Graduate Program in International Studies

SHAPING A GLOBAL COMMUNITY

GPIS - 2020
The Graduate Program in International Studies is a truly inter-disciplinary program reflecting the need to educate future leaders capable of navigating complex environments.

GPIS is a place of intellectual challenge and exploration. We lead the Old Dominion University in interdisciplinary, international education; we run an annual Graduate Research Conference, organize international conferences, engage in exciting crisis simulation exercises on NATO, and humanitarian assistance, offer internships through NATO's Allied Command Transformation, the NATO Civil-Military Fusion Center and NATO Innovation Hub and facilitate a vibrant GPIS community through the Graduate Society in International Studies.

Our mission is to educate and train students for internationally-oriented leadership positions in academia, government, and the private sector. GPIS faculty and curriculum emphasize transnational and global perspectives as critical prerequisites for successful engagement with an inter-connected world
Recent Graduates

GISP students at NATO Innovation Challenge

Winners of the 17th Annual Graduate Research Conference (2019)
What We Do...

We have hosted...

A Fulbright Event with Dr. Polina Sinovets from Ukraine (Head of Odessa Center for Nonproliferation, Associate Professor in Odessa National I.I. Mechnikov University) on “Russia’s Strategic Culture”

Dr. Junling Song from China on the “Challenges of China’s Rural Urban Divide”

Ryan Grizzle (GPIS MA, 2016) speaking about his career as a “Foreign Service Officer”
What We Do...

Ambassador (Retired) Daniel Fried on “The Trump Administration Style and Substance in American Foreign Policy”

Col. (Retired) Jack Jacobs on “America in the World - All Tactics, No Strategy”

Stephen Cook (Eni Enrico Mattei senior fellow for Middle East and Africa studies at the Council on Foreign Relations) on “Arab and Turkish Politics”
GPIS PhD Candidate student Aras Syahmanssuri assisted the Bold Mariner Brewing company enter the export market in the Middle East.


GPIS Student Luz Diaz and Dr. Erika Frydenlund conducting field work with refugees in Lesvos, Greece.
Anita Ross (GPIS MA, 2017) was awarded a prestigious internship at the White House

GISP PhD Candidate William Bunn, contributed a chapter to the “Strategies, Policies, and Directions for Refugee Education” book

Our new student organization “International Thinkers Council” started to serve shoulder to shoulder with the “Graduate Society of International Studies”
Vibrant Academic Community

In 2018, PhD Candidate Daniel Shanks was granted a Critical Languages Scholarship from the U.S. State from a pool of more than 5,000 applicants. He spent two months in Tajikistan, in central Asia, immersed in the language and culture of the area.

PhD Candidate Ryan Roberts attended the Summer Program in Quantitative Social Research at the University of Michigan in the Summer of 2017. Since 1963, the Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) has offered the ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research as a complement to its data services.

PhD Candidate Joshua Hastey presented at the Conference on Formal Models of International Relations Center for International Studies, University of Southern California in February 2018. He was one of only two current PhD students of the 24 presenters. Joshua presented his formal model paper: “Fait Accompli in the Shadow of Shifting Power.”

PhD student Niloufar Salimi won the best paper prize at the Virginia Modeling and Simulation Student Capstone Conference: Niloufar’s paper was titled: “Impact of Social Media on Women Movement.”
Successful Graduates

Dr. Beyza Unal (2014), has been working at Chatham House, the UK’s leading research institute, in London, as a Research Fellow in Nuclear Weapons Policy since 2015. She was also cited as a nuclear weapons expert in a DW Academie March 2016 article about the Obama administration-led nuclear summit in Washington, D.C.

Dr. John Callahan (2015) is Military Program Director - International Studies and Homeland Security Programs at New England College where he manages a team of instructors focused on International Studies and Homeland Security Programs. John is also Public Affairs Exercise Specialist at Nusura in Norfolk where he provides public affairs and strategic communication subject matter expertise to a variety of government and private clients.

Dr. Erika Frydenlund (2015) is Research Assistant Professor at Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center (VMASC) at Old Dominion University. Her research examines applications of modeling and simulation to address issues around refugees and forced migration. She is currently working on projects in Lesbos, Greece and Cucuta, Colombia to understand how refugee crises affect host countries. She is also collaborating with UNOCHA to model internally displaced persons in the Democratic Republic of Congo to help UN agencies better respond to forced displacement crises.


