

MORITZ S. GRAEFRATH

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Oklahoma <i>David L. Boren College of International Studies</i> Wick Cary Assistant Professor of International Security	2025 – present
William & Mary <i>Global Research Institute</i> Postdoctoral Fellow in Security and Foreign Policy	2024 – 2025
European University Institute <i>Department of Political and Social Sciences</i> Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellow	2023 – 2024
Harvard Kennedy School & MIT <i>Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs & MIT Security Studies Program</i> Grand Strategy, Security, and Statecraft Fellow	2022 – 2023

EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame Ph.D., Political Science M.A., Political Science	2023 2019
University of Bayreuth B.A., Philosophy & Economics	2016

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

6. “A Tale of Two Pressures: Islamic Law States and the Timing of Litigation” (with Emilia Justyna Powell and Benedikt A. Graf), *Islamic International Law and Global Affairs*, forthcoming.
5. “The False Peril of Great Power Retrenchment: Types of Strategic Withdrawals and Their Consequences,” *European Journal of International Security*, Vol. 10, No. 3 (August 2025), pp. 331-349. [\[Link\]](#)

4. “Concepts in Context: Ontological Coherence in Political Science Research” (with Marcel Jahn), *Philosophy of the Social Sciences*, Vol. 55, No. 1 (January 2025), pp. 24-60. [\[Link\]](#)
3. “Power Vacuums in International Politics: A Conceptual Framework,” *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, Vol. 38, No. 1 (January 2025), pp. 90-107. [\[Link\]](#)
2. “Political Spaces Beyond the Nation State: The Global Commons in International Security Studies” (with Marcel Jahn), *Global Studies Quarterly*, Vol 4, No. 4 (October 2024), ksae087. [\[Link\]](#)
1. “Conceptualizing Interstate Cooperation” (with Marcel Jahn), *International Theory*, Vol. 15, No. 1 (March 2023), pp. 24-52. [\[Link\]](#)

Policy Analysis & Commentary

9. “Breaking Europe’s Transatlantic Habit: The End of the Senior Partner Myth” (with Gesine Weber), *War on the Rocks*, February 24, 2026. [\[Link\]](#)
8. “Germany’s New Military Service Model Is Less Than Reassuring,” *World Politics Review*, November 24, 2025. [\[Link\]](#)
7. “America’s Allies Should Go Nuclear: Selective Proliferation Will Strengthen the Global Order, Not End It” (with Mark A. Raymond), *Foreign Affairs*, November 19, 2025. [\[Link\]](#)
 - Interview: “Security Expert Demands: ‘Germany Needs Its Own Atomic Bomb’” (in German), *Badische Neueste Nachrichten* and various other regional German newspapers, February 3, 2026. [\[Link\]](#)
 - Interview: “Should Japan Possess Nuclear Weapons?,” *Japan Forward*, January 6, 2026. [\[Link\]](#)
 - Interview: “The ‘Nuclearization of U.S. Allies’ Argument: What Is the Opinion of the U.S. Expert Who Proposed It in a Specialist Magazine?” (in Japanese), *The Letter* by Yoshi Makino, January 3, 2026. [\[Link\]](#)
 - Interview: “Scholar Advocates Selective Nuclear Proliferation for US Allies” (in Korean), *Chosun Ilbo*, November 29, 2025. [\[Link\]](#)
 - Featured in *RealClearDefense* (November 20, 2025, [\[Link\]](#)), *The Chosun Daily* (November 21, 2025, [\[Link\]](#)), *Jacobin* (November 23, 2025, [\[Link\]](#)), *Russia Matters* (November 24, 2025, [\[Link\]](#)), *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (November 26, 2025) [\[Link\]](#)), *The Sankei Shimbun*, (December 5, 2025, [\[Link\]](#)), *Japan Forward* (December 10, 2025, [\[Link\]](#)), *Asia Today* (December 15, 2025, [\[Link\]](#)), *Frankfurter Allgemeine Zeitung* (January 3, [\[Link\]](#)), *Süddeutsche Zeitung* (January 11, 2026 [\[Link\]](#)), *The Globe and Mail* (February 6, 2026 [\[Link\]](#)), and many other newspapers and magazines worldwide
6. “Trump Needs to Get Real(ist),” *The Critic*, November 19, 2025. [\[Link\]](#)
5. “The End of Transatlanticism,” *The Critic*, July 24, 2025. [\[Link\]](#)
4. “Eisenhower’s Vision of European Security,” *Engelsberg Ideas*, May 20, 2025. [\[Link\]](#)
3. “For Europe, U.S. Retrenchment Is Not a Threat, But an Opportunity,” *Internationale Politik Quarterly*, May 13, 2025. [\[Link\]](#)

