

MORITZ S. GRAEFRATH

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

European University Institute (EUI)

Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow 2023 – present
Department of Political and Social Sciences

Harvard University & Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Fellow 2022 – 2023
International Security Program, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs,
Harvard Kennedy School
Security Studies Program, MIT

EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame

Ph.D., Political Science 2023
Fields: International Relations, Comparative Politics
Dissertation: *Power Vacuums in Great Power Politics: The Consequences of Retrenchment and Collapse*
Committee: Sebastian Rosato (chair), Joseph Parent, Victoria Hui

M.A., Political Science 2019

University of Bayreuth

B.A., Philosophy & Economics 2016

PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

“Conceptualizing Interstate Cooperation” (with Marcel Jahn), *International Theory*, Vol. 15, No. 1 (March 2023), pp. 24-52. [[Link](#)]

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Articles with Revise & Resubmit Decisions

“Power Vacuums in International Politics: A Conceptual Framework”
– revised & resubmitted at the *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*

“Political Spaces Beyond the Nation State: The ‘Global Commons’ in International Security Studies”
(with Marcel Jahn)
– invited to revise & resubmit at *International Relations*

Articles Under Review

“Concepts in Context: Ontological Coherence in Political Science Research” (with Marcel Jahn)

Articles in Preparation

“Do Nations Abhor a Vacuum? Power Vacuum Politics and the End of British Hegemony in the Middle East”

“Why States Seek Spheres of Influence: Contrasting Russian Views Before and After 1991”
(with Nicole Grajewski)

Book Manuscripts in Preparation

Power Vacuums in Great Power Politics

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AFFILIATIONS

Fellowships

Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellowship, EUI (\$25,000)	2023 – 2024
Predocorral Fellowship, Harvard Kennedy School and MIT (\$55,000)	2022 – 2023
Presidential Fellowship in the Social Sciences, University of Notre Dame (\$29,000)	2017 – 2022
Nanovic Graduate Fellowship, Nanovic Institute for European Studies (\$2,000)	2019 – 2021

Grants

Conference Presentation Grant, Notre Dame International Security Center	2023
Annual Meeting Travel Grant, American Political Science Association	2023
Conference Presentation Grant, Notre Dame International Security Center	2021
Conference Presentation Grant, Notre Dame Graduate Student Government	2021
Early Career Network Access Fund, Political Studies Association	2020
Event Grant, Notre Dame Graduate Student Union	2019

Downes Memorial Fund Professional Development Grant, University of Notre Dame	2019
Conference Presentation Grant, Notre Dame International Security Center	2019
International Visitor Grant, Political Studies Association	2019
Research Grant, Liu Institute for Asia and Asian Studies, University of Notre Dame	2019
Hayek Fund for Scholars Grant, Institute for Humane Studies, George Mason University	2018
Conference Presentation Grant, Notre Dame International Security Center	2018
Annual Meeting Travel Grant, American Political Science Association	2018
Conference Presentation Grant, Notre Dame Graduate Student Government	2018
PROMOS Study Abroad Scholarship, German Academic Exchange Service (DAAD)	2015

Affiliations

Affiliate Scholar, Nanovic Institute for European Studies	2023 – present
Graduate Student Fellow, Notre Dame International Security Center	2019 – 2023
Graduate Student Fellow, Nanovic Institute for European Studies	2019 – 2021

PRESENTATIONS

Academic Conferences

“Why Retrenchment Rarely Inspires Military Interventions: Lessons from the Cold War” Società Italiana di Scienza Politica Annual Conference, Genoa, Italy	2023
“The Global Consequences of Retrenchment: Power Vacuums in Great Power Politics” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA	2023
“Political Spaces Beyond the Nation State: The ‘Global Commons’ in Security Studies” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA	2023
“The Consequences of Retrenchment and Collapse: Great Power Responses to Power Vacuums” New-Wave Realism Conference, Mershon Center, Ohio State University (virtual)	2023
“Forgot About Clausewitz? The Politics of U.S. Strategy towards Germany in WWII, 1943-45” ISSS-IS Annual Conference, Bloomington, IN	2021
“Power Vacuum Politics and the Origins of the Cold War in Europe” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (virtual)	2021
“Power Vacuum Politics and the Origins of the Cold War in Europe” Transatlantic Studies Association Annual Conference (virtual)	2021
“A Tale of Two Pressures: Islamic Law States and the Timing of Litigation” International Studies Association Annual Conference (virtual)	2021
“How Rare Are Rational Thinkers in International Politics?” <i>(cancelled due to COVID-19)</i> Political Studies Association Annual International Conference, Edinburgh, UK	2020

