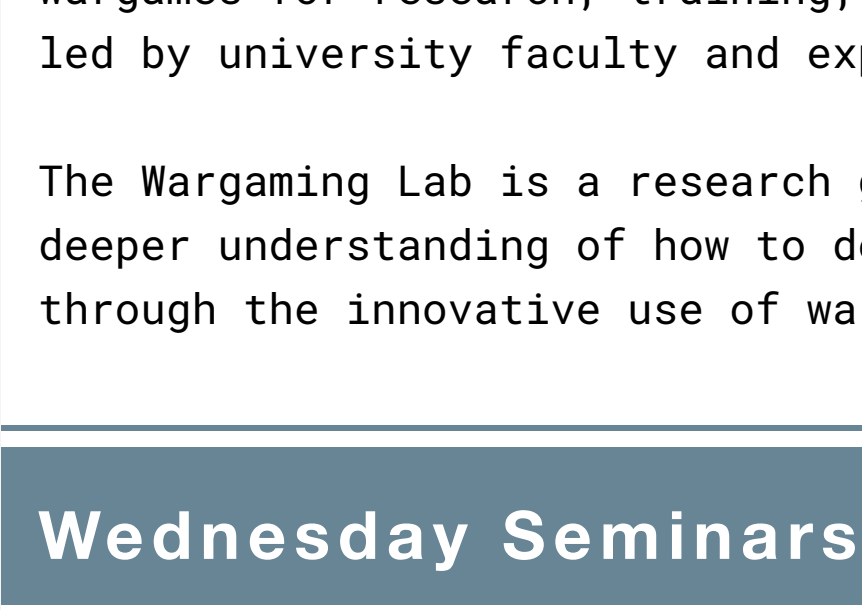


Dr. Mariana Budjeryn joins CNSP as a senior researcher. Previously, Budjeryn held appointments as senior research associate with the Project on Managing the Atom (PMA) at the Harvard Kennedy School's Belfer Center, Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow at WTA, a fellow at Harvard's Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, and as a visiting professor at Tufts University and Peace Research Institute Frankfurt.

Budjeryn is the author of [Inheriting the Bomb: The Collapse of the USSR and the Nuclear Disarmament of Ukraine](#) (Johns Hopkins University Press, 2023) and a winner of the 2024 William E. Colby Military Writers' Award, the first female in the award's 25-year history. Her current research project focuses on nuclear safety and security risks to civilian nuclear reactors in armed conflict.

Welcome, Austin and Mariana!

Wargaming Lab updates



SSP's Wargaming Lab, co-directed by Eric Heginbotham and Erik Lin-Greenberg, enjoyed a busy summer. The Lab held its annual Flagship Game at the Endicott House in Dedham, MA on June 27-28. Thirty attendees from governmental organizations, academia, and the private sector participated in the Wargaming Lab's Crisis 2030 wargame. The game consisted of four teams representing the US government, European governments, Russia's government, and private sector actors from the US and Europe who attempted to advance their political, commercial, and military interests and manage the crisis.

On July 20-24, the Wargaming Lab returned to the Endicott House to host its annual Summer Wargaming Institute. Participants from all over the world attended the four-day "bootcamp"-style program to learn from practitioners and scholars on how to design and run wargames for research, training, and analysis. The sessions were led by university faculty and experts in the field.

The Wargaming Lab is a research group that seeks to build a deeper understanding of how to deter conflict and preserve peace through the innovative use of wargaming.

Wednesday Seminars return

The Wednesday Seminars kick off on September 17 with John Blaxland of Australian National University presenting "Global Security Challenges: A View from Down Under." The seminars will be held in our temporary offices at NE49-3100, 600 Technology Square. MIT access is required to attend in person. Additionally, many of our seminars will be live-streamed and posted for later viewing. Check out our [full seminar schedule](#) for speaker details and schedule updates.

