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EDUCATION AND CERTIFICATIONS

Temple University (Temple); College of Liberal Arts

Philadelphia, PA

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science; Expected Graduation May 2027

August 2022 – Current

Teaching in Higher Education Certificate; May 2026

Master of Arts in Political Science; May 2024

Certificate of Online Teaching; December 2023

- Primary Field: International Relations – Secondary Field: Comparative Politics
- Cumulative GPA: 3.87

Seton Hall University (SHU); School of Diplomacy and International Relations

South Orange, NJ

Bachelor of Science in Diplomacy and International Relations

August 2017 – December 2020

Magna Cum Laude; December 2020

- Majors: Diplomacy and International Relations, Religious Studies – Minors: Italian
- Cumulative GPA: 3.78

DISSERTATION

“International Cooperation on the Security of the Seas: The Evolution of the Maritime Security Complex”

May 5, 2027

Abstract:

As international cooperation has grown more complex, scholars have begun to question how regime complexes and global governance complexes (GGCs) have evolved, and what the causes are of that evolution. This dissertation explores the temporal evolution of a growing GGC, the maritime security complex, commonly taken to include formal and informal intergovernmental organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and treaties that govern issues relating to interstate maritime conflict, maritime terrorism, and so-called “blue crime.” The dissertation, after establishing the maritime security complex as a GGC, investigates the evolution of that complex from its inception in the late nineteenth century to the present day. Evolution is theorized explicitly as change in the complex’s hierarchy, differentiation, scale, diversity, and density. Significant points of attempted evolution such as the failed creation of an IO in 1889, the creation of and implementation of maritime security into the IMO, and the Contact Group on Piracy off the Coast of Somalia are process-traced from the catalyzing crisis and underlying state dissatisfaction, initial reactions from states and international institutions, formal or informal negotiations, to the point of evolution itself. I rely on extensive original archival research paired with secondary sources including press releases and news media, and histories. It is found that exogenous crises of maritime security, and distributive conflict and/or functional dissatisfaction among powerful maritime states are necessary and sufficient to evolution of the complex’s architecture. Catalyzing crises include the attack on the Achille Lauro in 1985, the Somali piracy crisis, and the dispute over the South China Sea. Changes in these dimensions of the GGC, in turn, have differential effects on the security of the world’s oceans, through their effect on human, financial, and ecological costs. Where significant increases in density, differentiation and hierarchy are beneficial to governance outcomes, it appears that increases in scale and diversity worsen outcomes.

COURSES TAUGHT

War and Peace

Spring 2027, Summer 2026, Fall 2025

Graduate and Adjunct Instructor of Record

Enrollment: 18-20

Description: This course examines the practice of war and the making of peace, and how these are linked to the societies involved. How, who, when, where, and why wars are fought are related to our culture, values, political forms, and other social-biological characteristics. Wars and the making of peace are often related to international and global developments. The course uses theoretical approaches and historical case studies from local, national, and global contexts to explore how links between wars, peace, and society have developed over time. Students engage elements of social science methodologies, and explore war and peace from multiple disciplinary perspectives, including History, Political Science, Sociology, and Anthropology.

International Organizations

Spring 2027, Spring 2026

Graduate Instructor of Record

Enrollment: 17

Description: International relations (IR) is almost universally considered to be an anarchical arena, characterized by a lack of hierarchical government and subject to never-ending competition. And yet international relations, particularly in the past century, also features a growing number of international institutions and a growing body of international law that provide the promise (perhaps the false promise?) of international cooperation and global governance. In this course, we examine the theory and practice of international law and institutions, exploring whether, how, and in whose interest the world is governed. The course is divided into two sections. In the first (Weeks 1-5), we establish a theoretical and methodological toolkit for the study of international law and institutions, drawing from the disciplines of political science and law, from multiple IR theories, and from qualitative, quantitative, and experimental methods. In the second and longer part (Weeks 6-13), we apply this tool kit to the study of global governance across multiple issue-areas including the use of force, trade, development, public health, the environment, human rights, and international criminal law. Along the way, we will read and discuss a variety of sources, including not only our textbook but also legal materials, political science books and articles, and news accounts, to get a genuinely interdisciplinary and up-to-date perspective on the workings of international institutions and global governance.

