

JOSHUA HYUNG-JOON BYUN

Department of Political Science
Boston College
McGuinn Hall 519
275 Beacon St., Chestnut Hill, MA 02467

Office Phone: (617) 552-4177
E-mail: joshua.byun@bc.edu
Website: www.joshuabyun.com

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Boston College , Assistant Professor of Political Science	July 2023-
Massachusetts Institute of Technology , Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow	2025-2026
University of Pennsylvania , Perry World House Global Innovation Program Postdoctoral Fellow	2022-2023
Notre Dame International Security Center , Hans J. Morgenthau Fellow	2021-2022

EDUCATION

University of Chicago , Ph.D. in Political Science ▸ Committee: John Mearsheimer (Chair), Austin Carson, Paul Poast ▸ Qualifications: International Relations (Honors), Comparative Politics (Honors)	2017-2022
Korea University , B.A. in International Studies & Political Science ▸ Honors: <i>Summa cum Laude</i>	2009-2012

BOOKS

Joshua Byun, *The Adversary's Veto: Why Grand Strategy Succeeds or Fails in Military Alliances*, Cornell Studies in Security Affairs series, Cornell University Press (in production, expected 2026).

Joshua Byun and John J. Mearsheimer, *Brave New World: Great Power Politics in a Future with Peer Hegemons*, under advance contract, Yale University Press.

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

9. Joshua Byun and Austin Carson, "Performative Violence and the Spectacular Debut of the Atomic Bomb," *American Political Science Review* (2025).

8. Joshua Byun and Hyunku Kwon, "Black Troops, White Rage, and Political Violence in the

Postbellum American South,” *American Political Science Review* (2025).

7. Joshua Byun, “Stuck Onshore: Why the United States Failed to Retrench from Europe during the Early Cold War,” *Texas National Security Review* 7, no. 3 (Fall 2024): 9-36.

6. Changwook Ju and Joshua Byun, “Under No Circumstances? What the Chinese Really Think about the Wartime Use of Nuclear Weapons,” *International Studies Quarterly* 68, no. 2 (June 2024): sqae037.

5. D.G. Kim, Joshua Byun, and Jiyoung Ko, “Remember Kabul? Reputation, Strategic Contexts, and American Credibility after the Afghanistan Withdrawal,” *Contemporary Security Policy* 45, no. 2 (2024): 265-297.

▸ Shortlisted for 2025 Bernard Brodie Prize

4. Joshua Byun and Austin Carson, “More than a Number: Aging Leaders in International Politics,” *International Studies Quarterly* 67, no. 1 (March 2023): squad008.

3. Rochelle Terman and Joshua Byun, “Punishment and Politicization in the International Human Rights Regime,” *American Political Science Review* 116, no. 2 (May 2022): 385-402.

2. Joshua Byun, “Regional Security Cooperation against Hegemonic Threats: Theory and Evidence from France and West Germany (1945-1965),” *European Journal of International Security* 7, no. 2 (May 2022): 143-163.

1. Joshua Byun, D.G. Kim, and Sichen Li, “The Geopolitical Consequences of COVID-19: Assessing Hawkish Mass Opinion in China,” *Political Science Quarterly* 136, no. 4 (Winter 2021): 641-665.

WORKING PAPERS AND MANUSCRIPTS IN PROGRESS

“Just Tell Them You’re Sorry! Assessing the Impact of Shaming on Support for Policies of Atonement in International Politics,” with Changwook Ju (Working paper).

“The Paradox of Power and U.S. Revisionism in Postwar Europe” (In progress).

“The Paradox of Nuclear Sharing: U.S. Grand Strategy in NATO’s Nuclear Age” (Working paper).

“Unruly Friends: Grand Strategy and Strategic Incoherence in Soviet Alliances” (Working paper).

“War Widows and the Construction of Political Order in the Postbellum American South,” with Hyunku Kwon (In progress).

“Soldier, State, Society: Conscription and Battlefield Effectiveness in the Vietnam War,” with

Changwook Ju (In progress).