Upcoming Wednesday Seminars

SEP 17

JOHN BLAXLAND, AUSTRALIAN NATIONAL UNIVERSITY
Global Security Challenges: A View from Down Under

SEP 24

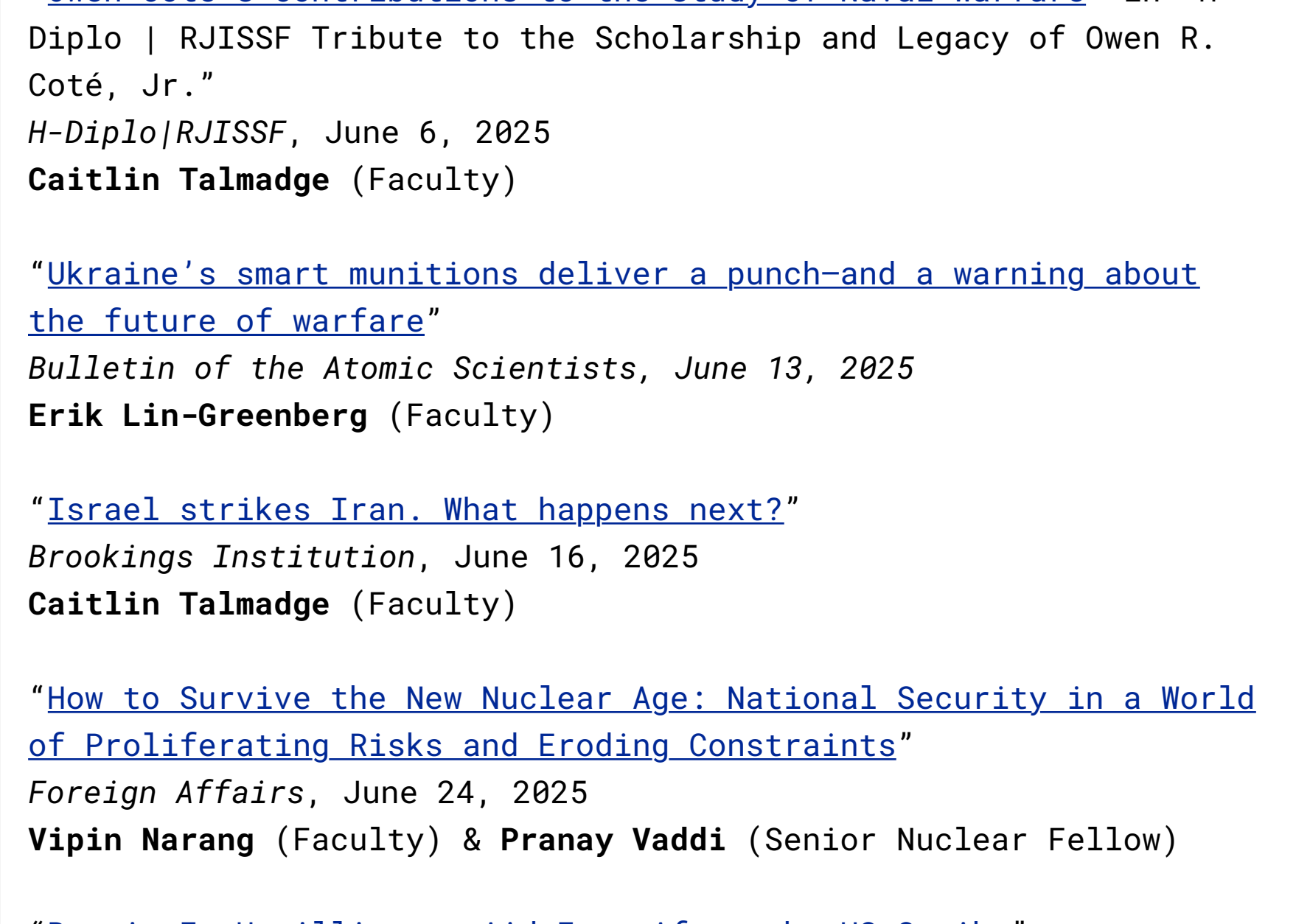
Austin Long, Center for Nuclear Security Policy
Reflections on Nuclear Policy, 2018-2025

OCT 08

James Goodrich, RAND Corporation
Topic: TBA

Meanwhile, catch up on the conversation with our [past seminars](#).

