

CAITLIN TALMADGE, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Security Studies, Georgetown University
Senior Non-Resident Fellow in Foreign Policy, The Brookings Institution
Research Affiliate, Security Studies Program, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology
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ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY

Associate Professor of Security Studies, The Walsh School of Foreign Service, 2018-present
Concentration Chair, Military Operations, Security Studies Program, 2018-present

THE GEORGE WASHINGTON UNIVERSITY

Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, 2011-2018
Member, Institute for Security & Conflict Studies

EDUCATION

THE MASSACHUSETTS INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY

Ph.D., Political Science, 2011
Member, Security Studies Program

HARVARD COLLEGE

A.B., summa cum laude, Government, 2003
Phi Beta Kappa, 2002

BOOKS & MONOGRAPH

2021. *U.S. Defense Politics: The Origins of Security Policy*, fourth edition, with Harvey Sapolsky and Eugene Gholz (Routledge). Previous editions: 2008, 2014, 2017.

2015. *The Dictator's Army: Battlefield Effectiveness in Authoritarian Regimes* (Cornell University Press).
Winner of the 2017 Best Book Award, International Security Studies Section, International Studies Association
Named *Foreign Affairs'* 2016 Best Book in Security
Reviewed in *Foreign Affairs*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, H-Diplo International Security Studies Forum Roundtable

2006. *U.S. Defense Mobilization in the Aftermath of a Nuclear Terrorist Attack* (Cambridge, MA: The Long Term Strategy Project).

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

2022. "Then What? Assessing the Military Implications of Chinese Control of Taiwan," with Brendan Rittenhouse Green, *International Security* 47(1): 7-45 (lead article).

2019. “Emerging Technology and Intra-war Escalation Risks: Evidence from the Cold War, Implications for Today,” *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 42(6): 864-887.
- Reprinted in: *Emerging Technologies and International Stability*, eds. Todd Sechser, Neil Narang, and Caitlin Talmadge (Routledge, 2021).
2019. “Emerging Technologies and Strategic Stability,” with Todd Sechser and Neil Narang, *Journal of Strategic Studies* 42(6): 727-735.
- Reprinted in: *Emerging Technologies and International Stability*, eds. Todd Sechser, Neil Narang, and Caitlin Talmadge (Routledge, 2021).
2018. “Civil-Military Pathologies and Defeat in War: Tests Using New Data,” with Vipin Narang, *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 62(7): 1379-1405.
2017. “Would China Go Nuclear? Assessing the Risk of Chinese Nuclear Escalation in a Conventional War with the United States,” *International Security* 40(4): 50-92.
2016. “Different Threats, Different Militaries: Explaining Organizational Practices in Authoritarian Armies,” *Security Studies* 25(1), spring: 111-141.
2016. “When War Helps Civil-Military Relations: Prolonged Interstate Conflict and the Reduced Risk of Coup Attempts,” with Varun Piplani, *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 60(8): 1368-1394.
2014. “Hegemony, Force Posture, and the Provision of Public Goods: The Once and Future Role of Outside Powers in Securing Persian Gulf Oil,” with Joshua Rovner, *Security Studies* 23(3), fall: 548-581.
2013. “The Puzzle of Personalist Performance: Iraqi Battlefield Effectiveness in the Iran-Iraq War,” *Security Studies* 22(2), spring: 180-221.
2008. “Closing Time: Assessing Possible Outcomes of U.S.-Iranian Conflict in the Strait of Hormuz,” *International Security* 33(1), summer: 82-117.
2005. “Striking a Balance: the Lessons of U.S.-Russian Nuclear Materials Security Cooperation,” *Non-Proliferation Review* 12(1): 1-35.

PEER-REVIEWED BOOK CHAPTERS

2022. “Deterrence in the Emerging Nuclear Era,” in *The Fragile Balance of Terror*, eds. Vipin Narang and Scott Sagan (Cornell University Press, forthcoming).
2021. “The U.S.-China Nuclear Relationship: Why Competition Is Likely to Intensify,” in *Global China: Assessing China’s Growing Role in the World*, eds., Tarun Chhabra, Rush Doshi, Ryan Haas, Emilie Kimball, (Washington, DC: Brookings Press).
2017. “Too Much of a Good Thing? Conventional Military Effectiveness and the Danger of Nuclear Escalation,” in *The Sword’s Other Edge: Trade-offs in Military Effectiveness*, ed. Daniel Reiter (Cambridge University Press).