Dr. Omar Hawthorne (2012) is Lecturer with the University of the West Indies, Jamaica, Department of International Relations. She published her book “Do International Corruption Metrics Matter: the Impact of Transparency International’s Corruption Perception” with Lexington Books in October 2015. She is presently conducting a funded research project on her second book, which examines the impact of corruption and how it affects foreign businesses, specifically, American businesses located in Jamaica.
Successful Graduates

Dr. Christopher White (2011) is currently Assistant Professor at Livingstone College, North Carolina where he teaches courses in American Politics, International Politics, Political Theory, US Foreign Policy. He published his book: “Immigration and Regional Integration in a Globalizing World: Myths and Truths about Migration” with Lexington Books in October, 2015.

Dr. Nurullah Ayyilmaz’s (2018) paper, “Exploring the Motivations behind the Humanitarian Aid: Does USAID Grant the Humanitarian Aid According to Needs?” was presented at the 2016 ISA National Conference. In 2016, he was awarded a Student Collaborator Fellowship with Princeton University’s Middle East Center.

Dr. Jan Nalaskowski (2015) is Business Development Representative at STX Next. He was Business Scientist at Cambridge Social Science Decision Lab Inc, Washington, DC. In 2015, he spent four weeks at the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models (EITM) Institute hosted at Duke University, under the supervision of Dr. Scott de Marchi and received a prestigious internship with the Brookings Institution in Washington, DC.

Dr. Scott Duryea (2015) is a Lecturer at North Carolina State University. He was a Staff Writer at Ballotpedia and taught at Guilford Technical Community College, North Carolina. Scott was awarded the Humane Studies Fellowship through the Institute for Humane Studies at George Mason University. Scott has had articles published in Globalizations and Studies in Ethnicity and Nationalism.

Dr. Hamza Demirel (2016) was awarded a Student Collaborator Fellowship with Princeton University’s Middle East Center, New Jersey, in 2014.
Successful Graduates

Tuan Luc, (MA, 2014) Fulbright student from Vietnam is a PhD Candidate at School of Humanities and Social Sciences, UNSW Canberra, Australia.

Jeffrey Becker (MA, 2002) is Principal Analyst and Independent Defense Consultant at the Context LLC, Norfolk, Virginia where he provides deep futures studies and analysis for national security and operational military clients.

Przemyslaw Ozierski (MA 2010) was a Fulbright Fellow at ODU from 2009-2010. Currently Przemyslaw is pursuing his PhD at Russian Presidential Academy of National Economy and Public Administration in Moscow.

Dr. Jennifer Schiff (2010) is Associate Professor of Political Science and Director of Liberal Studies Assessment at the Western Carolina University, Asheville.

Dr. Daniel Kuthy (2006) is Assistant Professor of Political Science at the Brescia University, Owensboro, Kentucky. He received his PhD in 2012 from Georgia State University.

Dr. Charles Pasquale (2007) is a Research and Analysis Manager for the US Government, Visiting Faculty at the National War College of the National Defense University, American University, and Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.
Successful Graduates

**Dr. Ivan Medynskyi** (2015) is a Research Fellow at the Institute of World Policy in Kiev. In 2014, he presented a paper entitled “Path Dependence in Intrastate Conflicts: Comparing Onset and Termination” which was accepted to the ISA National Conference. He was also awarded an Open Society Foundation Global Supplementary Grant the same year.

**Kimberly Ganczak** (MA, 2014) was admitted to the University of Virginia’s doctoral program in International Affairs where she is a Graduate (Research) Assistant who focuses on international relations, game theory, and statistics. Her recent focus has been on North Korea and interests include most destabilized and failed states such as Somalia.

**Dr. Sara Hoff** (2014) is with the U.S. Department of Energy Information Administration in the Office of Energy Statistics. In 2014, Sara was awarded a Presidential Management Fellowship.

**Rodrigu Mezu** (MA, 2012) has been assigned to the Office of Foreign Affairs as a Colombian Air Force Officer and also a student at Colombian War College. He is currently pursuing a PhD from the University of the Andes, Colombia.

