

# Michael Poznansky

Strategic and Operational Research Department  
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## Professional Appointments

**U.S. Naval War College**, Strategic and Operational Research Department  
Associate Professor (2021 – )

**University of Pittsburgh**, Graduate School of Public and International Affairs  
Assistant Professor (2016 – 2021)

**University of Pittsburgh**, Department of Political Science (*secondary appointment*)  
Assistant Professor (2019 – 2021)

**Dartmouth College**, Dickey Center for International Understanding  
Dartmouth Fellow in U.S. Foreign Policy and International Security (2020–2021)

**United States Military Academy at West Point**, Modern War Institute  
Non-Resident Fellow (2019–2021)

**Harvard Kennedy School**, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs  
Predoctoral Research Fellow, International Security Program (2015–2016)

## Education

**University of Virginia**, Ph.D., August 2016.  
Woodrow Wilson Department of Politics.

**University of Virginia**, M.A., May 2013.  
Woodrow Wilson Department of Politics.

**University of Delaware**, B.A., *summa cum laude*, January 2011.  
Department of Political Science and International Relations.

## Research

### *Book*

Michael Poznansky (2020). *In the Shadow of International Law: Secrecy and Regime Change in the Postwar World*. New York: Oxford University Press.

Reviewed in *Foreign Affairs* (May/June 2021)

Reviewed in *Responsible Statecraft*

Featured in an H-Diplo/ISSF Roundtable

### Peer-Reviewed Publications

- Michael Poznansky (Forthcoming). "The Psychology of Overt and Covert Intervention." *Security Studies*.
- Kyle Lascurettes and Michael Poznansky (Forthcoming). "International Order in Theory and Practice." In *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies*. (Oxford University Press). doi: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190846626.013.673.
- Michael F. Joseph, Michael Poznansky, and William Spaniel (Forthcoming). "Shooting the Messenger: The Challenge of National Security Whistleblowing." *Journal of Politics*.
- Michael Poznansky (2020). "Revisiting Plausible Deniability." *Journal of Strategies Studies*. Online First.
- William Spaniel and Michael Poznansky (2020). "Bad-Faith Cooperation." *International Interactions*. 46(4): 579-605.
- Michael Poznansky (2019). "Feigning Compliance: Covert Action and International Law." *International Studies Quarterly* 63(1): 72-84.
- William Spaniel and Michael Poznansky (2018). "Credible Commitment in Covert Affairs." *American Journal of Political Science* 62(3): 668-681.
- Michael F. Joseph and Michael Poznansky (2018). "Media Technology, Covert Action, and the Politics of Exposure." *Journal of Peace Research* 55(3): 320-335.
- Michael Poznansky and Evan Perkoski (2018). "Rethinking Secrecy in Cyberspace: The Politics of Voluntary Attribution." *Journal of Global Security Studies* 3(4): 402-416.
- Evan Perkoski and Michael Poznansky (2018). "Offense and Defense in Cyberspace." In *Military Strategy, Joint Operations, and Airpower: An Introduction*. Ryan Burke, Michael Fowler, and Kevin McCaskey, eds. (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press), 166-179.
- Michael Poznansky and Matt K. Scroggs (2016). "Ballots and Blackmail: Coercive Bargaining and the Democratic Peace." *International Studies Quarterly* 60(4): 731-741.
- Michael Poznansky (2015). "Stasis or Decay? Reconciling Covert War and the Democratic Peace." *International Studies Quarterly* 59(4): 815-826.
- Response by Tarak Barkawi (2015). "Scientific Decay." *International Studies Quarterly* 59(4): 827-829.
- John M. Owen and Michael Poznansky (2014). "When Does America Drop Dictators?" *European Journal of International Relations* 20(4): 1072-1099.

### Book Reviews

- Review of Rory Cormac's "Disrupt and Deny: Spies, Special Forces, and the Secret Pursuit of British Foreign Policy," *H-Diplo*.
- Review of Keren Yarhi-Milo's "Who Fights for Reputation: The Psychology of Leaders in International Conflict," *H-Diplo ISSF*.
- Review of Lindsey O'Rourke's "Covert Regime Change: America's Secret Cold War," *Political Science Quarterly* 134(4): 755-756.

### *Working Papers and Work in Progress*

*The Secret Foundations of Liberal Order.* (Book Project)

"Institutional Design, Enforcement Problems, and War." With William Spaniel.

"Secrecy and Innovation." With Michael Joseph.

"Executive Action That Lasts." With Kenneth Lowande.

"Irregular Regime Transitions and Democratization." With Evan Perkoski.

"The Sources of Cyber Doctrine." With Nadiya Kostyuk and Evan Perkoski.

### *Select Commentary*

Michael Poznansky (2021). "Covert Action, Espionage, and the Intelligence Contest in Cyberspace." *War on the Rocks*.

Michael Poznansky (2020). "The United Nations and the Accidental Rise of Covert Intervention." *Lawfare*.

Michael Poznansky and Mindy Haas (2020). "As US-China Competition Grows, Will Covert Regime Change Make a Comeback?." *The Diplomat*.

Michael Joseph, Michael Poznansky, and William Spaniel (2019). "National Security Whistleblower Reform is a Sticky Wicket." *War on the Rocks*.