POLICY ANALYSIS & COMMENTARY

“Pivoting in Earnest toward East Asia,” Priorities for the Next President Project, January 22, 2025, Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania, <https://perryworldhouse.upenn.edu/news-and-insight/pivoting-in-earnest-toward-east-asia/>.

“Why the United States Failed to Retrench from Europe during the Early Cold War,” *Horns of a Dilemma* with Rick Landgraf, July 19, 2024, *War on the Rocks* Podcast, <https://warontherocks.com/2024/07/why-the-united-states-failed-to-retrench-from-europe-during-the-early-cold-war/>.

“China’s Nuclear Taboo isn’t as Strong as it Seems,” *Foreign Policy*, July 19, 2024, https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/07/19/china-nuclear-weapons-policy-deterrence-no-first-use/?tpcc=recirc_latest062921 (with Changwook Ju).

“The Senile Superpower? America has Long Treated Aging Leaders Differently—and So Might Other Countries Treat Biden or Trump,” *Foreign Affairs*, July 18, 2024, <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/united-states/america-aging-leaders-differently-biden-trump-senile-superpower> (with Austin Carson).

“Competition with China is Inevitable. U.S. Alliance Policy Could Determine Just How Bad It Gets,” *The Diplomat*, March 11, 2024, <https://thediplomat.com/2024/03/competition-with-china-is-inevitable-us-alliance-policy-could-determine-just-how-bad-it-gets/>.

“‘Credibility’ is Not What You Think It is,” *Power Problems* with John Glaser, November 28, 2023, Cato Institute Podcast, <https://www.cato.org/multimedia/power-problems/credibility-not-what-you-think-it>.

“U.S. Credibility after the 2021 Afghanistan Withdrawal,” *Contemporary Security Policy* Blog, September 6, 2023, <http://contemporarysecuritypolicy.org/u-s-alliance-credibility-after-the-2021-afghanistan-withdrawal/> (with D.G. Kim and Jiyoung Ko).

“Thinking Clearly about ‘NATO-Like’ Nuclear Sharing,” *Korea on Point*, August 16, 2023, https://koreaonpoint.org/articles/article_detail.php?idx=226.

“The Case against Nuclear Sharing in East Asia,” *Washington Quarterly* 44, no. 4 (Winter 2021): 67-87 (with Do Young Lee).

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of *A World Safe for Commerce: American Foreign Policy from the Revolution to the Rise of China* by Dale C. Copeland, H-Diplo RJISF Roundtable 16-47, July 11, 2025,

<https://issforum.org/roundtables/28583>.

Review of *The Burden-Sharing Dilemma: Coercive Diplomacy in U.S. Alliance Politics* by Brian D. Blankenship, *Political Science Quarterly* 139, no. 4 (Winter 2024): 684-686.

CONFERENCE AND WORKSHOP PAPERS

“Brave New World: A Future with Peer Regional Hegemons” (with John J. Mearsheimer)

- International Studies Association, March 2025
- International Political Science Association, July 2025
- American Political Science Association, September 2025

“Black Troops, White Rage, and Political Violence in the Postbellum American South” (with Hyunku Kwon)

- American Political Science Association, September 2024
- International Studies Association, March 2025

“Stuck Onshore: Why the United States Failed to Retrench from Europe during the Early Cold War”

- International Studies Association, April 2024

“‘A Fair Background to Show its Strength’: Hiroshima and the Lethal Debut of Atomic Weaponry” (with Austin Carson)

- Workshop on International Politics, University of Chicago, January 2023
- American Political Science Association, August-September 2023
- International Studies Association, April 2024

“The Paradox of Nuclear Sharing: U.S. Grand Strategy in NATO’s Nuclear Age”

- American Political Science Association, September 2022
- Perry World House Seminar Series, University of Pennsylvania, September 2022
- Browne Center IR Workshop Series, University of Pennsylvania, November 2022
- ISSS-IS Conference, December 2022
- International Studies Association, March 2023
- Midwest Political Science Association, April 2023