**Ruslan Ismayil-Zada** (MA, 2012) is at the Marketing Diploma Program of the York University in Canada. He was Communications Officer at the United Nations Office in Baku, Azerbaijan / UNDP. He began his post-GPIS career by working as an External Affairs Officer at the Ministry of Taxes of the Republic of Azerbaijan. Ruslan also was accepted to the third Antall Jozsef Summer School, July 2015 in Budapest, Hungary.
Successful Graduates

Dr. Melodee Baines (2013) is Training Officer with the U.S. Department of Homeland Security. Melodee has worked in both the New York and Houston Asylum Offices. She has spent most of her career in asylum working with women and children at the southwest border. She was formerly appointed as Democracy and Governance Specialist Staff Associate at Tetra Tech ARD in Burlington, Vermont.

Dr. Tasawar Baig (2014) is Director of the Karakoram Centre for Cultural Studies & Heritage at Karakoram International University in Pakistan. Together with Mustafa Kemal Dagdelen, he has published an article in the Journal of European Studies entitled, “Re-Emergence of Othering in Europe: A Threat to European Integration” in 2013.

Dr. Lauren McKee (2014) is the Assistant Professor of Political Science and Asian Studies at Berea College. A significant resource in the community, McKee is also the instructor for the Model African Union.

Dr. Dovile Budryte (2000) is a professor of political science at Georgia Gwinnett College. Her areas of interest include gender studies, trauma and memory in international relations and nationalism. Her books are, Taming Nationalism? Political Community Building in the Post-Soviet Baltic States, Feminist Conversations: Women(co-edited), Trauma and Empowerment in Post-Authoritarian Societies (co-edited), Memory and Trauma in International Relations: Theories, Cases and Debates and Engaging Difference: Teaching Humanities and Social Science in Multicultural Environments (co-edited).

Dr. Renata Giannini (2013) is an Adjunct Faculty Instructor at ODU and a Researcher with the Igarape Institute in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. While at ODU, she was involved in launching an original web-based research initiative on separatisms at http://ibsep.org/.
Successful Graduates

Dr. Sabine Hirschauer (2012) is Assistant Professor at New Mexico State University/Las Cruces, New Mexico. Her dissertation “The Securitization of Rape: Women, Conflict and Sexual Violence” was published by Palgrave Macmillan in 2014.

Dr. Stephen Magu (2013) is Laureate (Democratic Governance Institute) at CODESRIA. He published his book “Political Economy, Social Development and Conflict in Africa: with emphasis on East Africa the Horn of Africa region” He is Assistant Professor at Hampton University in Virginia.

Dr. William Patterson (2014) works for the U.S. Department of State as a Political Officer in Katmandu. Prior to that, William was the Criminal Justice program director at Paul D. Camp community college in Suffolk, Virginia. William Patterson is an author of the book “Democratic Counterinsurgents: How Democracies Can Prevail in Irregular Warfare (Rethinking Political Violence)” published in June, 2016, by Palgrave Macmillan. This book explores the ways in which democracies can win counterinsurgencies.

Dr. Anjali Sahay (2015) is the Governor’s Advisory Commission on Asian Pacific American Affairs. This commission is responsible for advising the governor on policies, procedures, legislation, and regulations that affect the AAPI communities. She is also a professor in Political Science with extensive experience in Online and In-Class Teaching at Gannon University in Erie, Pennsylvania. Her book “Indian Diaspora in the United States: Brain Drain or Gain?” was published in May 16, 2009 by Lexington Books.

Dr. Carlos Teixeira (2011) is Professor and Deputy Course Coordinator at PUC-SP | Pontifícia Universidade Católica de São Paulo, Brazil. Carlos’ dissertation “Brazil, the United States, and the South American Subsystem: Regional Politics and the Absent Empire” was published by Lexington Books in 2012. It was named as one of the best books in the field by Foreign Affairs.
Successful Graduates

Sydney Sheppard (MA, 2014) is Pricing Analyst at Independent Container Line, Richmond, Virginia. She was selected by the DACOR Bacon House Foundation for a competitive fellowship that supported the second year of her MA studies in 2012.

Dr. Vessela Chakarova (2009) is Lecturer at the Amsterdam University College, the Netherlands. Her book “Oil Supply Crisis: Cooperation and Discord in the West” was published by Lexington Books, in November, 2012.