2. “The German Election and the Future of U.S.-European Relations,” *Lawfare*, February 27, 2025. [[Link](#)]
1. “U.S. Troop Withdrawals from Europe Won’t Benefit Its Rivals,” *War on the Rocks*, September 30, 2024. [[Link](#)]
— Interview: “U.S. Troop Withdrawals from Europe Won’t Benefit Its Rivals,” *The Insider* with Erin O’Brien, October 10, 2024, *War on the Rocks* Podcast. [[Link](#)]

Book Reviews

2. “Review of David A. Lake, *Indirect Rule: The Making of US International Hierarchy*,” *International Studies Review*, Vol. 27, No. 4 (2025), viaf030. [[Link](#)]
1. “Review of William D. James, *British Grand Strategy in the Age of American Hegemony*,” *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, Vol. 37, No. 6 (2024), pp. 913-915. [[Link](#)]

BOOK PROJECTS

Power Vacuums in Great Power Politics: The End of Hegemony and Its Aftermath

— Winner, 2024 [John McCain Dissertation Award](#), Munich Security Conference

— Honorable Mention, 2025 [Nuno P. Monteiro Best Dissertation Award](#), APSA IR Theory Section

The Selective Spread of Nuclear Weapons: Proliferation and Global Order after Unipolarity (with Mark A. Raymond)

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Articles under Review

“Were the Appeasers Irrational Thinkers? Revisiting the ‘Guilty Men’ of Interwar Britain”

“The Normative Legitimacy of International Institutions and its Sociological Foundations” (with Marcel Jahn)

“Collective Intentionality in International Relations: The Case for Reductive Realism” (with Marcel Jahn)

Articles in Preparation

“Organizing Security: Purpose and Function of International Organizations in the Security Realm” (with Stephanie Hofmann)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AFFILIATIONS

Fellowships

GRI Postdoctoral Fellowship, William & Mary (\$58,000) 2024 – 2025

Nonresidential Fellowship, Institute for Global Affairs at Eurasia Group (\$4,000) 2025

Max Weber Postdoctoral Fellowship, EUI (\$25,000)	2023 – 2024
Predocctoral 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

Nonresident Fellow, Defense Priorities	2026 – present
Affiliate Scholar, Nanovic Institute for European Studies	2023 – present
Nonresident Fellow, Institute for Global Affairs at Eurasia Group	2025
Graduate Student Fellow, Notre Dame International Security Center	2019 – 2023
Graduate Student Fellow, Nanovic Institute for European Studies	2019 – 2021

PRESENTATIONS

Academic Conferences

20. “The Normative Legitimacy of International Institutions and Its Sociological Foundations,” International Studies Association Annual Conference, Columbus, OH	2026
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19. "The Normative Legitimacy of International Institutions and Its Sociological Foundations," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Vancouver, Canada 2025
18. "Rethinking International Order and Great Power Decline," Security and Foreign Policy Initiative Conference, William & Mary, Williamsburg, VA (virtual) 2025
17. "Does Retrenchment Cause Power Vacuums? Conceptual Ambiguities, Strategic Consequences," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Philadelphia, PA 2024
16. "Does Retrenchment Cause Power Vacuums? Conceptual Ambiguities, Strategic Consequences," Max Weber Conference, European University Institute, Florence, Italy 2024
15. "Does Retrenchment Cause Power Vacuums? Conceptual Ambiguities, Strategic Consequences," SOSH International Security Seminar, United States Military Academy, West Point, NY (virtual) 2024
14. "Why Retrenchment Rarely Inspires Military Interventions: Lessons from the Cold War," Società Italiana di Scienza Politica Annual Conference, Genoa, Italy 2023
13. "The Global Consequences of Retrenchment: Power Vacuums in Great Power Politics," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA 2023
12. "Political Spaces Beyond the Nation State: The 'Global Commons' in Security Studies," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA 2023
11. "The Consequences of Retrenchment and Collapse: Great Power Responses to Power Vacuums," New-Wave Realism Conference, Mershon Center, The Ohio State University (virtual) 2023
10. "Forgot About Clausewitz? The Politics of U.S. Strategy towards Germany in WWII, 1943-45," ISSS-IS Annual Conference, Bloomington, IN 2021
9. "Power Vacuum Politics and the Origins of the Cold War in Europe," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (virtual) 2021
8. "Power Vacuum Politics and the Origins of the Cold War in Europe," Transatlantic Studies Association Annual Conference (virtual) 2021
7. "A Tale of Two Pressures: Islamic Law States and the Timing of Litigation," International Studies Association Annual Conference (virtual) 2021
6. "How Rare Are Rational Thinkers in International Politics?" (*cancelled due to COVID-19*), Political Studies Association Annual International Conference, Edinburgh, UK 2020
5. "Power Vacuums in International Politics," ISSS-IS Annual Conference, Denver, CO 2019
4. "Uncertainty in Anarchy and Hierarchy," Political Studies Association Annual International Conference, Nottingham, UK 2019
3. "Uncertainty in Anarchy and Hierarchy," Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL 2019
2. "Uncertain Men: British Assessments of Nazi Germany's Intentions," ISSS-IS Annual Conference, West Lafayette, IN 2018