Where are they now?



Nicholas Blanchette
Associate Political Scientist, RAND Corporation

Zachary Burdette
Associate Political Scientist, RAND Corporation

Suzanne Freeman
Postdoctoral Research Fellow, American University School of International Service

Eleanor Freund
Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Council on Foreign Relations

Jung Jae Kwon (pictured left)
Postdoctoral Fellow, UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation

Kunal Singh (pictured center)
Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center

Raymond Wang
Postdoctoral Fellow, Columbia-Harvard China and the World Program at Columbia SPIA and Research Fellow, Harvard Kennedy School Belfer Center

Publications

"[Owen Cote's Contributions to the Study of Naval Warfare](#)" in "H-Diplo | RJISSF Tribute to the Scholarship and Legacy of Owen R. Cote, Jr."
H-Diplo/RJISSF, June 6, 2025

Caitlin Talmadge (Faculty)

"[Ukraine's smart munitions deliver a punch-and a warning about the future of warfare](#)"
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, June 13, 2025

Erik Lin-Greenberg (Faculty)

"[Israel strikes Iran. What happens next?](#)"
Brookings Institution, June 16, 2025

Caitlin Talmadge (Faculty)

"[How to Survive the New Nuclear Age: National Security in a World of Proliferating Risks and Eroding Constraints](#)"
Foreign Affairs, June 24, 2025

Vipin Narang (Faculty) & **Pranay Vaddi** (Senior Nuclear Fellow)

"[Russia Is Unwilling to Aid Iran After the US Strike](#)"
The National Interest, June 28, 2025

Carol R. Saivetz (Senior Fellow)

"[The global implications of the US strikes on Iran](#)"
Brookings Institution, July 1, 2025

Caitlin Talmadge (Faculty)

"[Tehran's no good, very bad options, and why only diplomacy can head off an Iranian bomb](#)"
Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists, July 3, 2025

Pranay Vaddi (Senior Nuclear Fellow)

"[Is China's Military Ready for War? What Xi's Purges Do-and Don't Mean for Beijing's Ambitions](#)"
Foreign Affairs, July 18, 2025

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty)

"[In Denial?: Debating US Nuclear Strategy](#)"
Foreign Affairs, August 19, 2025

Vipin Narang (Faculty) & **Pranay Vaddi** (Senior Nuclear Fellow)

"[The Counter-Silo Capabilities of Conventional Prompt Strike Weapons](#)"
Science & Global Security, August 22, 2025

Eli Sanchez (CNSP Post-doctoral Research Fellow)

Multimedia & Talks

Jim Walsh (Senior Research Associate) appeared on NPR to discuss "[A really bad mistake: US strikes spark protests, patriotism in Tehran](#)" on June 23, 2025.

Eric Heginbotham in conversation with **Mark F. Cancian**, and **Matthew F. Cancian** (PhD) appeared on a podcast "[Lights Out? Wargaming a Chinese Blockade of Taiwan](#)" for the Center for Strategic & International Studies (CSIS) on July 31, 2025.

M. Taylor Fravel (Faculty) was a guest on CSIS episode of *Pekinology*, hosted by Henrietta Levin, to discuss his *Foreign Affairs* article, "[Is China's Military Ready for War?](#)" on August 21, 2025.

News

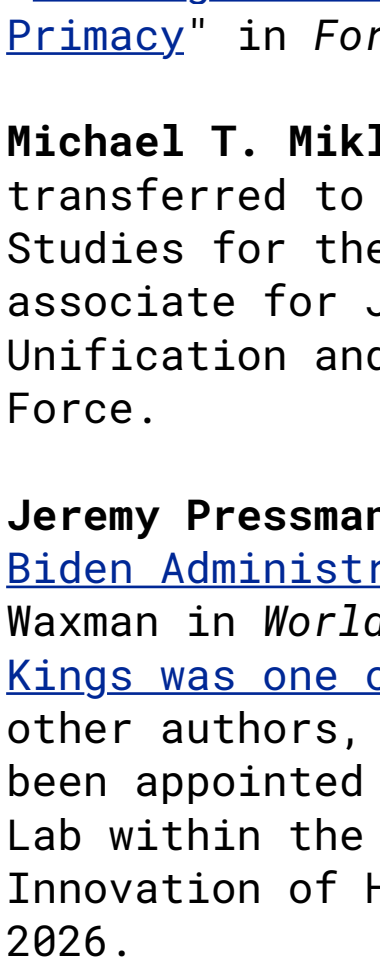
Joel Brenner (Senior Fellow) has been named to the advisory board of *Highground*, a Rome-based private intelligence and political risk firm.