“Remember Kabul? Reputation, Strategic Contexts, and American Credibility after the Afghanistan Withdrawal (with D.G. Kim and Jiyoung Ko)

- Midwest Political Science Association, April 2022
- ISSS-IS Conference, December 2022

“The Wicked Problem of Grand Strategy: Why Great Powers Fail to Achieve Strategic Coherence in Their Military Alliances”

- IR Theory Colloquium, October 2021
- Graduate Students in International Security, etc. Workshop, October 2021
- International Studies Association, April 2021; March 2022

- Midwest Political Science Association, April 2021
- “More than a Number: Aging Leaders in International Politics” (with Austin Carson)
 - Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, March 2022
 - American Political Science Association, October 2021
 - Midwest Political Science Association, April 2021
 - History and Social Sciences Forum, University of Chicago, January 2021
- “Soldier, State, Society: Conscription and Battlefield Effectiveness in the Modern Era” (with Changwook Ju)
 - Workshop on International Politics, University of Chicago, February 2021
 - Graduate Students in International Security, etc. Workshop, October 2020
- “The Geopolitical Consequences of COVID-19: Assessing Hawkish Mass Opinion in China” (with D.G. Kim and Sichen Li)
 - International Studies Association, April 2021
 - Peace Science Society, November 2020
 - American Political Science Association, September 2020
 - Summer Workshop on International Politics, University of Chicago, August 2020
- “Politicization and Punishment in the International Human Rights Regime” (with Rochelle Terman)
 - Workshop on International Politics, University of Chicago, April 2021
- “Strategies of the Rimland: Power Shifts and Military Postures in Europe and Asia”
 - Workshop on International Politics, University of Chicago, January 2020
- “Emotional Substrates of Counterhegemonic Balancing” (With D.G. Kim and Nicholas Campbell-Seremetis)
 - American Political Science Association, August 2019
 - Midwest Political Science Association, April 2019
- “No Damn Good as an Ally: The Balance of Power and Military Coalition-building in Western Europe, 1945-1965”
 - Midwest Political Science Association, April 2019
 - Workshop on International Politics, University of Chicago, March 2019
 - Ph.D. Student Workshop, University of Chicago, December 2018
- “Military Responses to China’s Rise: Some Neorealist Hypotheses”
 - Five University Workshop on International Security, University of Tokyo, December 2016

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS

“Brave New World: Great Power Politics in a Future with Peer Hegemons,” Notre Dame International Security Center (NDISC) Seminar Series, University of Notre Dame, South Bend,

IN, April 14, 2026 (Expected)

“The Adversary’s Veto: Why Grand Strategy Succeeds or Fails in Military Alliances,” Davidson Institute for Global Security, Dartmouth College, January 29, 2026 (Expected).

“Just Tell them You’re Sorry! Assessing the Impact of Shaming on Support for Policies of Atonement in International Politics,” Perspectives on Contemporary Korea Conference, Nam Center for Korean Studies, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, MI, December 4-6, 2025 (Expected)

“‘A Fair Background to Show its Strength’: Hiroshima and the Spectacular Debut of Atomic Weaponry,” Watson Institute Security Studies Seminar, Brown University, Providence, RI, February 10, 2025

“Brave New World: A Future with Peer Regional Hegemons,” Workshop on International Politics, University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, January 9, 2025

“South Korea’s Democratic Crisis and International Security,” Roundtable on Democratic Crisis in South Korea and Its International Implications, Nam Center for Korean Studies, University of Michigan, December 19, 2024 (Zoom event), <https://youtu.be/OQmODp4GOBI?si=VMSkSc0mdxB1RGQu>.