World Affairs

Spring 2026

Graduate Instructor of Record

Enrollment: 31

Description: We live in a global age when events beyond our borders significantly affect our lives. In this class, students sharpen their understanding of international developments, including wars, economic globalization, wealth and poverty, the spread of democracy, environmental degradation, and global pandemics. The course offers an introduction to the study of world affairs that gives students the tools to deepen their knowledge of how historical and current trends in the world affect their lives and those of others around the globe. Readings include classic texts in the study of international relations, current perspectives on the state of the world, reports and primary documents from organizations and individuals with distinct perspectives on the state of global cooperation.

The Common Good

Fall 2024

Graduate Instructor of Record

Enrollment: 25-27

Description: We will read important works of social, political, and scientific thought, with a focus on well-being of societies. We will ask questions like: Where does society come from? How do we balance individual liberty and the public good? What behaviors and practices perpetuate injustice? Can we create a better society? How do power and privilege define our capacity to make change? How do we find truth? Can facts be detached from cultural contexts?

Research Preparation: State and Local Politics

Spring 2024

Grader

Supervisor and Instructor of Record: Dr. Michael Sances

Description: This course introduces undergraduate students to the research on politics and policy in American state and local government. Class discussions will focus on identifying the questions motivating state and local politics research, comparing different methodological approaches, and discovering what questions remain unanswered. We will often consider how findings from state and local politics research might extend to other settings, including national politics. The ultimate goal is to stimulate students to conduct their own state politics research. State and local politics are worth studying for several reasons. For one, state and local government is massive, by some measures (like spending) as large as federal government, and by other measures (like the number of elected officials and employees) far larger. For another, state and local governments control policy areas (like education, policing, etc.) with a more direct impact on our lives. Variation across states also allows us to learn about the consequences of different policy choices – like raising the minimum wage, legalizing marijuana, etc. – in a way that studying national policy changes does not. Finally, state governments have immense power in our constitutional system. For better and for worse, national politics and policy rarely change without the states' consent. By the end of this course, you will: Gain familiarity with social science research on state and local politics; Improve your ability to critique and engage with social science literature; Develop your data analysis skills and; Practice crafting a research paper that includes original data analysis.

Evidence and Knowledge

Fall 2023 – Spring 2024

Recitation Leader

Supervisors and Instructors of Record: Dr. Michael Sances and Dr. Alexandra Guisinger

Enrollment: 14-20

Description: politics requires a rigorous means of posing questions, developing theories, collecting and analyzing data and explaining these activities to others. Political thinking and strategy are often not directly observable. Some decisions take place away from the public's or researchers' view. Some individuals may have reasons to misrepresent their activities. And some single events may overshadow more typical behavior in public perceptions. Studying politics requires specialized tools. In this required course, political science majors will learn to think, write, and present like social scientists. These skills will provide a foundation for students to evaluate academic research presented in lecture and seminar classes, undertake activities in research preparation classes, and develop their own research projects for their capstone classes. By the end of this course, you should be able to: Describe and evaluate academic studies; Derive explanations for patterns observed in the world; Collect, organize, and document original data and; Conduct elementary analysis.