1. "Uncertain Men: British Assessments of Nazi Germany's Intentions," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Boston, MA 2018

Invited Talks

12. "America's Allies Should Go Nuclear," International Security Student Association, University of Oklahoma 2026
11. "The United States in Venezuela: What Happened and What Comes Next?" Center for the Americas, University of Oklahoma 2026
10. "The Normative Legitimacy of International Institutions and Its Sociological Foundations," Workshop in Political Philosophy, Stockholm University, Sweden (virtual) 2025
9. "Assessment of the National Defense Landscape," 2025 Symposium of the Oklahoma Aerospace and Defense Innovation Institute (OADII), Oklahoma City, OK 2025
8. "Do Nations Abhor a Vacuum? Power Vacuum Politics and the End of British Hegemony in the Middle East," Washington & Lee University, Lexington, VA 2024
7. "The False Peril of Great Power Retrenchment: Strategic Withdrawals and Their Consequences," Grand Strategy Workshop, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK (virtual) 2024
6. "Power Vacuums in Great Power Politics: The Consequences of Retrenchment and Collapse," Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA 2023
5. "When Empires Fall: Explaining U.S. Strategy towards the Japanese Power Vacuum after WWII," Holy Cross College, Notre Dame, IN 2022
4. "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
3. "Theorizing the International Politics of Power Vacuums," International Relations Theory Colloquium (virtual) 2020
2. "Power Vacuums in International Politics," Summer Graduate Research Workshop, Institute for Humane Studies, Bryn Mawr, PA 2019
1. "The Devil You Don't Know: Uncertainty, Balancing Intensity, and Deterrence Failure," University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign, Urbana, IL 2018

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Specialized Training

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| Foreign Policy Impact Summer Institute
Colorado State University | 2025 |
| 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 2020
European Consortium for Political Research (ECPR)

Other Workshops

College and University Educators Workshop 2026
Council on Foreign Relations (CFR), New York, NY

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

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Graduate Courses

U.S. Foreign Relations S26

Undergraduate Courses

American Grand Strategy F26

Great Power Politics S25, S26

Global Security F25, F26

The Causes of War F25

Undergraduate Research Assistant Training

Michael Wintory (University of Oklahoma '27)

Kylie Davis (University of Oklahoma '27)

Madison Cleavinger (William & Mary '25)

Olivia Ostrowski (William & Mary '25)

TEACHING AWARDS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Max Weber Teaching Certificate 2024

Max Weber Programme, European University Institute

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

International Relations Expert and Academic Advisor for the Game “World Order” 2023 – 2025
Hegemonic Project Games (start-up board game publishing company)

DEPARTMENTAL AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Journal Reviewer

Chinese Journal of International Politics
International Security
International Theory
Journal of Global Security Studies
Security Studies

Book Reviewer

De Gruyter

Grant Reviewer

Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council of Canada (SSHRC)

Member, Graduate Studies Committee 2025 – present
College of International Studies, University of Oklahoma

Jury Member, Graduate College Research Showcase 2026
Graduate College, University of Oklahoma

Prize Jury Member, Student Research Competition 2025
Global Research Institute, William & Mary

Co-Organizer, *Power Vacuums and Power Competition* Conference 2024 – 2025
Security and Foreign Policy Initiative, William & Mary

Co-Founder, *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 2019 – 2020
Nanovic Institute for European Studies, University of Notre Dame

Founder and Organizer, International Relations Workshop 2019 – 2020
University of Notre Dame

Elected International Relations Field Representative 2019 – 2020
Political Science Graduate Organization, University of Notre Dame

Graduate Student Representative, Graduate Program Committee 2020
Department of Political Science, University of Notre Dame

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Languages German (native), English (fluent), Italian (beginner)

Software R, \LaTeX , MS Office, WordPress

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association (APSA)

European International Studies Association (EISA)

International Studies Association (ISA)

Società Italiana di Scienza Politica (SISP)

REFERENCES

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Michael J. Tierney

Hylton Professor of Government and International Relations

William & Mary

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