“Brave New World: A Future with Peer Regional Hegemons,” International Security Program (ISP) Seminar, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA, November 7, 2024

“U.S. China Security Competition—The Role of Structure and Grand Strategy,” Security & Foreign Policy Initiative Conference on Cooperation, Competition, and Conflict in East Asia, Global Research Institute (GRI), College of William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA, February 15-16, 2024

“Why a Hegemon in another Region would be Very Threatening to the United States,” Hegemony Workshop, Albritton Center for Grand Strategy, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, Washington D.C. Teaching Center, January 25, 2024

“Unruly Friends: Grand Strategy and Strategic Incoherence in Military Alliances,” Program on Grand Strategy Workshop, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University (Online), December 1, 2023

“Stuck Onshore: Explaining the U.S. Failure to Retrench from Europe during the Early Cold War,” EU Center-Albritton Center for Grand Strategy Workshop on Military Alliances and the Future of NATO, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, May 16-17, 2023

“The Wicked Problem of Grand Strategy: Why Great Powers Fail to Achieve Strategic Coherence in their Military Alliances,” Emerging Scholars in Grand Strategy Conference, Notre Dame International Security Center (NDISC), Lake Wawasee, Indiana, May 25-27, 2022

“Nuclear Deterrence as Equilibrium Outcome,” Guest Lecture for the Society for International Relations (SIR), University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, March 3, 2022

“How is COVID-19 Impacting U.S.-China Competition?” United States Institute of Peace – Academy of Political Science Joint Webinar, February 16, 2022 (with D.G. Kim and Sichen Li)

“The Wicked Problem of Grand Strategy: Why Great Powers Fail to Achieve Strategic Coherence in their Military Alliances,” George Washington University, Washington, D.C., November 11, 2021

“The Wicked Problem of Grand Strategy: Why Great Powers Fail to Achieve Strategic Coherence in their Military Alliances,” Boston College, Boston, MA, October 27, 2021

“The Wicked Problem of Grand Strategy: Why Great Powers Fail to Achieve Strategic Coherence in their Military Alliances,” Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A&M University, College Station, Texas, October 20, 2021

“Foreign Policy Revisionism in the Era of COVID-19: Theory and Evidence from Chinese Public Opinion,” China Research Workshop, 21st Century China Center, UC San Diego (Online), April 23, 2021 (with D.G. Kim and Sichen Li)

“Nuclear Deterrence as Equilibrium Outcome,” Guest Lecture for Social Science Inquiry: Formal Theory II (SOSC 13110), University of Chicago, Chicago, IL, March 5, 2020

“The Sources of Strategic Integration and Disintegration in Postwar Great Power Alliances,” Paper brief prepared for the Project on U.S.-China Strategic Competition, Korea Institute for National Unification (KINU), April 24, 2020

“Neorealism and the Origins of Franco-West German Military Cooperation, 1945-1965,” New Wave Realism Conference, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH, September 26-28, 2019

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS

Charles Koch Foundation U.S. Foreign Policy Summer Research Fellowship	2023
▸ \$15,000 to support book project	

Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics & Statecraft Fellowship	2022
▸ \$7,500 to support dissertation research	

John Sloan Dickey Center Postdoctoral Fellowship, Dartmouth College	2022 (Declined)
---------------------------------------------------------------------	-----------------

Grodzins Prize Lectureship, Department of Political Science, University of Chicago	2021
▸ Awarded to teach self-designed seminar (IR Theory and Case Studies in East Asian Security)	

American Political Science Association (APSA) Accessibility Grant	2021
Research and Innovation Fund Grant, Pearson Institute, University of Chicago ▸ \$5,640 for data collection on military recruitment and battlefield effectiveness	2021
Bienen Summer Research Grant, Division of the Social Sciences, University of Chicago ▸ \$1,800 for archival research in the United Kingdom	2020
Japanese Studies Research Grant, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago ▸ \$3,000 for field research in Japan	2020
Nicholson Center for British Studies Fellowship, University of Chicago ▸ \$1,750 for archival research in the United Kingdom	2019 (Declined)
Korean Studies Research Grant, Center for East Asian Studies, University of Chicago ▸ \$3,000 for field research in South Korea	2019
Division of the Social Sciences Fellowship, University of Chicago	2017-2022
Doctoral Fellowship, Korea Foundation for Advanced Studies (KFAS) ▸ Full tuition and stipend support for doctoral studies	2017-2022
Best Essay Award, <i>E-International Relations</i> ▸ Awarded for “Explaining South Korean Policy toward the United States, 1987-2014”	2015
Educational Testing Service Scholarship ▸ \$4,000 tuition and stipend support for undergraduate 2010 fall semester	2010
Undergraduate Honors Scholarships, Korea University	2010-2012