2016. “The Future of U.S. Force Posture in the Gulf: The Case for a Residual Forward Presence,” in *Crude Strategy: Rethinking the U.S. Military Commitment to Defend Persian Gulf Oil*, eds., Charles Glaser and Rose Kelanic (Georgetown University Press).

WORK IN PROGRESS

Risky Business: Nuclear Escalation Dangers in World Politics, with Brendan Rittenhouse Green, draft book manuscript.

“When Actions Speak Louder than Words: Adversary Perceptions of Nuclear No First Use,” with Vipin Narang and Lisa Michelini, under review.

“The Meaning of China’s Nuclear Modernization,” with Joshua Rovner, under review.

“When the Strong Suffer What They Must: Asymmetric Alliances, Cohesion Costs, and Nuclear Escalation Risk,” with Brendan Rittenhouse Green, draft paper.

“The Causes and Consequences of Nuclear Command and Control,” with Vipin Narang, research project.

ADDITIONAL SCHOLARLY WRITING

2022. “The Consequences of Conquest: Why Indo-Pacific Power Hinges on Taiwan,” *Foreign Affairs*, with Brendan Green (July/August).

2021. “Why China Wants More and Better Nukes,” *Foreign Affairs Snapshot*, November 19, with Abraham Denmark.

2021. “Introduction to Roundtable Review of Brendan Green’s *The Revolution that Failed: Nuclear Competition, Arms Control, and the Cold War*,” H-Diplo Roundtable, November 9.

2021. “Don’t Sink the Nuclear Submarine Deal: The Benefits of AUKUS Outweigh the Proliferation Risks,” *Foreign Affairs Snapshot*, September 27.

2021. “The U.S.-China Nuclear Relationship: Growing Escalation Risks and Implications for the Future,” Testimony to the U.S.-China Economic & Security Review Commission, June 10.

2021. “The Strategic Implications of Chinese Control of Taiwan,” report to the Defense Threat Reduction Agency, May 31.

2020. “The Predictable Hazards of Unpredictability: Why Madman Behavior Doesn’t Work,” *The Washington Quarterly* (fall), with Samuel Seitz.

2018. “Beijing’s Nuclear Option,” *Foreign Affairs*, November/December.

2017. Review of Jasen Castillo, *Endurance and War: The National Sources of Military Cohesion*, H-Diplo Roundtable, January 3.

2016. Response to Reviews of *The Dictator's Army: Battlefield Effectiveness in Authoritarian Regimes*, H-Diplo Roundtable, July 18.
2014. "Less Is More: The Future of the American Military in the Persian Gulf," *Washington Quarterly*, 37(3), with Joshua Rovner.
2009. "Costs and Difficulties of Blocking the Strait of Hormuz," correspondence with William D. O'Neil, *International Security* 33(3), winter: 182-88.
2007. "Deterring a Nuclear 9/11," *Washington Quarterly* 30(2): 21-34.
2006. "Transforming the Pentagon: McNamara, Rumsfeld, and the Politics of Change," *Breakthroughs* 15(1): 12-20.
2002. "The Restrained Hegemon: the Political Limits of U.S. Military Power," *Harvard International Review*, Fall 2002.

ADDITIONAL POPULAR WRITING

2022. "The US is expanding its goals in Ukraine—that's dangerous," *Washington Post*, May 11.
2022. "Putin just tested a new nuclear missile. Here's what it means for the United States—and China," The Monkey Cage blog at the *Washington Post*, April 26.
2022. "What Putin's Nuclear Threats Mean for the U.S.," *Wall Street Journal*, March 3.
2022. "The Ukraine Crisis Is Now a Nuclear Crisis," The Monkey Cage blog at the *Washington Post*, February 27.
2022. "Implications of Russia's invasion of Ukraine," post on Brookings blog, Order from Chaos, February 25.
2021. "Impressions and conclusions from President Biden's first international trip," post on Brookings blog, Order from Chaos, June 18.
2020. "The nomination of Gen. Lloyd Austin," post on Brookings blog, Order from Chaos, December 10.
2020. "Is Trump hurting the military? Using the military as a political prop may have these three consequences," The Monkey Cage blog at *The Washington Post*, with Elizabeth Saunders, Alice Hunt Friend, and Alex Downes, June 2.
2020. "The U.S.-Iran crisis has calmed down—but things won't ever go back to how they were before," The Monkey Cage blog at *The Washington Post*, with Christopher Clary, January 12.
2020. "Was it risky for the U.S. to take public responsibility for killing Soleimani?" The Monkey Cage blog at *The Washington Post*, January 3.