Mariya Grinberg (Faculty) was promoted to Associate Professor (without tenure), effective July 1.

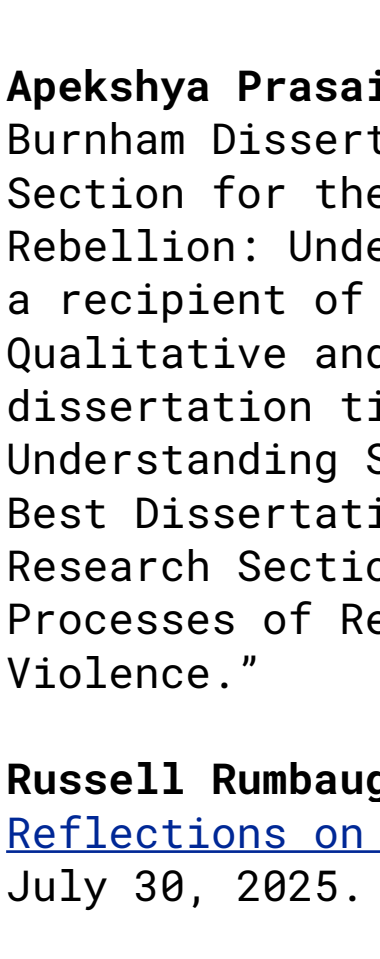
Alumni Books



Thaddeus V. Drake Jr. (Former Military Fellow)
[Military Bureaucracy and Decision Making: A Public Choice Perspective](#)
Quantico, Virginia: Marine Corps University Press, June 2025



Francis J. Gavin (Affiliate)
[Thinking Historically: A Guide to Statecraft and Strategy](#)
Yale University Press, September 2025



Reid B.C. Pauly (Affiliate)
[The Art of Coercion: Credible Threats and the Assurance Dilemma](#)
Cornell University Press, August 2025

Alumni Highlights

Boaz Atzili (PhD) will be presenting his paper "Interstate Relations and Center-Periphery Relations at the Himalayan Borderlands" at the APSA annual convention in Vancouver on September 12, 2025.

Shannon Brown (Former Military Fellow) assumed the duties of Assistant Wing Commander for Second Marine Aircraft Wing in August 2025.

Zachary Burdette (PhD) published "[Why the United States Should Not Fear a Space Pearl Harbor](#)" in *Lawfare* on July 27, 2025.

Austin Cooper (Former Stanton Fellow) [is a recipient of the Fulbright NATO Security Studies fellowship in Belgium, Fall 2025](#).

Shawn Creamer (Former Military Fellow) wrote "[Ending the Strategic Holiday: Rising to meet the China Challenge](#)" in *The Ripon Forum* (June 2025), and co-authored with Colonel (Ret) Rich Butler "[Collective security in the Indo-Pacific: Rethinking the United Nations Command](#)" for the *Atlantic Council* on July 17, 2025.

David Edelman (CIS Affiliate) wrote a commentary on "[Interwoven Frontiers: Energy, AI, and US-China competition](#)" for the *Brookings Institution* on August 11, 2025.

Thomas Fraize (Former Stanton Fellow) wrote "[L'arme nucléaire est-elle toujours dissuasive, 80 ans après les bombardements d'Hiroshima et Nagasaki?](#)" for *Franceinfo* on June 6, 2025 and co-authored with Sterre van Buuren and Benoit Pelopidas in "[Existential silos: The compartmentalization of the futures of environmental change and the nuclear threat](#)" in *Futures* for the October 2025 edition.

