

Theo Milonopoulos

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Academic Appointments

U.S. Naval War College

2022-Present Assistant Professor of National Security Affairs

University of Pennsylvania

2021-2022 Postdoctoral Fellow, Perry World House

University of Texas at Austin

2019-2021 Predoctoral Fellow, Clements Center for National Security

Education

Columbia University

2021 Ph.D. in Political Science (Fields: International Relations; Law)
Dissertation: *No Wider War: Leaders, Advisors, and the Politics of Wartime Decision-Making*
Committee: Richard Betts, Robert Jervis, Michael Doyle, Keren Yarhi-Milo, Tamar Mitts

2017 M.Phil. in Political Science

2016 M.A. in Political Science

King's College London

2012 M.A. in War Studies (with Distinction)
U.S. Fulbright Scholar; Simon O'Dwyer Russell Prize

Stanford University

2009 B.A. in Political Science; History Minor
Phi Beta Kappa; Honors in International Security Studies (CISAC Honors Program)

Publications

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2025 "Called to Testify: Congressional Oversight of the Armed Forces," with Jessica D. Blankshain and -Derek S. Reveron, *Texas National Security Review* 8(2): 75-94.
- 2021 "Private Eyes in the Sky: Emerging Technology and the Political Consequences of Eroding Government Secrecy," with Erik Lin-Greenberg, *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 65(6): 1067-97.
- 2021 "Annotating Without Anxiety: Achieving Adaptability, Accessibility, and Accountability Through ATI," *PS: Political Science & Politics* 54(3): 483-86.

Reports and Monographs

- 2023 "Departure Time: The American Evacuation From Afghanistan," *National Security Affairs Department, U.S. Naval War College* (with Daniel McVay and Andrew L. Stigler)
- 2021 "Command and Control of U.S. Air Force Combat Support in a High-End Fight," *RAND Corporation* (with 7 co-authors).
- 2021 "Analysis of Global Management of Air Force War Reserve Materiel to Support Operations in Contested and Denied Environments," *RAND Corporation* (with 11 co-authors).
- 2011 "Sanctioning Iran," GSB Case No. P75, Stanford Graduate School of Business Publishing (with Condoleezza Rice, Charles Nicas, Cameron Bell, and Daniel Slate).

Editor-Reviewed Articles/Policy Commentary (Partial List)

- 2025 “Review of *Mightier Than the Sword: Civilian Control of the Military and the Revitalization of Democracy* (Stanford University Press, 2024),” *H-Diplo* | RJISSF Roundtable (forthcoming)
- 2024 “The Tradeoffs of Transparency: How Commercial Intelligence Enables—and Inhibits—National Security Outcomes,” *The Republic* Vol. 1, No. 1 (with Erik Lin-Greenberg).
- 2023 “Paralysis at the Pentagon: How a Standoff in the Senate is Undermining Civilian Control of the Military,” *Foreign Affairs* Online, October 12.
- 2022 “Boots on the Ground, Eyes in the Sky: How Commercial Satellites are Upending Conflict,” *Foreign Affairs* Online, May 30 (with Erik Lin-Greenberg).
- 2021 “Private Eyes in the Sky: How Commercial Satellites Are Transforming Intelligence,” *Foreign Affairs* Online, September 23 (with Erik Lin-Greenberg).
- 2021 “Commercial Satellites – Not U.S. Intelligence – Revealed China’s Missile Program,” *The Washington Post*, The Monkey Cage, August 3 (with Erik Lin-Greenberg).
- 2018 “How Close Did the United States Actually Get to Using Nuclear Weapons in Vietnam in 1968?” *War on the Rocks*, October 24.

Works in Progress

- Cabinets at War: Leaders, Advisors, and the Politics of Wartime Decision-Making* (Book Project)
- “Inheriting Interventions: Leaders, Military Advisors, and Politics of Wartime Decision-Making” (Draft: April 2024)
- “Tradeoffs of Transparency: Emerging Technology and Security,” with Erik Lin-Greenberg (Draft April 2024)
- “Deference and Defiance: Setbacks, Civil-Military Gaps, and Wartime Decision-Making” (Draft: June 2023)

Awards, Fellowships, Grants, and Affiliations

External

- 2024 Eric & Wendy Schmidt Fund for Strategic Innovation Research Grant (with Erik Lin-Greenberg)
- 2023-Present Affiliate, Robert Jervis Seminar on International Relations, Columbia University
- 2021-2022 Perry World House Global Order Postdoctoral Fellowship, University of Pennsylvania
- 2019-2021 Clements Center for National Security Predoctoral Fellowship, University of Texas at Austin
- 2019-2021 Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship (\$7,500)
- 2020-2021 International Policy Scholars Consortium and Network (IPSCON) Junior Scholar
- 2018 LBJ Foundation Moody Research Grant (\$3,000)
- 2018 Eisenhower Foundation Library Travel Grant (\$1,500)
- 2018 Charles Koch Foundation Dissertation Grant (\$5,000)
- 2011-2012 J. William Fulbright Scholarship for Study in the United Kingdom

Internal

- 2024 Civilian Service Achievement Medal, U.S. Department of the Navy
- 2022-2024 Naval War College Foundation Faculty Development Grants
- 2019 Columbia Experimental Laboratory in the Social Sciences, with Erik Lin-Greenberg (\$1,000)
- 2018 Columbia Department of Political Science Dissertation Development Grant (\$3,000)
- 2017 Columbia Global Policy Initiative Graduate Research Award (\$2,500)
- 2017 Columbia Saltzman Institute for War and Peace Studies IQMR Tuition and Travel Grant
- 2015-2019 Columbia University Teaching/Dissertation Fellowship
- 2012-2013 Columbia University Dean’s Fellowship
- 2012 Simon O’Dwyer Russell Prize, Department of War Studies, King’s College London
- 2008-2009 Stanford Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) Honors Program