Dr. Ping Deng (1998) is the Monte Ahuja Endowed Chair of Global Business and professor of management at the Monte Ahuja College of Business, Cleveland State University (CSU), Ohio. Before joining CSU in August 2013, he was a tenured full professor of business administration at Maryville University of St. Louis.

Dr. Anouar Boukhars (2005) is a nonresident scholar in Carnegie’s Middle East Program and associate professor of international relations at McDaniel College in Westminster, Maryland. Anouar is a former fellow at the Brookings Doha Center and author of Politics in Morocco: Executive Monarchy and Enlightened Authoritarianism (Routledge, 2010). He is also a co-editor of Perilous Desert: Sources of Saharan Insecurity, and Perspectives on Western Sahara: Myths, Nationalisms and Geopolitics.

Dr. William T. Eliason (2010) is the Director of the National Defense University Press and Editor of Joint Force Quarterly, the professional military journal of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and serves as Adjunct Professor, Defense Strategy and Resources at the Dwight D. Eisenhower School for National Security and Resource Strategy at Ft McNair in Washington, DC. He holds the academic rank of University Professor.
Successful Graduates

Dr. Catherine Banks (2004) is Research Associate Professor at the Virginia Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation Center (VMASC) at ODU. Dr. Banks is the co-editor of Principles of Modeling and Simulation: A Multidisciplinary Approach published in 2009; co-author of Modeling and Simulation for Analyzing Global Events published in 2009; co-editor of Modeling and Simulation Fundamentals: Theoretical Underpinnings and Practical Domains published in 2010; and co-editor of Modeling and Simulation for Medical and Health Sciences published in 2011.

Dr. Georgeta Pourchot (2000) is the Director of the OLMA/Northern Capital Region, Virginia Tech. Georgeta teaches online courses for the Department of Political Science and for the Government and International Affairs department in the School of Public and International Affairs. Her publications include Eurasia Rising: Democracy and Independence in the Post-Soviet Space; She is a frequent opinion contributor to media outlets in Central Europe. Voice of America, and the Moscow-based Eurasia Heritage Foundation.

Dr. Eva Svobodova (2008) is the Secretary of the Board for the Ceska Zborojovka Group. She was the Public Affairs and Strategic Communications Advisor to Chairman of NATO Military Committee. Prior to this position Eva had been a Defence Adviser with the Permanent Delegation of the Czech Republic to NATO, a Political Adviser with the Ministry of Defence of the Czech Republic, and a Senior Analyst and Adviser to the European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan.

Dr. Robert Pauly (2001) is Associate Professor of International Policy and Development at Southern Miss. He has published numerous books, articles and book chapters on subjects ranging from the war on terrorism to the liberal bias in the American media.

Dr. Tom Lansford (2009) is professor of political science in the College of Arts and Letters was academic dean for The University of Southern Mississippi’s Gulf Coast operation from 2009 to 2014. His expertise is in the areas of international relations and security, homeland security, American foreign and security policy, and U.S. government and politics.
Successful Graduates

**Dr. Jack Kalpakian** (2000) is Associate Professor and MAISD Coordinator at the Al Akhawayn University, Ifrane, Morocco. Jack specializes in Political Economy and Security issues.

**Dr. Patrick Magee** (2005) is Senior Analyst at the United States Government’s Office of National Intelligence, Washington, D.C.

**Dr. Matthew Slater** (2002) is Senior Planning and Policy Analyst at the Training and Education Command (TECOM), Marine Corps University, Quantico, Virginia.

**Jeffrey Mistich** (MA, 2011) is Political Economist of Quantitative Methodology and Data Science at the Florida State University, Tallahassee, Florida. Jeffrey specializes in evaluating the structure of historical data within the context of policy or business environments to develop predictive models that inform strategic decision-making.

**Degi Betcher** (MA, 2011) is an International Student Advisor at the Visa and Immigration Service Advising, Old Dominion University. She received a Master’s degree in Public Administration in 2014 and a Master’s degree in International Studies in 2011 from ODU.
Stefanie C. Nijssen (MA, 2010) is a Policy and Program Manager in Conflict, Security and Justice Team (CHASE) for Department of International Development in London. In 2013, she was a co-founder of the Bilu-Gerie Foundation which supports the dreams of a few to help the many – the foundation intends to support aspiring students from Cameroon in achieving their educational goals by attending a university in Africa.