International Politics

Fall 2022 – Spring 2023

Grader

Supervisors and Instructors of Record: Dr. Lauren Farmer and Dr. Jessica Stanton

Description: This is an introductory course, surveying major issues in international politics. The first section of the course provides an overview of key concepts in international relations as well as major theoretical approaches to understanding international politics. The second section of the course addresses issues in international security, looking at the causes of interstate war, civil war, and terrorism; the role that the United Nations plays in responding to conflict and violence in the international system; and changes in international conflict following the end of the Cold War. The third section of the course considers issues in international political economy, including

international trade; economic growth and development; and the role of international institutions such as the WTO, the World Bank, and the IMF. In the fourth part of the course, focusing on contemporary issues in international relations, topics include the role of international law in international relations; human rights; and prospects for international cooperation to resolve environmental problems.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Evolution of the Maritime Security Complex: The Cold War and a Warming Planet”

November 13, 2026

Northeastern Political Science Association

Abstract: As global governance and international cooperation have grown more complex, scholars have begun to question how regime complexes have evolved. Also, the governance of matters such as maritime terrorism, interstate maritime conflict, and blue crime (piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling, etc.) have increasingly been thought to occupy a single issue area – maritime security. This paper, after establishing the maritime security complex as a global governance complex, investigates the evolution of that complex throughout the Cold War. Evolution is thought of as change in the complex’s hierarchy, differentiation in function, scale, diversity in type of institution, and density of communications and interactions between institutions. It is found, through process-tracing the each significant change in the complex from the creation of the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA), the proliferation of maritime security relevant arms control agreements, to an explosion of maritime security non-governmental organizations in the mid-to-late century that issue area specific crises, such as the attack on the Achille Lauro, the refugee and humanitarian crisis in Southeast Asian waters in the 1970’s and 80’s, and the discovery of global warming. These claims are supported through elite interviews, original archival research, news articles, and historiography spanning nearly a century on the International Maritime Organization, all three major iterations of the United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea, the International Maritime Bureau, SUA, Greenpeace, among others.

“Evolution of the Maritime Security Complex: The Cold War and a Warming Planet”

July 30, 2026

International Studies Association (Virtual)

“Origins of the Maritime Security Complex”

March 14, 2026

James A. Barnes Conference

Abstract: As global governance and international cooperation have grown more complex, scholars have begun to question how regime complexes have evolved. Also, the governance of matters such as maritime terrorism, interstate maritime conflict, and blue crime (piracy, illegal fishing, smuggling, etc.) have increasingly been thought to occupy a single issue area – maritime security. This paper, after establishing the maritime security complex as a global governance complex, investigates the evolution of that complex from its inception to World War II. Evolution is thought of as change in the complex’s hierarchy, differentiation, scale, diversity, and density, and begins with the origination of a complex’s first institutions. It is found, through process-tracing the founding of each early maritime security complex institution, that issue area-specific crises, such as the use of modern explosives against wooden-hulled ships during the Crimean War (1853-1856) and various incidents during WWI, served as the primary causes of evolution, at least in the early stages of a complex. These claims are supported through original archival research, news articles, and historiography spanning nearly a century on the 1856 Treaty of Paris, the 1889 International Marine Conference in Washington D.C., the Hague Conventions of 1899 and 1907, the International Labor Organization (ILO), the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) and the International Federation of the Red Cross (IFRC), the International Hydrographic Organization (IHO), the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol), the League of Nations (LoN), the Washington Naval Conference of 1921-1922, and the London Naval Conferences of 1930 and 1936, among others.

**“International Cooperation on the Security of the Seas:
The Evolution of the Maritime Security Complex”**

November 7, 2025

Northeastern Political Science Association

Abstract: As international cooperation has grown more complex, scholars have begun to question how regime complexes and global governance complexes (GGCs) have evolved, and what effect that evolution has on policy outcomes. This paper explores the temporal evolution of a growing GGC, that for maritime security, commonly taken to include issues relating to interstate maritime conflict, maritime terrorism, and so-called “blue crime.” The paper, after establishing the maritime security complex as a GGC, investigates the evolution of that complex from its inception to the present day. Evolution is theorized explicitly as change in the complex’s hierarchy, differentiation, scale, diversity, and density. It is found, through process-tracing each instance of major change in one of these dimensions, that exogenous crises of maritime security are the main causes of evolution, such as the attack on the Achille Lauro in 1985, the Somali piracy crisis, and the dispute over the South China Sea. Changes in these dimensions of the GGC, in turn, have differential effects on the security of the world’s oceans, through their effect on human, financial, and ecological costs. Where significant increases in density, differentiation and hierarchy are beneficial to governance outcomes, it appears that increases in scale and diversity worsen outcomes.

