

Michael Poznansky

Strategic and Operational Research Department
U.S. Naval War College

Professional Appointments

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

Brookings Institution, Foreign Policy Program
Non-Resident Senior Fellow (2026 –)

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

Books

Michael Poznansky (2025). *Great Power, Great Responsibility: How the Liberal International Order Shapes U.S. Foreign Policy*. New York: Oxford University Press.

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)

Featured in an H-Diplo/ISSF Roundtable

Reviewed in Modern War Institute

Reviewed in Responsible Statecraft

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Lennart Maschmeyer and Michael Poznansky (Forthcoming). "Measuring Impact and Effectiveness in Cyber Conflict." *Security Studies*.

Jason Vogt, Nina Kollars, and Michael Poznansky (2025). "Preparedness Wargaming for Critical Infrastructure Resilience: Taiwan Digital Blockade Wargame." *The Cyber Defense Review*. 10(2): 1001-10018.

Nadiya Kostyuk, Evan Perkoski, and Michael Poznansky (2025). "The Bureaucratic Politics of Cyber Strategy." *Journal of Global Security Studies*. 10(3): 1-17.

Erica Lonergan and Michael Poznansky (2024). "Competing Visions for U.S. Grand Strategy in Cyberspace." *Security Studies*. 33(4): 607-639

Michael Joseph and Michael Poznansky (2024). "Secret Innovation." *International Organization*. 78(4): 766-799.

Kenneth Lowande and Michael Poznansky (2024). "Executive Action That Lasts." *Journal of Public Policy*.

Michael F. Joseph, Michael Poznansky, and William Spaniel (2022). "Shooting the Messenger: The Challenge of National Security Whistleblowing." *Journal of Politics*. 84(2): 846-860.

Michael Poznansky (2021). "The Psychology of Overt and Covert Intervention." *Security Studies*. 30(3): 325-353.

Michael Poznansky (2020). "Revisiting Plausible Deniability." *Journal of Strategic 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.

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.

Peer-Reviewed Chapters

Nina Kollars and Michael Poznansky (2026). "The Cyberecurity Firm and the State: Disclosure, Escalation, and Non-Military Warfare in Cyberspace." In *The Threat and Dynamics of Non-Military Warfare*, Oscar Jonsson and Ilmari Käihkö, eds. (Routledge Advances in Defence Studies).

Michael Poznansky (2025). "The Causes and Consequences of U.S. Covert Action." In *The Oxford Handbook of National Security Intelligence, 2nd ed.*, Loch K. Johnson, ed. (Oxford University Press).

Michael Poznansky (2025). "Secrecy, Deception, Cyber, and Navies." In *Cyber Warfare and Navies*. Chris Demchak and Sam Tangredi, eds. (Naval Institute Press).

Jon R. Lindsay and Michael Poznansky (2024). "The Cat in the Hat and Cyber Warfare." In *Dr. Seuss and the Art of War*, Montgomery McFate, ed. (Rowman & Littlefield).

Michael Poznansky (2024). "Enduring Challenges in Cyberspace." In *Great Power Cyber Competition: Competing and Winning in the Information Environment*, David V. Gioe and Margaret W. Smith, eds. (Routledge Advances in Defence Studies).

Kyle Lascurettes and Michael Poznansky (2021). "International Order in Theory and Practice." In *The Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Studies*. (Oxford University Press). doi: 10.1093/acrefore/9780190846626.013.673.

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.

Special Issues, Essays and Reports

Frank Smith, Chris Demchak, and Michael Poznansky, eds. (2025). "USCYBERCOM.Next? The Future of U.S. Cyber Forces." *Cyber Defense Review* 10(3).

Michael Poznansky (2025). "Back to the Future: The Case for Strengthening—Not Replacing—the Rules-Based Order." *New Visions in Grand Strategy*. *Stimson Center*.

Daniel Grobarcik, William, Loomis, Michael Poznansky, and Frank Smith (2022). "Wargaming to Find a Safe Port in a Cyber Storm." Issue Brief. *Atlantic Council*.

Book Reviews

Hillary Clinton and Keren Yarhi-Milo (2026) "Inside the Situation Room: The Theory and Practice of Crisis Decision-Making," *Perspectives on Politics*, 24(2).

Alexander Downes (2025) "Catastrophic Success: Why Foreign-Imposed Regime Change Goes Wrong," *H-Diplo*.

Rory Cormac (2020) "Disrupt and Deny: Spies, Special Forces, and the Secret Pursuit of British Foreign Policy," *H-Diplo*, 2020.