Evan Perkoski and Michael Poznansky (2018). "U.S. Cyber Command Targeted Russian Operatives to Deter Election Meddling. Here's Why." *Council on Foreign Relations' Net Politics Blog*.

Michael Poznansky and William Spaniel (2018). "The Logic of Credible Commitments in the Covert Sphere." *Political Violence at a Glance*.

Michael Poznansky and Evan Perkoski (2018). "Did the U.S. 'Hack Back' At Russia? Here's Why This Matters in Cyberwarfare." *Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*.

Michael Poznansky (2017). "Correspondence: Friends, Foes, and Foreign-Imposed Regime Change." *International Security*. 42(2): 191-195.

Austin Carson and Michael Poznansky (2017). "Trump and Covert Operations in Syria: A Not-so-artful Deal?" *War on the Rocks*.

Michael Poznansky and Keith Carter (2016). "NATO Members Are Supposed to be Democratic. What Happens When Turkey Isn't?" *Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*.

Michael Poznansky (2016). "The Ordinary and Unique in Russia's Electoral Information Warfare Game." *War on the Rocks*.

Austin Carson and Michael Poznansky (2016). "The Logic for (Shoddy) U.S. Covert Action in Syria." *War on the Rocks*.

Craig Neuman and Michael Poznansky (2016). "Swaggering in Cyberspace: Busting the Conventional Wisdom on Cyber Coercion." *War on the Rocks*.

Michael Poznansky and Evan Perkoski (2016). "Attribution and Secrecy in Cyberspace." *War on the Rocks*.

Michael Poznansky (2015). "Critical Stasis: A Reply to Barkawi." *ISQ Online Symposia*. (<http://www.isanet.org/Publications/ISQ/Posts/ID/4823/Critical-Stasis-A-Reply-to-Barkawi>).

Reply by Tarak Barkawi (2015). "Red Herrings, Split Hairs, and Small Wars." *ISQ Online Symposia*. (<http://www.isanet.org/Publications/ISQ/Posts/ID/4851/Red-Herrings-Split-Hairs-and-Small-Wars>).

## Professional Presentations

### *Invited Conferences, Presentations, and Workshops*

Fordham University, Department of Political Science, American Forum Lecture Series (New York, NY): March 2020

Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School, "New Research on Secrecy in International Relations" Workshop (Princeton, NJ): April 2019.

University of Oklahoma, Cyber Governance and Policy Center (Norman, OK): April 2019.

Princeton University, Woodrow Wilson School, Security Studies Colloquium of the Center for International Security Studies (Princeton, NJ): December 2017

Christopher Newport University, Reiff Center for Human Rights and Conflict Resolution (Newport News, VA): October 2017.

United States Military Academy, Modern War Institute, War Studies Conference—"Reassessing Deterrence in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century" (West Point, NY): November 2016

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Belfer Center International Security Program Seminar (Cambridge, MA): October 2015

### *Conference Presentations*

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2012, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020

International Studies Association: 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021

International Studies Association (ISSS-ISAC): 2013

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2013, 2015

Peace Science Society Annual Meeting: 2016, 2018

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2011

## Grants and Awards

U.S. Foreign Policy and International Security Post-doctoral Fellowship, Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College, 2020-2021

Non-Resident Fellow, Modern War Institute, West Point, 2019-2021

Predocutorial Research Fellowship, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, 2015-2016

Eisenhower-Roberts Graduate Fellowship, The Eisenhower Institute, 2015 - 2016

Bynum Grant, Quantitative Collaborative, 2015

Annual Robert J. Huskey Research Exhibition Award Winner for the Social and Behavioral Sciences, 2<sup>nd</sup> place, University of Virginia, 2013; 2015 (with Samuel H. Plapinger)

Graduate Student Affiliate, Quantitative Collaborative, 2014–2015

Arts, Humanities and Social Sciences Summer Research Award, 2014

All-University Graduate Teaching Assistant Award in Social Sciences and Education, University of Virginia, 2013–2014

Graduate Teaching Assistant Award for the Department of Politics, University of Virginia, 2013-2014

Center for International Studies Graduate Student Research Grant, 2013

Global Scholars Award, University of Delaware, 2010

Gladys and Harry David Zutz Award, University of Delaware, 2010

## Courses Taught

Covert Action in World Politics

Diplomacy: Theory and Practice (with Julia Santucci)

Global Governance

Intelligence and Foreign Policy

Introduction to Quantitative Methods

## Service

Reviewer, *American Political Science Review*, *American Politics Research*, *Civil Wars*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, *Democracy and Security*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *IEEE Security & Privacy*, *International Interactions*, *International Organization*, *International Security*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Cold War Studies*, *Journal of Cybersecurity*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Politics Oxford University Press*, *Political Research Exchange*, *Security Studies*.

## Formal Training and Workshops

Council on Foreign Relations, College and University Educators Workshop, Washington D.C. (Spring 2019)

Bridging the Gap, International Policy Summer Institute, Washington D.C. (Summer 2017)

Bridging the Gap, New Era Foreign Policy Conference, Washington D.C. (Spring 2016)

Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS), Arnold A. Saltzman Institute for War and Peace Studies, Columbia University (Summer 2015)

Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan  
(Summer 2014)

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Maxwell School of Syracuse University  
(Summer 2013)

Last updated: July 12, 2021