Dr. Sagar Rijal (2015) is Associate Corporate Governance Advisor for ISS Corporate Solutions in Rockville, MD where he advises management-level clients of a variety of public companies on issues of corporate governance, executive compensation and shareholder activism; assisted them by producing research and modeling-based client deliverables.

Alexandra Rice (MA, 2012) is Development Officer at Tidewater Community College, Norfolk, Virginia.

Savannah Russo (MA, 2012) is Senior Consultant, Partnerships and Strategic Development at Global Health Visions. She was Senior Associate of Policy and Advocacy at Women Deliver, New York. Savannah is a devoted professional with over six years of international and cross-cultural experience in advocacy, program management, policy, communications and research.

Dr. Wiebke Lamer (2014) is a Research Professional and Expert on the Global Politics of Press Freedom; EIUC - European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization.
Successful Graduates

Dr. Felicia Grey (2017) She is currently Visiting Assistant Professor at Middlebury College. She had her article “How Oil Twists the Hegemon’s Arm: The Case of the United States and Saudi Arabia and their Ambivalent Partnership” in the DOMES (Digest of Middle East Studies).

Dr. Khatera Alizada, (2017) was awarded a post-doctoral fellowship at the Center for Mind and Culture in Boston.

Dr. Allison Greene-Sands, (2003) is currently the Chief Strategy Officer at the Sexual Assault Prevention and Response Office (SAPRO) in the Office of the Secretary of Defense (OSD). Allison has worked at SAPRO for four years, leading their strategic communications and serving as an intercultural advisor.

Dr. Kim Gilligan (2013) is currently at Brookhaven National Laboratory in Upton, NY, where she is Task Monitor with the International Safeguards Project Office. Dr. Gilligan provides expert recommendations to the interagency Subgroup on Safeguards Technical Support (comprised of Department of Energy, Department of State, Department of Defense, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission representatives).

Anita Ross, (MA, 2017) is Branch Manager at PNC. She was selected for the highly competitive White House Internship Program. The White House Internship Program is a public service leadership program that provides a unique opportunity to gain valuable professional experience and build leadership skills. Ms. Ross helped with projects including the White House Historical Association ball, the Congressional Ball and Hispanic Heritage Month.
Successful Graduates

Samantha Golden, (MA, 2017), was awarded the prestigious and competitive Frasure-Kruzal-Drew Memorial Fellowship. It is a paid, full-time, two-year career development opportunity sponsored by the U.S. Department of State’s Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) and administered by the Center for International Stabilization and Recovery (CISR). The selected fellow serves in PM/WRA’s Washington, D.C. office.

Dr. Maurizio Geri (2017) is a Research Analyst for Strategic Plans and Policy Division at Allied Command Transformation (ACT) where he is preparing a pilot project on strategic regional partnership for North Africa. Maurizio’s dissertation is published by Palgrave MacMillan in 2018: Ethnic Minorities in Democratizing Muslim Countries. The cases of Turkey and Indonesia.

Jane Close (MA, 2016) has been working for the ODU Social Science Research Center as a research assistant and she works part time as a trivia host for Team Trivia Virginia Beach. Mrs. Close is also in the process of transitioning to a full time government analyst position.

Dr. Saltuk Bugra Karahan (2016) is the Program Coordinator in Old Dominion University’s Center for Cybersecurity Education and Research and a Lecturer in ODU’s Political Science and Geography Department. Prior to this position, he also worked as a Visiting Scholar of the Virginia Modeling, Analysis and Simulation Center.

Dr. Charles R. Lartey (2001) is director of Institutional Effectiveness & Assessment at Malone University. Prior to his current position, he served five years as director of Institutional Effectiveness and Research at the Art Institute of Houston, Texas. Previously, he taught international politics and African-American Studies at Old Dominion University Norfolk, Va., after working as research and project evaluation consultant to a number of companies in Japan.
Successful Graduates

**Dr. Stephanie Smith** (2013) is International Relations Researcher at U.S. Department of Homeland Security Lead. She worked for VMASC Old Dominion University and performed as an SME in public international law and piracy for NATO Comprehensive Civil-Military Legal Overview.