2019. “Are nuclear weapons keeping the India-Pakistan crisis from escalating—or making it more dangerous?” The Monkey Cage blog at *The Washington Post*, March 5.
2017. “Trump’s Military Budget Minus a Plan,” *New York Times* opinion/editorial, March 6.
2016. “Battlefield Effectiveness in Authoritarian Regimes: The Case of North Korea,” proceedings of South Korean Army Research Institute Army Power Forum, Sogang University, June 21.
2016. “Why Victory in Mosul Won’t Solve America’s Iraq Conundrum,” Lawfare blog post, with Joshua Rovner, April 10.
2016. “Preventing Nuclear Escalation in U.S.-China Conflict,” U.S.-China Nuclear Project Policy Brief, GW Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, February.
2015. “U.S. Perspectives on the Future of Asian Security,” in *Next Generation Perspectives on the Future of Asian Security*, ed. Aaron Friedberg (Washington, DC: The German Marshall Fund Asia Policy Papers Series), with Zack Cooper, September 18.
2015. “Why the U.S. (Still) Can’t Train the Iraqi Army,” The Monkey Cage blog at the *Washington Post*, with Austin Long, September 22.
2015. “The U.S. Leaked Its War Plan in Iraq. Why?” The Monkey Cage blog at the *Washington Post*, with Joshua Rovner, February 27.
2014. “What Would a New U.S. Military Look Like?” *New York Times* Room for Debate, July 14.
2014. “Why the Iraqi Army Collapsed (and what can be done about it),” The Monkey Cage Blog at the *Washington Post*, with Keren Fraiman and Austin Long, June 13.
2013. “The U.S.-Japan Alliance in a Time of Transition,” with Sheena Chestnut Greitens, German Marshall Fund Policy Brief, July.
2012. “Iran’s Dangerous Bluster over the Strait of Hormuz,” The Monkey Cage Blog at the *Washington Post*, January 5.
2011. “What Defense Cuts?” *Politico*, with Benjamin H. Friedman, Sept. 19.
2010. “Under the Radar Rapprochement: Turkey and Iraqi Kurds,” *ForeignPolicy.Com*, with Mara Karlin, June 24.
2009. “Winning in Afghanistan: It’s Not About Us,” *Christian Science Monitor*, October 1.
2006. “War on Terror Bloats Defense Bill,” *Seattle Post-Intelligencer*, October 4, with Benjamin Friedman.
2006. “The QDR: Pentagon Should Put Money Where Its Mouth Is,” *Baltimore Sun*, February 10, with Benjamin Friedman.
2005. “Don’t Count on Merkel to Defrost U.S.-German Relations,” *European Voice*, September 1.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, & AWARDS

External

2022	Kissinger Chair, Kluge Center, Library of Congress
2021-2	Smith Richardson Foundation grant (with Brendan Green and Daryl Press)
2020-2021	Defense Threat Reduction Agency contract (with Brendan Green)
2017-2018	Carnegie Corporation grant (with Todd Sechser and Neil Narang)
2016-2018	Smith Richardson Junior Faculty Fellow
2016-2018	Carnegie Corporation grant (with GW colleagues)
2015-2018	Minerva Initiative grant, Department of Defense (with GW colleagues)
2014-15	Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow, The Council on Foreign Relations
2013-15	Carnegie Corporation grant (with GW colleagues)
2009-2010	APSA Centennial Center Visiting Scholar and Bryce Grant
2009	Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics & Statecraft Fellow
2008-2009	Brookings Pre-Doctoral Fellow in Foreign Policy Studies
2007-2008	Olin Institute Pre-doctoral Fellow
2005	German Marshall Fund Manfred Wörner Fellow

Internal

2020	Georgetown University Senior Faculty Fellowship
2017	GW Early Career Scholar Award
2015	Elliott School Faculty Research Fund Grant
2014	GW Facilitating Fund Grant
2012	Policy Research Scholar, GW Institute of Public Policy
2011	Elliott School Faculty Research Fund Grant
2011	GW Institute for Security and Conflict Studies Grant
2009	MIT Center for International Studies Grant for Summer Research
2008	MIT Center for International Studies Grant for Summer Research
2008	Harvard University Certificate of Distinction in Undergraduate Teaching
2002	Harvard Institute of Politics Directors' Internship Grant
1999-2003	John Harvard Scholarship
1999-2000	Harvard College Detur Prize