Keren Yarhi-Milo (2020) "Who Fights for Reputation: The Psychology of Leaders in International Conflict," *H-Diplo ISSF*, 2020.

Lindsey O'Rourke (2019) "Covert Regime Change: America's Secret Cold War," *Political Science Quarterly* 134(4): 755-756.

Working Papers and Work in Progress

"Decapitate and Delegate: How U.S. Operations in Iran and Venezuela Will Reshape International Politics." With Jeffrey A. Friedman.

"Window Shopping: Fleeting Opportunities in International Politics."

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

Opportunistic Aggression. With Kendrick Kuo (book project).

Select Commentary

Michael Poznansky and Erik Sand (2025). "Spectacular Drone Strikes and the Future Sanctuary of the U.S. Homeland." *War on the Rocks*.

Erica Lonergan and Michael Poznansky (2025). "A Tale of Two Typhoons: Properly Diagnosing Chinese Cyber Threats." *War on the Rocks*.

Michael Poznansky and William Wohlforth (2025). "The Real Risks of Escalation in Ukraine." *Foreign Affairs*.

Jason Vogt, Nina Kollars, and Michael Poznansky (2024). "Should Taiwan Attempt to Replicate the Zelensky Playbook?" *War on the Rocks*.

Michael Poznansky (2024). "The Ukraine-Taiwan Tradeoff: U.S. Support for Ukraine Diverts Weapons from Taiwan but Demonstrates Resolve to China" *Foreign Affairs*.

Chris Demchak, Michael Poznansky, and Sam Tangredi (2023). "A Divorce Between the Navy and Cyber Command Would Be Dangerous" *War on the Rocks*.

Erica Lonergan and Michael Poznansky (2023). "Are We Asking Too Much of Cyber?" *War on the Rocks*.

Nina Kollars and Michael Poznansky (2021). "Statecraft and Strategy Under the Eroding Monopoly of Cyber Intelligence." *Council on Foreign Relations' Net Politics Blog*.

Michael Poznansky (2021). "The Appeal of Covert Action: Psychology and the Future of Irregular Warfare." *Modern War Institute*.

Michael Poznansky (2021). "Confronting Cyber Threats: Challenges and Opportunities." *Modern War Institute*.

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.

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

WorldBoston, Great Decisions Lecture Series, American Foreign Policy at a Crossroads (Boston, MA): December 2025.

Stimson Center, Reimagining Grand Strategy Program, New Visions for Grand Strategy Project (Washington, D.C.): September 2025.

New America, Planetary Politics, Book Talk on Great Power, Great Responsibility: How the Liberal International Order Shapes US Foreign Policy (Online): August 2025.

Columbia University, Institute for Social and Economic Research and Policy & Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Workshop on Emerging Technologies and Cybersecurity (New York, NY): February 2025.

Council on Foreign Relations, Term Member Event, Securing the Seas: The Current State of Maritime Geopolitics (Washington, D.C.): March 2024.

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Center for Global Security Research, The Future of Cyber Competition (Livermore, CA): September 2023.

United States Military Academy, Order Counter-Order, Disorder? Regional and Global Security Orders in the Shadow of Sino-American Competition conference (West Point, NY): February 2023.

University of California, San Diego, Center for Peace and Security Studies, Cyber Escalation in Conflict workshop (San Diego, CA): February 2023.

Princeton University, Security Studies Colloquium of the Center for International Security Studies (Princeton, NJ): November 2022.

Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Belfer Center International Security Program Seminar (Cambridge, MA): March 2022

MIT, Security Studies Program Seminar (Cambridge, MA): February 2022

George Washington University, Institute for Security & Conflict Studies (Washington, D.C.): November 2021.

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

Princeton University, School of Public and International Affairs, “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, 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 21st 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, 2022, 2023, 2024

International Studies Association: 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, 2026

International Studies Association (ISSS-ISAC): 2013, 2021

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2013, 2015

Peace Science Society Annual Meeting: 2016, 2018

Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2011

Grants, Awards, and Fellowships

Non-Resident Senior Fellow, Foreign Policy Program, Strobe Talbott Center for Security, Strategy, and Technology, 2026–Present

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

Predocctoral 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, 2nd 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

Deterrence Theory

Covert Action in World Politics

Diplomacy: Theory and Practice (with Julia Santucci)

Global Governance

Intelligence and Foreign Policy

Introduction to Quantitative Methods

Service

Associate Editor, *Security Studies*, 2025 – present

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: April 16, 2026