**Dr. Roopa Swaminathan** (2013) is the founder of The Arrow Project and currently a visiting professor at Department of Journalism and Mass Communications in Shanghai International Studies University. She taught as an adjunct professor at Centura College and Old Dominion University. She is the author of India’s Rise as a Soft Power.

**Dr. Troy Lorenzo Ewing** (2002) is the Deputy Director for Mission Management Integration Group at National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency. He served as the principal Intelligence and Security Officer for Army Sustainment Command.

**Dr. Daneta Billau** (2002) is the Lead Career Development Officer in Human Services Career Field in Arlington, Virginia.

**William A. M. Burke** (MA, 2010) is an associate focusing on Maritime, Admiralty and Government Contracts matters at Wilcox Savage Law Firm. Prior to law school, Bill served as an officer and naval aviator in the U.S. Navy. He served as a helicopter pilot, a Navy R.O.T.C. instructor, and a staff officer in the headquarters staff in Baghdad, Iraq.
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<th>Country</th>
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<tr>
<td>Afghanistan</td>
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Dissertations & Theses

2019

Doctoral Dissertations

- Lora Pitman, The Trojan Horse in Your Head: Cognitive Threats and How to Counter Them
- Muhammad Rahman, At the Hands of Fate: The Politics of Islamic Insurance in Indonesia, Malaysia, and Pakistan C. 1980 to the Present

Master's Theses

- Beder El Khou, The G5 Sahel: An Insufficient Organization for a Failed Region?
- Ian Birdwell, Hyperborean Habits and Melting Ice: The Normalization of Arctic Space and Resurgent National Identity
- Luz Diaz, From Comparison to Resistance: Lesbos Refugee Crisis

7 Students took comprehensive exams to complete their MA requirements

2018

Doctoral Dissertations

- Margaret Seymour, Carrots, Sticks, and Beyond: An Analysis of the U.S. use of Hard and Soft Power to Combat Terrorism from 2000-2016
- Mary Sodini Bell, When the Wind Blows: An Evaluation of Key Factors that Enabled the Proliferation of Wind Energy Generation in the United States Through 2016
- Claudia Risner, Throw me a Lifeline: A Comparison of Port Cities with Antithetical Adaptation Strategies to Sea-Level Rise
- Nurullah Ayyilmaz, Measuring Vulnerability Interdependence: To What Extent Do Chinese Investments in Africa Make China Vulnerable?

Master's Theses

- Yanu Widiyono, The Effect of Illicit Drugs Securitization in Indonesia
- Marianna Portnyagina, Contemporary Russia in America’s World: Russian Narratives on Post-Soviet Space
- Raven Showalter, the “Trump Effect?” Challenges to United States Hegemony in Higher Education Cross-Cultural Exchange: A Case Study of International Students at Old Dominion University
- Visar Xhambazi, The Kosovo Moment The United States and the Post-Cold War Balkans
- Andrew Garber, Fem Media Matters: An Inquiry into Campus Sexual Assault

11 Students took comprehensive exams to complete their MA requirements
Dissertations & Theses

2017

Doctoral Dissertations

- Joanne Fish, A Cross Disciplinary Approach to the Maritime Security Risk of Piracy and Lessons Learned from Agent Based Modeling
- Jamila Glover, A Dirty Dilemma: Determinants of Electronic Waste Importation
- Sean Murphy, Acquiring the Tools of Grand Strategy: The US Navy’s LCS as a Case Study
- Felicia Anneita Grey, Empty Chair at the Table: Bargaining, Costs and Litigation at the World Trade Organization
- Charles Mark Davis, Jointness, Culture, and Inter-Service Prejudice: Assessing the Impact of Resident, Satellite, and Hybrid JPME II Course Delivery Methods on Military Officer Attitudes
- Bo Ram Yi, The Memorialization of Historical Memories in East Asia
- William Eger, Endpoints After Empire, Explaining Varying Levels of Democracy in Post-Communist Eastern Europe
- Sandis Sraders, The Little Lady that Could: Small Latvia Rejoins the Euro-Atlantic Community
- Maurizio Geri, The Treatment of Ethnic Minorities in Democratizing Muslim Countries: The Securitization of Kurds in Turkey versus the Autonomization of the Aceh in Indonesia
- Nicholas B. Law, The Franchising Effect on the Al-Qaeda Enterprise and Related Transnational Terror Groups: Patterns of Evolution of Al-Qaeda Affiliates in the 21st Century