**“International Cooperation on the Security of the Seas:
The Evolution of the Maritime Security Complex”**

April 11, 2025

Pennsylvania Political Science Association

OTHER RESEARCH

**“Hollowing out the Core:
The Evolution of the Regime Complex for International Trade”**

February 9, 2027

Temple University Public Policy Lab Paper with Dr. Mark Pollack

Abstract: How do international regime complexes evolve over time, and under what conditions do they remain adaptive or become maladaptive? This article addresses these questions by applying a regime-complex evolution framework to international trade governance from 1948 to 2025. The framework conceptualizes evolution as patterned change in the composition and architecture of regime complexes—specifically shifts in institutional density (composition), focal authority (hierarchy), and rule heterogeneity (differentiation)—and evaluates whether such changes sustain or undermine the capacity for rules-based cooperation. Using a qualitative, historically grounded analysis across four distinct periods, the article identifies a rise-and-fall trajectory in the trade regime complex. The GATT and early WTO eras were marked by adaptive thickening and rising hierarchy, as legalization deepened and dispute settlement strengthened. Over time, however, endogenous institutional dynamics—most notably the decoupling of consensus-based rulemaking from increasingly authoritative adjudication within the WTO—generated growing tension. As dispute settlement substituted for stalled negotiations, political backlash intensified. These internal feed-backs interacted with exogenous shocks, including financial crises, geopolitical rivalry, and the turn toward unilateral trade policy in the United States. The result has been a process of “core hollowing”: while the regime complex continues to thicken and differentiate through megaregionals and soft-law initiatives, the WTO’s focal authority has sharply declined. Contemporary fragmentation thus reflects not proliferation alone, but erosion at the multilateral center, marking a shift from broadly adaptive to increasingly maladaptive evolution in global trade governance.

“Trump and International Cooperation”

May 7, 2025

Serving as Research Assistant to Dr. Mark Pollack

**“Battening Down the Hatches:
The Emergence of the Antipiracy Regime Complex”**

August 19, 2024

Field Paper

Abstract: The regime complex governing maritime piracy consists of the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the United Nations’ Convention on the Law of the Seas (UNCLOS), the Convention for the Suppression of Unlawful Acts Against the Safety of Maritime Navigation (SUA), and the International Maritime Bureau (ICC-IMB). Scholars have identified mechanisms by which this and other regime complexes have emerged focusing on, among other factors, changing norms. This paper rather argues, drawing on the regime complexity, critical juncture, and institutional design literatures, that incidents of piracy which thrust the issue to the forefront of international politics, by having an especially large effect on the immediate economic, military, or reputational interests of powerful states, lead to the creation of new institutions, with intentionally conflicting designs to those that preceded them. This is shown through in-depth case studies of the creation of the above-listed institutions in the context of the state of piracy and particular piratical incidents of the time, as well as the institutions which came before them. Additional evidence is also shown regarding the development of temporary antipiracy cooperative efforts which have become permanent or semi-permanent such as the Combined Maritime Forces (CMF) and European Union Naval Force Somalia (EUNAVFOR).

**“The Gender Gap in Economic Policy Preferences:
Does Structural-level Inequality Explain Cross-national Differences?”**

August 11, 2024

Serving as Research Assistant to Dr. Alexandra Guisinger

Abstract: Mainstream political economy has tended to treat the family as a unit when examining the distributional consequences of labor market institutions and of public policy. In a world with high divorce rates, we argue that this simplification is more likely to obscure than to instruct. We find that labor market opportunities for women, which vary systematically with the position of countries in the international division of labor and with the structure of the welfare state, affect women’s bargaining power within the family and as a result, can explain much of the cross country variation in the gender division of labor as well as the gender gap in political preferences.