INVITED TALKS & WORKSHOPS

- 2022: National Intelligence Council; Lincoln Laboratory; Sejong Institute, U.S.-South Korea-China Track 2 Nuclear Dialogue; Center for Strategic and International Studies, U.S.-U.K.-France Track 1.5 Nuclear Dialogue; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Seminar XXI; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Frankel Seminar for Congress; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Future of Arms Control; Princeton University, Center for International Security Studies; University of Virginia, Project on Strategic Stability Evaluation
- 2021: Sejong Institute, U.S.-South Korea-China Track 2 Nuclear Dialogue; Center for Strategic and International Studies, U.S.-Japan Track 2 Nuclear Dialogue; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Seminar XXI; University of Oslo, Nuclear Project Seminar; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Security Studies Program; University of Chicago, Workshop on International Politics; Texas A&M University, Bush School; U.S. Strategic Command, Deterrence Symposium; The Naval War College, Faculty Seminar; Lawrence Livermore

- National Laboratory, Center for Global Security Research; The Naval War College, Conference on the Maritime Strategy of the 1980s; Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Seminar XXI; Defense Threat Reduction Agency
- 2020: The RAND Corporation, Arroyo Center; American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Workshop on Future of Deterrence; Center for Strategic and International Studies, Track 2 Trilateral Nuclear Dialogue; Harvard University, Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Speaker Series; Harvard University, Project on Managing the Atom; Yale University, MacMillan International Relations Seminar Series
- 2019: George Washington University, Conference on Alliances in Asia; Stanford University, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Workshop on Future of Deterrence; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Workshop on U.S.-China Arms Control; U.S. Naval War College, Workshop on Contemporary Air Campaigns; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Panel on New Technologies and Nuclear Risk; University of Pennsylvania, Workshop on U.S.-China Relations; American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Workshop on Future of Deterrence; Council on Foreign Relations, Panel on Arms Races and Arms Control; Center for Strategic and International Studies, Project on Nuclear Issues; Georgetown University Security Studies Program, Conference on Nuclear Weapons; Wilson Center, U.S.-China Nuclear Roundtable
- 2018: University of Pennsylvania, Browne Center; Brookings Institution, Foreign Policy Roundtable; Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI; Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Workshop on Strategic Stability
- 2017: Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI; Council on Foreign Relations, McCloy Roundtable on Setting the National Security Agenda; Massachusetts Institute of Technology Frankel Congressional Seminar on Nuclear Security; Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference
- 2016: Georgetown University, International Theory and Research Seminar; University of Chicago, Program on International Security Policy; National Intelligence Council, U.S. Department of State Analytic Exchange; Yale University, Conference on Conflict and Cooperation in the Nuclear Age; Sogang University of South Korea, Army Research Institute Army Power Forum; Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Virginia, Project on Strategic Stability Evaluation, Workshop on Emerging Technologies; Council on Foreign Relations, Workshop on Oil Price Volatility; Northwestern University, Buffett Institute for Global Studies; Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, Kissinger Institute on China and the United States; Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Center for Strategic and International Studies, and Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Workshop on U.S. Extended Deterrence
- 2015: Southern Methodist University, Tower Center for Political Studies; China Institute of International Studies, China-U.S. Young Scholars Dialogue; University of Maryland, Department of Government Doctoral Research Methods Seminar; Yale University, Workshop on Reconsidering the Role of Regime Type in International Relations; Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratories, External Speaker Series; U.S. Strategic Command, Deterrence Symposium; Bruno Kessler Foundation, Workshop on Military Effectiveness

2014: U.S. Air War College, External Speaker Series

2013: Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Security Studies Program Speaker Series; Princeton University, Research Program in International Security; U.S. Naval War College, Current Strategy Forum; Williams College, Undergraduate Summer Foreign Policy Institute

2012: University of Chicago, Program on International Security Policy; University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs, Strauss Center Speaker Series; U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group; Duke University & the Triangle Institute for Security Studies, Conference on Civil-Military Relations

2009: Harvard University, National Security Studies Program; U.S. Department of Defense, Combatting Terrorism Fellowship Program

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & ASSOCIATION

Series Editor, Cornell Studies in Security Affairs, Cornell University Press, 2021-present

Advisory Panelist, Stanton Foundation Former Fellows Funding Project, 2021-present

Associate Editor, *International Security*, 2020-2022

Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Strategic Studies* (2017-present), *Washington Quarterly* (2021-present)