10 Students took comprehensive exams to complete their MA requirements

2016

Doctoral Dissertations

- Eric Fowler, Culture and Military Effectiveness: How Societal Traits Influence Battle Outcomes
- Aaron G. Sander, Visegrad Revival: Where Less Is More, in the Prospect of Smaller Numbers
- Hamza Demirel, Assessing the Role of The Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps’ Extraterritorial Activities in Attaining Iran’s Foreign Policy

9 students took comprehensive exams to complete their MA requirements.
Dissertations & Theses

2015

Doctoral Dissertations

- Scott Duryea, Removing The Rust: Comparative Post-Industrial Revitalization in Buffalo, Cleveland, and Pittsburgh
- Jennifer Jones Cunningham, U.S. Military Aid and the Role of Foreign Armies in Civil Politics
- Sagar Rijal, In Search of Autonomy: Nepal as a Wedge State Between India and China
- Erika Frydenlund, ‘Home was Congo’: Refugees and Durable Displacement in the Borderlands of 1,000 Hills
- Ivan Medynskyi, Path Dependence in Intrastate Conflicts: Resources, Regimes, and Interventions
- Saltuk Karahan, Explaining the Turkish-Russian Rapprochement: The Energy Dimension
- Mustafa Karapinar, Poverty within Nation-States: The Impact of Corruption, Trade, Income Inequality, Population Growth, Foreign Aid, and Military Expenditure
- Patricia Raxter, Unnatural Selection: Wildlife Crime and Other Challenges to Resource System Resilience
- Jan Nalaskowski, Dwelling in Time, Dwelling in Structures Disintegration in World Politics

Master’s Theses

- Kimberly Michelle Ganczak, Shaping American Foreign Policy: A Game Theoretic Analysis of the United States’ – North Korean Relationship
- Karmen Matusek, Under the Surface of Sex Trafficking: Social, Economic and Cultural Perpetrators of Gender-Based Violence in India
- Nurullah Ayyilmaz, Effects of Using Natural Gas in the Light-Duty Vehicle Fleet of the United States on its Energy Dependency and Greenhouse Gas Emissions

10 students took comprehensive exams to complete their MA requirements.

2014

Doctoral Dissertations

- Wiebke Lamer, Neglecting the ‘Right on Which All Other Rights Depend:’ Press Freedom in the International Human Rights Discourse
- Lauren McKee, Explaining Nuclear Energy Pursuance: A Comparison of the United States, Germany and Japan
- Tasawar Baig, Weak Links in a Dangerously Fractured Region: Fragile States as Global Threats
- Katerina Oskarsson, Great Powers, the Persian Gulf, and Global Oil: A Comparative Analysis
Dissertations & Theses

- Ersin Elibol, Prevention and Prosecution Challenges on the Internet in the Republic of Turkiye: Blocking and Child Pornography
- Ja Tum Seng, Myanmar and its Democratic Transition
- Shiwei Jiang, What Constitutes the Success or Failure of Multinational Corporations In Foreign Markets? A Case Study of Chinese and American MNCs

Master’s Theses

- Tuan Luc, U.S. - ASEAN Organized Crime Cooperation as a Part of Washington’s Re-balancing Policy toward the Asia-Pacific
- Zachariah Long, Transnational Organized Crime and the Illegal Wildlife Trade: Global Ties to a Global Crime
- Nika Khmolovska, The Role of the Documentary Film in The Presentation Of the North African Peoples’s Struggle for Their Civil Rights. The Saharawi People Case Study
- Iman Nanoua, Hijacking the Syrian Revolution

10 students took comprehensive exams to complete their MA requirements.

