

## CAITLIN TALMADGE, PH.D.

Associate Professor of Security Studies, Georgetown University  
Non-Resident Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy, The Brookings Institution  
Research Affiliate, Security Studies Program, The Massachusetts Institute of Technology  
ct782@georgetown.edu • www.caitlintalmadge.com • @ProfTalmadge

### 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

---

2020. *U.S. Defense Politics: The Origins of Security Policy*, fourth edition, with Harvey Sapolsky and Eugene Gholz (Routledge, under contract).

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

---

2019. "Emerging Technology and Intra-war Escalation Risks: Evidence from the Cold War, Implications for Today," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, 42(6): 864-887.

2019. "Emerging Technologies and Strategic Stability," with Todd Sechser and Neil Narang, *Journal of Strategic Studies* 42(6): 727-735.

2018. "Civil-Military Pathologies and Defeat in War: Tests Using New Data," with Vipin Narang, *The 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 Iplani, *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 CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDITED VOLUMES OR SERIES**

2019. *The U.S.-China Nuclear Relationship: Why Competition Is Likely to Intensify* (Washington, DC: Brookings Global China Series, September).
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*, edited by Charles Glaser and Rose Kelanic (Georgetown University Press).

#### **WORK IN PROGRESS**

*Risky Business: Nuclear Dangers in Conventional Wars* (draft book manuscript)

"Deterrence in the Emerging Nuclear Era" (draft paper)

"Alliances, Arms Control, and Escalation: Evidence from the Cold War, Implications for Today" (draft paper with Brendan Green)

"Then What? Assessing the Military Implications of Chinese Control of Taiwan" (draft paper with Brendan Green)

## **ADDITIONAL SCHOLARLY WRITING**

---

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.

## **SELECTED POPULAR WRITING**

---

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 Grants and Fellowships***

2017-2018	Carnegie Grant to Study Strategic Stability Implications of Emerging Technologies (with Todd Sechser and Neil Narang)
2016-2018	Smith Richardson Junior Faculty Fellow
2016-2018	Carnegie Grant to Study U.S. Nuclear Strategy in Asia (with ISCS colleagues)
2015-2018	Minerva Initiative Grant, U.S. Department of Defense (with ISCS colleagues)
2014-15	Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow, The Council on Foreign Relations
2013-15	Carnegie Grant to Study U.S. Nuclear Strategy in Asia (with ISCS 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 Grants and Awards***

2018	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	ISCS 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**

---

2020	Yale University, MacMillan International Relations Seminar Series
2019	Stanford University, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Workshop on Future of Deterrence
2019	Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Workshop on U.S.-China Arms Control
2019	U.S. Naval War College, Workshop on Contemporary Air Campaigns
2019	Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Panel on New Technologies and Nuclear Risk
2019	University of Pennsylvania, Workshop on U.S.-China Relations
2019	American Academy of Arts and Sciences, Workshop on Future of Deterrence
2019	Brookings Institution, Panel on Conflict Scenarios with Russia and China
2019	Council on Foreign Relations, Panel on Arms Races and Arms Control
2019	Center for Strategic and International Studies, Project on Nuclear Issues
2019	Georgetown University Security Studies Program, Conference on Nuclear Weapons
2019	Wilson Center, U.S.-China Nuclear Roundtable
2018	University of Pennsylvania, Browne Center
2018	Brookings Institution, Foreign Policy Roundtable
2018	Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI
2017	Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Workshop on U.S.-China-Japan Strategic Stability
2017	Massachusetts Institute of Technology Seminar XXI
2017	Council on Foreign Relations, McCloy Roundtable on Setting the National Security Agenda

- 2017 Massachusetts Institute of Technology Frankel Congressional Seminar on Nuclear Security
- 2017 Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference
- 2016 Georgetown University, International Theory and Research Seminar
- 2016 University of Chicago, Program on International Security Policy
- 2016 National Intelligence Council, U.S. Department of State Analytic Exchange
- 2016 Yale University, Conference on Conflict and Cooperation in the Nuclear Age
- 2016 Sogang University of South Korea, Army Research Institute Army Power Forum
- 2016 Georgia Institute of Technology and the University of Virginia, Project on Strategic Stability Evaluation, Workshop on Emerging Technologies
- 2016 Council on Foreign Relations, Workshop on Oil Price Volatility
- 2016 Northwestern University, Buffett Institute for Global Studies
- 2016 Woodrow Wilson Center for Scholars, Kissinger Institute on China and the United States
- 2016 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
- 2015 China Institute of International Studies, China-U.S. Young Scholars Dialogue
- 2015 University of Maryland, Department of Government Doctoral Research Methods Seminar
- 2015 Yale University, Workshop on Reconsidering the Role of Regime Type in International Relations
- 2015 Massachusetts Institute of Technology Lincoln Laboratories, External Speaker Series
- 2015 U.S. Strategic Command, Deterrence Symposium
- 2015 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
- 2013 Princeton University, Research Program in International Security
- 2013 U.S. Naval War College, Current Strategy Forum
- 2013 Williams College, Undergraduate Summer Foreign Policy Institute