Associate Editor, International Security Studies Forum, H-Diplo, 2016-2022

Book Manuscript Workshops, Yale University, September 2015; GW, September 2016, May 2018; Georgetown 2021; University of Pennsylvania 2021; Johns Hopkins SAIS 2022; University of California San Diego 2022

Reviewer, *American Political Science Review*, *International Security*, *International Organization*, *Security Studies*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Review of Policy Research*, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *World Politics*, *Research & Politics*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, The RAND Corporation

Member, American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, The Council on Foreign Relations (Term), Women in International Security, Tobin Project, GW Nuclear Security Working Group, Center for a New American Security Next Generation National Security Leaders, American-Israeli Academic Exchange, German Marshall Fund Young Strategists Forum, Project 2049 Delegation to Taiwan, China-U.S. Young Scholars Dialogue

Media Appearances/Commentary, CNN, MSNBC, C-SPAN, Good Morning America, *New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Financial Times*, *Guardian*, *Economist*, *Atlantic*, *Bloomberg News*, *Business Insider*, *Asia Times*, *Newsweek*, *Axios*, others

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Research Affiliate, Security Studies Program, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2020-present

Senior Non-Resident Fellow in Foreign Policy, The Brookings Institution, 2018-present
Research and write on national security topics, participate in public and private events.

Volunteer Foreign Policy Advisor, Pete for America Campaign, May 2019-March 2020.
Led campaign foreign policy advising on nuclear issues. Managed team of 10 experts to provide talking points, brief candidate, prepare for debates, assist with media, coordinate with other advisory teams.

Research Associate, MIT Seminar XXI Program, 2009-2011
Designed curriculum for executive education program bringing social science research to senior national security professionals. Supervised by Professor Robert Art of Brandeis.

Research Assistant, MIT Department of Political Science, 2004-2007
Conducted research and writing on U.S. military innovation, revolution in military affairs, defense acquisition for Professor Harvey Sapolsky and Professor Barry Posen.

Analyst, The Long-Term Strategy Project, summer 2006
Produced monograph for Department of Defense.

Research Assistant, The Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2003-2004
Conducted research and writing on nuclear and conventional defense issues for Senior Fellow Michèle Flournoy. Helped plan scenario-based nuclear terrorism exercise in Brussels.

Tutor, various volunteer programs, Boston, MA, and Washington, DC, 1999-2001, 2003-2004, 2010.
Taught adults and children in local community each week in variety of subjects.

TEACHING

GOVT 060: International Relations (Georgetown undergraduate)

SEST 732: Nuclear Deterrence (Georgetown masters)

SEST 500: Theory and Practice of Security (Georgetown masters)

PSC 1003: Introduction to International Relations (GW undergraduate)

IAFF 6160: Defense Policy and Program Analysis (GW masters)

IAFF 6186: Nuclear Security (GW masters)

PSC 8489: Military Effectiveness (GW doctoral)

SWAMOS: Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy, Columbia and Cornell (20 graduate students and university faculty), 2014-2021

ADVISING & UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Georgetown doctoral committees: Cole Livieratos (2021)

Georgetown undergraduate thesis advising: David Bernstein (2021), Joe Fox (2021)

Georgetown additional service: Military Operations Concentration Chair, Security Studies Program (2018-present), Georgetown University Dependent Care Working Group (2021), Security Studies Job Search Committees (2018-19, 2021), International Politics Field Chair (spring 2019)

GW doctoral committees: Kendrick Kuo (chair, 2021), Brian Radzinsky (2020), Ryan Baker (2020), Kenneth Vincent (outside reader, 2017), Jacquelyn Schneider (2017), Dorothy Ohl (2016), Inwook Kim (2015), Toby Dalton (outside reader, 2015)

GW undergraduate thesis or internship project advisees: Henry Eccles (2018), Andrew Falacci (2017), Sydney Erhardt (2016), John Greenwood (2015), Ari Masefski (2012)

GW committee work: International Relations Search (2011-12), Mentorship (2013-14), Department Chair Search (2015), International Relations General Exam (2015-2016), Graduate Academic Program Review (2016-17), Security Policy Studies Program Review (2016-17)

GW additional service: Admissions and Recruitment Outreach for Doctoral and MA Students (annually 2011-present), Elliott School Board of Advisors Speaker (2013, 2016), Political Science Graduate Student Orientation for Teaching Assistants (2015, 2016), Political Science Doctoral Student Mentorship (2015-16), Elliott School Introduction to International Affairs Guest Lecture (2016), Elliott School Public Panel on Foreign Policy Implications of the Election (2016), Elliott School Alumni Panel in New York (2016)

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