“The Effect of Ethnicity on the Results of Independence Referendums”

December 18, 2023

Seminar Paper

Abstract: This paper addresses the questions: Does ethnicity play a role in independence referendums? More specifically, are more diverse regions less likely to pass referendums on independence? Are referendums less likely to result in realized independence/recognition if the demographics of said region are dissimilar to that of the state which they are claiming independence from? Are referendums more successful if repeated? The literature on independence referendums compares their effectiveness to other secessionist strategies and has little to say about why some independence referendums pass and others do not. I suggest that ethnically homogeneous regions, where coalitions across ethnicities need not exist, are more likely to pass independence referendums. Post-referendum recognition has been theorized more, particularly about the context of the referendum. I add here to existing arguments about the recognition of post-colonial states. Finally, I show that referendums are more successful the more they occur. These findings are supported in an analysis of all referendums from 1817-2021, and a case study of the New Caledonian referendums for independence from France. These demonstrate that referendums will be more successful if conducted in less diverse regions which share similar demographics to the state which they are seceding from, and if they are repeated.

**“Where Guns Replace Glaciers:
The Effects of Sea-Ice Melt on the Military Budgets of Arctic States”**

April 20, 2023

Intra-Institution Working Conference Paper

Abstract: The global climate is warming at an alarming rate. Simultaneously we have seen global trends toward increased natural resource competition, increased territorial conflict, and greater state militarization more generally. As we observe these trends, and their influence on the Arctic, many are calling

for institutional change in the region. In this paper, I will ask a question which ought to proceed action in this direction, and which has yet been taken for granted; are these worrying trends related? More specifically, I ask what the relationship is between Arctic warming and Arctic states' military budgets, from 1980 to 2016. This paper's findings show that while the extent of sea ice is correlated with military expenditure through increased commercial competition, one cannot draw direct causation of warming on militarization. However, this is substantively immaterial to security concerns for the region. This paper also notes that the military budgets of Arctic states do not go entirely to funding Arctic military programs, and so the hypothesis is extended qualitatively with an analysis of select published military budgets, and their Arctic provisions.

"Arctic Economic Threats to EU Member States"

March 31, 2023

Draft Paper for the Arctic Institute

Abstract: The European Union's (EU) Arctic Policy states, "Intensified interest in Arctic resources and transport routes could transform the region into an area of local and geopolitical competition and possible tensions, possibly threatening the EU's interests." Statements such as these have been thoroughly covered by recent scholarship, particularly as to the outcomes and reasonings behind the EU's Arctic Policy. However, the field is lacking an investigation into the legitimacy or perceived nature of these "threats" to EU stakeholders. This paper will analyze whether external threats as predicted in the EU's Arctic Policy have since come to fruition. In particular, this paper will look at the commercial economic activity of non-EU member states such as the US and Norway in the portions of the Arctic which EU member states could realistically operate in and compare it to the economic activity by EU member states in the same region(s). Given the availability of data on merchant marine activity, this paper will measure commercial activity by the number of commercial vessels passing through a region at a given time. Then, by examining archival data and news publications, see whether expressed concern matches the real difference in economic activity, while also looking at how this economic threat is perceived by EU member states and whether these threats are perceived as being against Europe, against the Arctic, or against a nation. I hypothesize that based on commercial activity, there is not yet a threat to EU member states in the Arctic by non-EU member states, despite there being a perceived threat on EU member states concerning their activity as states rather than as a representative of Europe. For example, that Swedes would be concerned about US activity threatening Swedish, rather than European, activity in the Arctic, despite a lack of evidence for threatening economic behavior.

ORGANIZATIONS AND AWARDS

Organizations: First-Year Representative, Member-at-Large, and Co-President of the Political Science Graduate Student's Association (PSGSA) (Temple), Secretary of the Temple University Graduate Student Association (TUGSA) (Temple)

Awards and Honors: Twice Nominated for the Lynn Miller Outstanding Paper Award (Temple), Member of Theta Alpha Kappa (SHU)