Conferences, Workshops, Lectures, and Seminars

2019-2024	American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conferences
2018-2025	International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conferences
2024	Wargaming Workshop, Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), Cambridge, MA
2024	Women, Peace, and Security Annual Conference, U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI
2023	Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, Reston, VA
2023	Minnesota International Relations Colloquium, University of Minnesota, Minneapolis, MN
2023	“The All-Volunteer Force at 50,” Center for Civil-Military Relations, Army War College
2023	Qualitative Research Replication Workshop, Syracuse University, New York, NY
2022	LBJ-Vietnam Exercise, Clements Center for National Security, University of Texas at Austin
2022	Center for Global Security Research, Lawrence Livermore National Labs, Livermore, CA (Remote)
2021	“U.S. National Security Policy” Guest Lecture, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2021	Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference (Remote)
2021	Restraint and Emerging Technology, Cato Institute, Washington, DC (Remote)
2021	Department of Social Sciences, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY (Remote)
2020	Strategic and Operational Research Department, Naval War College, Providence, RI (Remote)
2020	Columbia University International Politics Seminar (CUIPS), New York, NY (Remote)
2020	Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference, Chicago, IL (Canceled)
2020	Restraint and National Security Conference, University of Texas at Austin, Austin, TX
2019	International Studies Association (ISA) International Security Studies Conference, Denver, CO
2019	Security Studies Working Group, Columbia University, New York, NY
2019	Graduate Student Methods Workshop, Columbia University, New York, NY
2018	Annotation for Transparent Inquiry Workshop, Qualitative Data Repository, Syracuse University
2018	“1968 and the Tet Offensive” Conference, Vietnam Center and Archive, Texas Tech University
2018	Clements Center Summer Seminar in History and Statecraft, Beaver Creek, CO
2017	Perry World House Graduate Symposium on International Law, University of Pennsylvania
2017	Johns Hopkins/SAIS Summer Study, Phillip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies, La Jolla, CA
2017	Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY
2017	New Era Workshop, Bridging the Gap Initiative, American University, Washington, DC
2017	Summer Workshop on Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS), Ithaca, NY

Teaching Experience

Instructor of Record (U.S. Naval War College)

Spring 2023, 2024	“National Security Decision-Making,” National Security Affairs Department
Winter 2023-2025	“Theater Security Decision-Making,” National Security Affairs Department
Winter 2024, 2025	“U.S. Civil-Military Relations,” Elective (with Prof. Jessica Blankshain)

Teaching Assistant/Teaching Fellow (Columbia University)

Fall 2013, 2015-2017	“War, Peace, and Strategy,” Prof. Richard Betts
Spring 2016, 2017, 2019	“Introduction to International Politics,” Prof. Robert Jervis

Teaching Assistant (Stanford University)

Winter 2010, 2011	“Challenges and Dilemmas in American Foreign Policy,” Prof. Condoleezza Rice
Fall 2008, 2009	“Technology and National Security,” Prof. William Perry and Prof. Siegfried Hecker

Pedagogical Training

2019-Present	Teaching Development Program (Advanced), Columbia Center for Teaching & Learning
2018-2019	Teaching Observation Fellowship, Columbia Center for Teaching & Learning
2018	Inclusive Teaching Seminar, Columbia Center for Teaching & Learning
2017	Innovative Summer Teaching Institute, Columbia Center for Teaching & Learning

Service

Service to the Profession

Reviewer: *Security Studies* (2023, 2024); *International Interactions* (2025)

Application Reader, U.S.-U.K. Fulbright Commission (2020-2021)

Service to the U.S. Naval War College

Co-Founder/Co-Host, *The Debrief*, National Security Affairs Department Podcast/Video Series (2023-Present)

Department Representative, Faculty Advisory Council (2023-Present)

Selection Committee, L. Franklin Reinauer Defense Economics Student Writing Award (2023, 2024)

Discussant, Writer's Workshop, Women Peace and Security Symposium (2023, 2024)

Assessor, International Masters of Arts Admissions Program (2023)

Protector/Assessor, Capstone Exercise (2023, 2024)

Member, Classroom Technology Focus Group (2023)

Work Experience

- 2018 – 2019 **RAND Corporation**, *Summer Associate and Adjunct Policy Analyst* Washington, DC
Conducted research on military logistics and command and control of combat support in denied environments to support Defense Department force planning.
- 2012 – 2013 **Columbia National Security Law Program**, *Research Assistant* New York, NY
Conducted research for Columbia Law School Prof. Matthew Waxman on the role of coercive threats in international relations.
- 2011 – 2012 **International Institute for Strategic Studies**, *Research Assistant* London, UK
Conducted research for nonproliferation and disarmament program under the guidance of former State Department official Mark Fitzpatrick.
- 2009 – 2011 **Hoover Institution, Office of Condoleezza Rice**, *Research Assistant* Stanford, CA
Conducted research full-time for former Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice as she wrote her memoirs.
- Summer 2008 **Center for a New American Security (CNAS)**, *Joseph Nye Research Intern* Washington, DC
Assisted *New York Times* Senior Washington Correspondent David E. Sanger with research on nuclear proliferation, bioterrorism, and cyber security for his first book, *The Inheritance*.
- 2007 – 2008 **Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC)**, *Research Assistant* Stanford, CA
Assisted Dr. Elizabeth Sherwood-Randall at the Preventive Defense Project in researching the role of private security contractors in Iraq.