“Power Vacuums in International Politics” ISSS-IS Annual Conference, Denver, CO	2019
“Uncertainty in Anarchy and Hierarchy” Political Studies Association Annual International Conference, Nottingham, UK	2019
“Uncertainty in Anarchy and Hierarchy” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL	2019
“Uncertain Men: Britain and the Inscrutable Intentions of Nazi Germany” ISSS-IS Annual Conference, West Lafayette, IN	2018
“The Inscrutable Intentions of Nazi Germany” American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA	2018

Other Talks

“Power Vacuums in Great Power Politics: The Consequences of Retrenchment and Collapse” Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA	2023
“When Empires Fall: Explaining U.S. Strategy towards the Japanese Power Vacuum after WWII” Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, IN	2022
“Power Vacuum Politics and the Origins of the Cold War in Europe” Nanovic Institute for European Studies, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN	2021
“Theorizing the International Politics of Power Vacuums” International Relations Theory Colloquium (IRTC)	2020
“Power Vacuums in International Politics” Summer Graduate Research Workshop, Institute for Humane Studies, Bryn Mawr, PA	2019
“The Devil You Don’t Know: Uncertainty, Balancing Intensity, and Deterrence Failure” University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL	2018
“The Inscrutable Intentions of Nazi Germany” International Relations Workshop, University of Notre Dame, Notre Dame, IN	2018

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Specialized Training

Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS) Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University	2021
The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) Center for Qualitative and Multi-Method Inquiry, Syracuse University	2021
Winter School in Methods and Techniques European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR), Bamberg, Germany	2020

Other Workshops

- Summer Graduate Research Workshop 2019
Institute for Humane Studies, Bryn Mawr, PA
- Berlin Seminar in Transnational European Studies 2019
University of Notre Dame and University of Georgia, Berlin, Germany

Language Training

- Italian Language Classes 2023 – present
Scuola Leonardo da Vinci, Florence, Italy

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record

- IR Theory and History: Europe, 1919-1939 Spring 2021
University of Notre Dame
- Contesting the Idea of “Europe” Spring 2020
Co-taught by the 2019-20 Nanovic Institute Graduate Fellows
University of Notre Dame
- Intentions in Philosophy and International Politics Fall 2019
Co-taught with Marcel Jahn (Ph.D. Student)
University of Bayreuth

Teaching Assistant

- International Relations Fall 2020
Professor Jazmin Sierra, University of Notre Dame
One discussion section
- Introduction to International Relations Spring 2020
Professor Joseph Parent, University of Notre Dame
- Introduction to International Relations Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019
Professor Susan Pratt Rosato, University of Notre Dame
Two discussion sections
- Academic Writing and Presenting Spring 2016
Professor Uwe Czaniera, University of Bayreuth
One discussion section
- Decision and Game Theory I Spring 2015
Professor Olivier Roy, University of Bayreuth
One discussion section

Introduction to Philosophy Fall 2014
Professor Rainer Hegselmann, University of Bayreuth
One discussion section

Guest Lectures

“The Origins and Future of the Liberal International Order” 2022
Course: World Order & Globalization, Clark University

“Contrasting the Theory and Practice of IR Research” 2021
Course: Thesis Research Design and Methods II, University of Notre Dame

“The Rationality Assumption(s) in Realism” 2019
Course: Realism and Its Critics, University of Notre Dame

“A Brief Introduction to Research Design in International Relations” 2019
Course: Thesis Research Design and Methods I, University of Notre Dame

“International Finance” 2019
Course: Introduction to International Relations, University of Notre Dame

TEACHING AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Excellence in Teaching Award 2020
Department of Political Science, University of Notre Dame

Striving for Excellence in College and University Teaching Certificate 2019
Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Academic Researcher/Advisor for International Relations 2023 – present
Hegemonic Project Games (start-up board game publishing company)

DEPARTMENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Reviewer,
International Security, Journal of Global Security Studies, Security Studies

Co-Founder and -Editor, *Europe in the World* Project 2021 – 2022
Nanovic Institute for European Studies, University of Notre Dame

Graduate Discussant, Emerging Scholars Conference 2021 – 2022
Notre Dame International Security Center, University of Notre Dame

Elected President of the Political Science Graduate Organization 2020 – 2021
University of Notre Dame

Co-Founder and -Organizer, Annual European Studies Student Conference Nanovic Institute for European Studies, University of Notre Dame	2019 – 2020
Founder and Organizer, International Relations Workshop University of Notre Dame	2019 – 2020
Elected International Relations Field Representative Political Science Graduate Organization, University of Notre Dame	2019 – 2020
Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Program Committee Department of Political Science, University of Notre Dame	2020

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Languages	German (native), English (fluent), Italian (beginner)
Software	R, \LaTeX , MS Office, WordPress

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

International Studies Association (ISA)
European International Studies Association (EISA)
American Political Science Association (APSA)

REFERENCES

Sebastian Rosato
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Susan Pratt Rosato (*Teaching Reference*)
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