

Brian Blankenship

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Professional Appointments

US Foreign Policy and International Security Postdoctoral Fellow, 2018-2019.

John S. Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College.

Adjunct Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Columbia University, Summer 2018.

Education

Ph.D., Political Science, Columbia University, 2018.

Dissertation: *Promises under Pressure: Reassurance and Burden-Sharing in Asymmetric Alliances*
(committee: Robert Jervis, Richard Betts, Jack Snyder, Allison Carnegie, Keren Yarhi-Milo)

Major Field: International Relations

Minor Field: Quantitative Methods

M.Phil., Political Science, Columbia University, 2015.

M.A., Political Science, Columbia University, 2014.

B.A., Political Science (with honors); and B.A., History, Indiana University, 2012.

Granted with Highest Distinction, Honors, and Phi Beta Kappa

Thesis: "Dropping the Bomb: Explaining Nuclear Reversal"
(committee: Dina Spechler and Sumit Ganguly)

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

When Do States Take the Bait? State Capacity and the Provocation Logic of Terrorism, *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 62:2 (2018), 381-409.

How Do Sectoral Interests Shape Distributive Politics? Evidence from Gasoline and Diesel Subsidies. [With Johannes Urpelainen.] Accepted at *Review of Policy Research*.

A Deceptive Estimate? The Politics of Irregular Troop Numbers in Vietnam, *Journal of Intelligence History* 12:2 (2013), 93-112.

Book and Article Reviews

Review of *The Supply Side of Security*, by Tongfi Kim, *Political Science Quarterly* 132:2 (2017), 360–361.

Review of “Status Competition and Territorial Aggression: Evidence from the Scramble for Africa” (*Security Studies* 25:3 (2016), 385-419), by Joslyn Barnhart. H-Diplo ISSF, November 11, 2016.

Review of *Theory of Unipolar Politics*, by Nuno Monteiro, *Political Science Quarterly* 130:1 (2015), 157–158.

Papers under Review

Promises under Pressure: Reassurance in Asymmetric Alliances. (Under review at the *American Political Science Review*.)

Purchasing Power: U.S. Overseas Defense Spending and Military Statecraft [With Renanah Miles]. (Under review at the *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.)

Barking Up the Wrong Tree: Retrospective Voting, Natural Disasters, and Electoral Backlash. [With Ryan Kennedy, Johannes Urpelainen, and Joon Yang.] (Under review at the *American Journal of Political Science*.)

Other Publications

Can Obama Play the Trump Card with Allies?, *War on the Rocks*, August 15, 2016.

The Risks of U.S. Allies Going Rogue, *National Interest*, January 22, 2016. [With Renanah Miles.]

Djibouti’s First, But Will It Last?, *Lawfare*, January 3, 2016. [With Renanah Miles.]

Works in Progress

Working Papers

The Patron’s Price: Understanding Coercive Alliance Burden-Sharing.

Purchasing Primacy: Power Projection and the Market for Access [With Renanah Miles].

Revolutions in Reassurance: The Effect of Military Technology on Alliance Assurances [With Erik Lin-Greenberg].

Excising Threats or Exhibiting Resolve? The Causes and Consequences of Joint Military Exercises [With Raymond Kuo].

Datasets

U.S. Alliance Reassurance, 1950-2010. A dataset of all instances in which a U.S. president issued a statement of reassurance that the United States was committed to an ally’s defense.

U.S. Government Contract Spending, 2000-2015. [With Renanah Miles.] A dataset of all overseas U.S. procurement spending, including defense. Includes data on country of performance, vendor, and purpose of contract.

Fellowships, Grants, and Awards

Dissertation Development Grant, Columbia University Political Science Department, 2017-2018 (\$2,800).

Seed Grant, Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy, Columbia University, 2016-2017 (\$15,000, with Johannes Urpelainen and Jason Wong).

World Politics and Statecraft Grant, Smith Richardson Foundation, 2016-2017 (\$7,500).

Ph.D. Training Grant, Weatherhead East Asian Institute, Columbia University, Summer 2016 (\$1,000).

Teaching Fellow, Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2013-2014, 2014-2015, 2015-2016, 2017-2018.

Lynn S. Weiss Memorial Fellow, Columbia University Political Science Department, 2014-2015.

Travel Grant, Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2014, 2016, 2017.

Travel Grant, Columbia University Political Science Department, 2014, 2016, 2017.

Dean's Fellow, Columbia University Graduate School of Arts and Sciences, 2012-2013.

Invited Talks and Briefings

U.S. Department of Defense, January 25, 2018

Conference Presentations

59th International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, April 4-7, 2018.