TEACHING & PRE-DOCTORAL RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Boston College

Graduate Courses

- Seminar on International Security, Fall 2023; Fall 2024

Undergraduate Courses

- American Grand Strategy, Spring 2024; Spring 2025
- Cold Wars, Old and New, Spring 2024; Spring 2025

University of Chicago

Instructor of Record

- IR Theory and Case Studies in East Asian Security, Winter 2022

Teaching Assistantships

- Seminar on Realism (Professor John Mearsheimer), Spring 2020
- War and the Nation State (Professor John Mearsheimer), Winter 2019
- Introduction to International Relations (Professor Paul Poast), Fall 2019

Research Assistantships

- Professor Rochelle Terman, Spring 2019-Summer 2020; Winter 2021
- Professor Austin Carson, Winter 2019-Summer 2020

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Discipline

- Reviewer for *International Security*, *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Security Studies*, *Journal of Politics*, *International Organization*, *World Politics*, *European Journal of International Security*, *Political Science Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Review of International Organizations*, *International Interactions*, *British Journal of Political Science*, *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, *International Relations*, *Global Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Peace and Nuclear Disarmament*, *Politics and the Life Sciences*, *Asian Security*, *Pacific Review*, *Pacific Focus*, European Research Commission (ERC) Consolidator Grant Program, Routledge (Book Proposal), Oxford Bibliographies in International Relations

Department and University

- Faculty Organizer, Foreign Policy Speaker Series, Fall 2024 –
- External Member, Comparative Politics Faculty Recruitment Committee, Fall 2024

LANGUAGE ABILITIES

Korean (native); Spanish (intermediate)

SOFTWARE EXPERIENCE

STATA; R; LaTeX

MILITARY SERVICE—REPUBLIC OF KOREA AIR FORCE

Personal Interpreter to the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff	2014-2015
▸ Provided official interpretation for the Chairman during all interactions with English-speaking foreign partners	

Interpreter, Combined Defense Transformation Group, Joint Chiefs of Staff	2014
---------------------------------------------------------------------------	------

- Provided official interpretation for Republic of Korea-U.S. general officer-level consultations on the planned bilateral transfer of wartime operational control (OPCON)

Combined Intelligence Task Organizer, 37th Air Intelligence Group 2013-2014

- Supported combined Intelligence, Surveillance, and Reconnaissance (ISR) tasks in the Republic of Korea-U.S. Air Component Command

Officer Candidate School, Air Force Education & Training Command 2012

- Commissioned as Second Lieutenant on December 1, 2012

OTHER HONORS AND AFFILIATIONS

Korea Defense Veterans Association (Washington, D.C. Chapter) 2018-Present

Letters of Commendation from the Chairman, Joint Chiefs of Staff (2x)

- Awarded for outstanding service to South Korea-U.S. crisis management following North Korea's August 2015 "landmine provocation" (Sept 2015)
- Awarded for outstanding contribution to the annual South Korea-U.S. Ulchi Freedom Guardian (UFG) combined military exercise (Oct 2014)

REFERENCES

John J. Mearsheimer

R. Wendell Harrison Distinguished Service
Professor of Political Science
University of Chicago
j-mearsheimer@uchicago.edu

Austin M. Carson

Associate Professor of Political Science
University of Chicago
acarson@uchicago.edu

Paul Poast

Associate Professor of Political Science
University of Chicago
paulpoast@uchicago.edu

Rochelle Layla Terman

Assistant Professor of Political Science
University of Chicago
rterman@uchicago.edu

Last update: October 2025