Doctoral Dissertations

2013

- Stephanie Smith, The Rhetoric/Reality Gap of Jus Cogens: An Examination of the Prohibitions of Piracy and Slavery as Peremptory Norms in International Law
- Nasser Lidasan, The Complexity of Armed Conflict in Mindanao: Beyond Economic Deprivation, Discrimination, and Inequality
- Renata Giannini, Promoting Gender to Build Peace: Evolving Norms and International Practices
- Alessandro Shimabukuro, The Right to Bear Space Arms: U.S. Resistance to Arms Control in Space
- Akin Guner, The Transformation of the PKK (Kurdistan Workers’ Party): Exploring Domestic, Regional, and Global Dynamics
Dissertations & Theses

Master’s Theses

- Nikola Kovac, Croatia Joins Europe
- Melissa Rodriguez, Department of Defense Resource Allocations and Progress Toward U.S. Foreign Policy Objectives in Latin America
- Maribel Lora, Fair Trade: An Analysis of the Effects on Poverty Alleviation and Empowerment for Women in Developing Countries

14 students took comprehensive exams to complete their MA requirements.

2012

Doctoral Dissertations

- Sabine Hirschauer, All is Fair in War? Violent Conflict and the Securitization of Rape
- Robert Donnelly, Satellite-based Navigation Systems and the Global Commons
- Melodee Baines, Illiterate Women’s Political Participation: Agents of Development
- Omar Hawthorne, Do International Corruption Metrics Matter? Assessing the Impact of Transparency International’s Corruption Perceptions Index
- Kimberly VanDyke Gilligan, Nonproliferation and Domestic Politics Theory
- Roopa Swaminathan, Soft Focus: Bollywood Film and India’s Rise as a Global Soft Power

Master’s Theses

- Maxim Miroshnikov, Interregionalism as a Foreign Policy of the European Union: A Case for Soft Power?
- Alexandra Caitlin Rice, Human Trafficking Post 9/11 Policy and Practice: Beyond Cutting the Tail Off the Snake
- Savannah Lynn Eck, Securing South Africa’s Future: Grandmothers against Poverty and AIDS as Model for Social Development Change
- Mustafa Kemal Dagdelen, East, West, or Center? Turkey’s Stance Straddling Continents
Accomplished Faculty

Dual Appointed Faculty

Regina Karp, PhD
  GPad Director, Associate Professor Political Science and International Studies
  Teaches courses in Conflict and Cooperation for GPad Conflict and Cooperation Concentration Coordinator

Angelica Huizar, PhD
  Associate Professor, World Languages and Cultures Department
  International Culture and Studies Concentration Coordinator

Austin Jersild, PhD
  Professor and Chair, History Department, Professor International Studies
  Regional and Area Studies Concentration Coordinator

Cathy Wu, PhD
  Assistant Professor, Political Science and International Studies
  International relations: domestic politics and conflict processes, East Asian politics and security; Methodology: game theory, quantitative analysis, experimental methods.

Francis Adams, PhD
  Professor, Political Science, International political economy, international development, Globalization, Latin American politics, Inter-American relations, Foreign assistance, multilateral development banks, and political conditionality.
Accomplished Faculty

Georg Menz, PhD  
Professor, Political Science and International Studies  
Research interests lie primarily on the field of (International) Political Economy, focusing both on the dynamics of globalization and subsequent adjustment processes at the national level.

Jesse Richman, PhD  
Associate Professor of Political Science and International Studies  
Teaches courses in American Politics and Research Methods for the Department of Political Science  
Teaches Game Theory and Research Methods for GPIS Modeling and Simulation Concentration Coordinator

Matthew DiLorenzo, PhD  
Assistant Professor, Political Science & GPIS  
Research interests include the domestic political determinants and consequences of foreign aid and investment in recipient countries, international political economy, and international conflict

Peter Schulman, PhD  
Professor, World Languages and Cultures Department  
Interests include French Politics and French Literature, Post-Colonialism

Simon Serfaty, PhD  
Professor and Eminent Scholar, Political Science and International Studies  
Research Interests include US Foreign Policy, Euro-Atlantic Relations, European Union, NATO, France  
Foreign Policy and International Relations Concentration Coordinator

Faculty Associate

Erika Frydenlund, PhD  
Research Assistant Professor, Virginia Modeling, Analysis & Simulation Center  
Teaches: quantitative and qualitative research methodology  
Research interests: refugees & forced migration, computational social science, modeling & simulation, agent-based modeling