- 2012 University of Chicago, Program on International Security Policy
- 2012 University of Texas at Austin LBJ School of Public Affairs, Strauss Center Speaker Series
- 2012 U.S. Chief of Naval Operations Strategic Studies Group
- 2012 Duke University & the Triangle Institute for Security Studies, Conference on Civil-Military Relations
- 2009 Harvard University, National Security Studies Program
- 2009 U.S. Department of Defense, Combatting Terrorism Fellowship Program

### **SELECTED CONFERENCE PANELS & OTHER PRESENTATIONS**

---

“Escalatory Alliances? Examining the U.S. Presence in East Asia”

American Political Science Association annual meeting, September 2018; GW Minerva Conference, November 2019

“Emerging Technology and Intra-war Escalation Risks: Evidence from the Cold War, Implications for Today”

Georgetown University Security Studies Workshop, September 2018

“Risky Business: Nuclear Dangers in Conventional Wars”

Carnegie Conference on Nuclear Deterrence in East Asia, April 2018; MIT International Relations Work in Progress Group, April 2017; GW Research in Progress Seminar September 2016; American Political Science Association annual meeting, September 2015 (panel organizer); Air War College at Maxwell Air Force Base, May 2015; Nuclear Studies Research Initiative, May 2015; GW Research in Progress Seminar, April 2015; Stanton Nuclear Security Fellows Conference, October 2014.

“Assessing the Risk of Chinese Nuclear Escalation in a Conventional War with the United States”

GW Research in Progress Seminar April 2016; International Studies Association annual meeting, March 2016 (panel organizer); MIT Nuclear Security Working Group, September 2015; Naval War College, September 2015; GW and Carnegie Conference on U.S. Strategic Nuclear Policy in Asia, September 2015; Carnegie Workshop on U.S. Nuclear Strategy in Asia, December 2014.

“The Rise (and Potential Fall) of the Islamic State”

Elliott School Forum on the Foreign Policy Implications of the Presidential Election, November 2016; Elliott School Board of Advisors Meeting, October 2016; Elliott School Introduction to International Affairs Guest Lecture, March 2016.

“Civil-Military Pathologies and Defeat in War: Tests Using New Data”

International Studies Association annual meeting March 2016 (panel organizer); American Political Science Association annual meeting, September 2015.

“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

American Political Science Association annual meeting, August 2014.

“Should I Stay or Should I Go Now? Assessing the Future of U.S. Presence in the Persian Gulf”

American Political Science Association annual meeting, August 2013 (panel organizer); American Political Science Association annual meeting, August 2012 (panel organizer); GW Institute for Middle East Studies, February 2013.

“Does War Help Civil-Military Relations? Coup Attempts and Interstate Conflict,” with Varun Piplani  
Presented at the American Political Science Association annual meeting, August 2014 (panel organizer); American Political Science Association annual meeting, August 2013 (panel organizer); GW Methodology Workshop, April 2013; GW Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, April 2013.

“Explaining Military Effectiveness”

International Studies Association annual meeting, February 2010; American Political Science Association annual meeting, September 2009; Georgetown University Department of Government and Security Studies Program, November 2009; American Political Science Association annual meeting, August 2008; Olin Institute, Harvard University, March 2008.

“Explaining Military Effectiveness: Political Intervention and Battlefield Performance in Iraq and Iran, 1980-1988”

International Studies Association annual meeting, March 2011; London School of Economics, September 2010.

“Explaining Military Effectiveness: Political Intervention and Battlefield Performance in North and South Vietnam, 1962-1975”

International Studies Association annual meeting, February 2010; GWU Department of Political Science February 2010; GWU Junior Faculty Working Group, July 2010.

“Assessing the Iranian Threat to the Strait of Hormuz”

U.S. Naval Academy, January 2009; American Political Science Association annual meeting, August 2008; Gulf Energy Workshop at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, February 2008; undergraduate guest lecture at Dartmouth College, November 2007.

“Deterring Nuclear Terrorism”

U.S. Army Operations & Technology Office, U.S. Office of the Secretary of Defense, March 2009.

“U.S. Foreign Policy”

Discussant at American Political Science Association annual meeting, September 2009.

“Causes and Consequences of Nuclear Proliferation in the Middle East”

Roundtable at American Political Science Association annual meeting, September 2009.

“Deterrence: New Dimensions and Debates”

Discussant at American Political Science Association annual meeting, August 2008.

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & ASSOCIATION**

---

*Associate Editor, International Security, 2020-present*

*Editorial Board Member, Journal of Strategic Studies, 2017-present*

*Associate Editor, International Security Studies Forum, H-Diplo, 2016-present*

*Book Manuscript Workshops, Yale University, September 2015; GW, September 2016, May 2018*

*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, New York Times, Washington Post, 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*

*Non-Resident Senior Fellow in Foreign Policy, The Brookings Institution, 2018-present*  
Participate in national security research and events at think tank.

*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), annually 2014-present

## **ADVISING & UNIVERSITY SERVICE**

---

Georgetown doctoral committees: Cole Livieratos (committee member)

Georgetown undergraduate thesis advising: David Bernstein

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

GW doctoral committees: Kendrick Kuo (current committee co-chair), Ryan Baker (current committee member), Brian Radzinsky (current committee member), Kenneth Vincent (outside reader, completed 2017), Jacquelyn Schneider (committee, completed 2017), Dorothy Ohl (committee, completed 2016), Inwook Kim (committee, completed 2015), Toby Dalton (outside reader, completed 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)

*Updated February 2020*