Andrew Halterman (PhD) [was awarded an NSF grant to develop new techniques for measuring rebel territorial control and governance using machine learning and text sources](#).

Phil Haun (Affiliate) with **Colin Jackson** (PhD), published "[Lost in Translation: Proxy War and the Sino-American Technology Transfer from the Korean War to the Battle of Dien Bien Phu](#)" in the *Journal of Military History* on July 2025.

Doreen Horschig (Former Stanton Fellow) appeared on [BBC News](#) for a discussion on "US Strikes Iran" on June 23, 2025.

Peter Krause (PhD) published "[How Students and the Public Define Terrorism, and How Education Affects Those Definitions](#)" with Betül Özturan and Liane Young in *Terrorism and Political Violence* on July 9, 2025.

Alan J. Kuperman (PhD) published "[US Nuclear Energy Plans Could Proliferate Weapons](#)" in *Scientific American* on July 30, 2025.

Marika Landau-Wells (PhD) 2024 International Organization article "[Building from the Brain](#)" received the Robert O. Keohane award for the best research article by an untenured scholar.

Jennifer Lind (PhD) wrote "[How Pay-to-Play in the White House Undermines Export Controls Against China](#)" in the *National Interest* on August 19, 2025 and co-authored with Daryl G. Press, "[Strategies of Prioritization: American Foreign Policy After Primacy](#)" in *Foreign Affairs*, July/August 2025 issue.

Michael T. Miklos (Former Military Fellow) on August 31, 2025 transferred to professor at the School of Advanced Military Studies for the Saudi Arabian National Guard. Formerly senior associate for Jones Group International focusing on the Unification and Transformation of the Royal Saudi Air and Space Force.

Jeremy Pressman (PhD) published two articles: "[No Limits: The Biden Administration's support for Israel's War on Gaza](#)" with Dov Waxman in *World Affairs* on July 31, 2025 and "[New data shows No Kings was one of the largest days of protest in US history](#)" with other authors, in *Waging Nonviolence* on August 12, 2025. He has been appointed as Senior Research Fellow at The Nonviolent Action Lab within the Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation of Harvard Kennedy School for the academic year 2025-2026.

Apekshya Prasai (PhD) received three awards: the Walter Dean Burnham Dissertation Award from APSA's Politics and History Section for the dissertation titled "Gendered Processes of Rebellion: Understanding Strategies for Organizing Violence," was a recipient of the Qualitative Evidence Award from APSA's Qualitative and Multi Method Research (QMRR) section for dissertation titled "Gendered Processes of Rebellion: Understanding Strategies for Organizing Violence," and the 2024 Best Dissertation Award from APSA's Women, Gender and Politics Research Section (WGPERS) for dissertation titled "Gendered Processes of Rebellion: Understanding Strategies for Organizing Violence."

Russell Rumbaugh (MS) appeared on a podcast "[ATFM episode 36: Reflections on the current budget environment](#)" with Guidehouse on July 30, 2025.

Erik Sand (Affiliate) and Michael Poznansky published "[Spectacular Drone Strikes and the Future Sanctuary of the US Homeland](#)" for *War on the Rocks* on August 27, 2025.

Joel Schmidt (Former Military Fellow), USMC, has been promoted to brigadier general and is currently serving as assistant division commander, 2nd Marine Division.

Joshua A. Schwartz (Former Statecraft Fellow) in collaboration with other authors, published "[What Drones Can-and Cannot-Do on the Battlefield: The Pentagon Should Learn From Israel and Ukraine](#)" for *Foreign Affairs* on July 4, 2025 and "[Popcorn and Politics: A Course on American Foreign Policy and Film](#)" in the *Journal of Political Science Education* on July 7, 2025.

Kunal Singh (PhD) published "[Geopolitical exposure: US-Russia-China dynamics have spelled a nightmare for India](#)" in *Mint* on August 10, 2025.

Lauren Sukin (Former Stanton Fellow) published "[Allies and partners: US public opinion and relationships in the Indo-Pacific](#)" in collaboration with other authors for *Contemporary Security Policy* on July 29, 2025.