The Patron's Price: Understanding Coercive Alliance Burden-Sharing (paper).

Purchasing Power: U.S. Overseas Defense Spending and Military Statecraft (paper, with Renanah Miles).

113th Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA, August 31-September 3, 2017.

Promises under Pressure: Reassurance in Asymmetric Alliances (paper).

75th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 6-9, 2017.

Promises under Pressure: Reassurance and Burden-Sharing in U.S. Alliances (paper).

Excising Threats or Exhibiting Resolve? The Causes and Consequences of Joint Military Exercises (paper, with Raymond Kuo).

112th Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA, September 1-4, 2016.

Promises under Pressure: Reassurance, Retrenchment, and Burden-Sharing in U.S. Alliances (ePoster).

Market for Access: Outside Options and Bargaining for Power Projection (ePoster, with Renanah Miles).

74th Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL, April 7-10, 2016.

Promises under Pressure: Reassurance and Burden-Sharing Pressure in Asymmetric Alliances (paper).

57th International Studies Association Annual Convention, Atlanta, GA, March 16-19, 2016.

Bases of (In)convenience? Bargaining Dynamics in Flexible Military Basing (paper, with Renanah Miles).

ISSS-ISAC Joint Annual Conference, Austin, TX, November 14-16, 2014.

When Do States Take the Bait? Testing the Provocation Logic of Terrorism (paper).

Professional Activities

Research Assistant

Keren Yarhi-Milo (Princeton), January 2017 – April 2017.

Page Fortna (Columbia) and Tanisha Fazal (Notre Dame), Civil War Initiation and Termination (C-WIT) Project, June 2013 – June 2015.

Page Fortna (Columbia) and Tanisha Fazal (Notre Dame), Interstate War Initiation and Termination (I-WIT) Project, August 2014 – June 2015.

Dina Spechler (Indiana), Comparative Foreign Policy in the Middle East, Summer 2011.

Dina Spechler (Indiana), Comparative Foreign Policy in Western Europe, Fall 2009.

Departmental Service

President, Columbia University Political Science Graduate Student Council, 2013-14.

Participant

New Era Foreign Policy Conference (NEFP), School of International Service, American University, Washington, DC, March 6-8, 2016.

Summer Workshop on Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS), Ithaca, NY, July 5-19, 2015.

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Syracuse, NY, June 15-26, 2015.

Manuscript Reviewer

Journal of Conflict Resolution

Journal of Peace Research

Journal of Global Security Studies

Conflict Management and Peace Science

International Relations

International Political Science Review

Professional Experience

Graduate Student Summer Associate, RAND Corporation, Washington, DC, Summer 2016.

PR-2644-AF: An Analysis of the Potential Benefits and Risks of U.S. Military Presence

Mentor: Stacie Pettyjohn

Editorial Assistant, *Political Science Quarterly*, September 2012 – May 2018.

Professional Membership

American Political Science Association

International Studies Association

Midwest Political Science Association

Professional Skills

Stata (proficient)

R (proficient)

L^AT_EX (proficient)

Teaching

Columbia University

Instructor for *Topics in International Security*: Summer 2018.

Undergraduate Thesis Adviser, American Studies Department, 2017-2018.

Larissa Mark, "Peripheral Tragedy of U.S. Cold War Foreign Policy."

Teaching Assistant for Benjamin Goodrich, *Data Analysis and Statistics for Political Science Research*: Spring 2016.

Teaching Assistant for Richard Betts, *War, Peace, and Strategy*: Fall 2014; Fall 2015; Fall 2017.

Teaching Assistant for Robert Jervis, *Introduction to International Relations*: Spring 2015; Spring 2018.

Teaching Assistant for Eric Blanchard, *Introduction to International Relations*: Spring 2014.

Teaching Assistant for Tonya Putnam, *Introduction to International Relations*: Fall 2013.

Indiana University

Teaching Assistant for Dina Spechler, *Introduction to International Relations*, Spring 2010.

Research Interests

International security; alliance politics; nuclear proliferation; U.S. foreign base politics; arms races; signaling and reputation; power projection; intelligence; energy policy

Languages

English (native)

French (intermediate proficiency)

References

Robert Jervis, Adlai E. Stevenson Professor of International Politics, Columbia University

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Johannes Urpelainen, Prince Sultan bin Abdulaziz Professor of Energy, Resources and Environment,
Johns Hopkins University, School of Advanced International Studies

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Jack Snyder, Robert and Renee Belfer Professor of International Relations, Columbia University

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