

Samuel M. Seitz

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Academic Appointments

Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Oxford — Postdoctoral Fellowship, starting October 2025

Security Studies Program, Massachusetts Institute of Technology — Stanton Nuclear Postdoctoral Fellowship, September 2024–June 2025

Pardee School, Boston University — Adjunct Lecturer, January 2025–May 2025

Education

University of Oxford — Ph.D. in International Relations, July 2024

Georgetown University — M.A. in Security Studies, May 2020

Georgetown University — B.S. in International Politics and European Studies, *summa cum laude*, *Phi Beta Kappa*, May 2019

Academic Publications

2025. “When Competition Becomes Contagious: Strategic Arms Racing Spillovers, Alliance Politics, and the Sino-American Nuclear Competition.” With Elliot Ji. *Journal of Strategic Studies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/01402390.2025.2543859>

—Winner, *European Institute for Security Studies Annual Conference Best Paper Prize, 2024*.

2025. “De-Emphasizing Nuclear Weapons in Nuclear Deterrence: The Case for Conventional Counterforce.” With Lauren Sukin. *Journal of Peace and Nuclear Disarmament* 8(1):15–35.

2023. “Letting Sleeping Bears Lie: Ukraine’s Cautious Approach to Uncertainty Before the War.” *Contemporary Security Policy* 44(4): 530–543.

2020. “The Predictable Hazards of Unpredictability: Why Madman Behavior Doesn’t Work.” With Caitlin Talmadge. *The Washington Quarterly* 43(3): 31–46.

Policy Writing

2023. “Leveraging Alliances for Strategic Effect: The Value of Defense Specialization.” MOD Expert Briefing Paper for the Integrated Review Refresh. MOD Whitehall.

2022. *The Future of the King of Battle: Defining Discrete Missions for Army Long Range Precision Fires*, RR-A1801-1. RAND Corporation. With Jonathan Wong and Joslyn Fleming.

Popular Writing

2022. “Wargaming Taiwan.” *U.S.-China Perception Monitor*. September 30. <https://uscnpm.org/2022/09/30/wargaming-taiwan-how-to-understand-recent-findings/>. With Elliot Ji.

2022. “How to Prevent a US-China Nuclear Confrontation.” *U.S.-China Perception Monitor*. June 27. <https://uscnpm.org/2022/06/27/how-to-prevent-us-china-nuclear-confrontation/>.

2019. “The Peaceable Pacific: Why Sino-American Conflict is not Inevitable.” *The Realist Review*. <https://realistreview.org/2019/04/25/essay-contest-ii-the-peaceable-pacific-why-sino-american-conflict-is-not-inevitable/>.

—*Honorable Mention, 2019 John Quincy Adams Society Student Foreign Policy Essay Contest.*

2017. “Pushing Against the Populist Tide.” *Foreign Affairs*. November/December. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/articles/world/2017-12-11/pushing-against-populism-tide>.

—*Winner, 2017 Foreign Affairs Student Essay Competition.*

Book Project

Armaments and Ambition: When and How Status Seeking Shapes Military Procurement Policy.

Working Papers

“Fears of a Setting Sun: Time Limited Arms Control Treaties as a Strategy of Competitive Arms Control.”

“Resisting Relegation to the Rank and File: Explaining When and How Military Procurement Policy is Shaped by Status Seeking.” [Under Review].

“Insurance, Independence, or Influence? Explaining French and British Nuclear Choices in the Early Cold War.”

“From Trade Winds to War Drums: How Exogenous Expansions to Trade Can Fuel Arms Racing.” With Benjamin Harack.

“NATO’s Nordic Neophytes: How Sweden and Finland’s Accession to NATO Alters the Military Balance in Northeast Europe.”

Professional Experience

Research Assistant, Oxford Department of Politics and International Relations, May 2023–September 2023

Supported Dr. Andy Payne’s book project on presidential transitions by conducting historical research in newspapers and diplomatic documents as well as surveying and summarizing relevant secondary source literature.

Co-Chair, Oxford Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy, October 2022–June 2023

Organized a weekly seminar series featuring academics, policymakers, and military officials that introduced Oxford students to topics in military operations and strategy (nuclear fuel cycles, wargaming, introduction to air warfare, etc.).

Adjunct Researcher, RAND Corporation, June 2022–March 2023

Conducted historical research for a project on future Army Long Range Precision Fires sponsored by the Army G8.

Research Assistant, Oxford Department of Politics and International Relations, February 2022–June 2022

Supported Dr. Andy Payne’s book project on American retrenchment in the Middle East by collecting and cleaning data on U.S. deployments and budgets, reviewing planning documents and Congressional testimony, and identifying interview subjects.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, Oxford Department of Politics and International Relations, October 2021–June 2024

Led tutorial sections of undergraduate students taking International Security and Conflict, International Relations, and NATO–Warsaw Pact Competition. This included updating syllabi, giving lectures, designing essay prompts, familiarizing students with recent research, and instructing students on techniques to improve their writing.

Research Assistant, Georgetown University Center for Security Studies, August 2019–May 2020

Conducted research in support of Professor Caitlin Talmadge’s work on nuclear strategy and Taiwanese security issues, and assisted with textbook revisions and updates.

Defence Capability Coherence Intern, British Embassy, Washington, March 2018–May 2018

Developed a briefing packet for the Minister for Defence Procurement on U.S. force structure,

liaised with think tankers to develop studies on British force requirements, and contributed to weekly reports to London on military developments in the U.S.

Awards, Honors, and Grants

2025–2026 — RUSI Deterrence Futures Fellow

2024–2005 — Stanton Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship (USD 101,000)

2024 — EISS Best Paper Prize Award Recipient (EUR 1,000)

2023 — Cyril Foster Travel Grant (GBP 250)

2019–2020 — SSP Merit Scholarship, Georgetown University (50% of tuition)

2019 — Phi Beta Kappa Honors Society

2019 — Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honors Society

2019 — Thomas T. Helde Medal for Excellence in European Studies, Georgetown University

2017 — BSFS Fellowship at the BMW Center for German and European Studies, Georgetown University

Conferences and Workshops

2025 — MIT Summer Wargaming Institute Workshop (Boston)

2025 — International Studies Association Conference (Chicago)

2024 — Federation of American Scientists' Nuclear Weapons in East Asia Workshop (Seoul)

2024 — Stanton Nuclear Conference (Washington, DC)

2024 — European Institute for Security Studies Annual Conference (Prague)

2024 — International Studies Association Conference (San Francisco)

2023 — European Institute for Security Studies Annual Conference (Barcelona)

2023 — Early Career Nuclear Strategists Workshop, NATO Defence College (Rome)

2023 — The Dimensions of Great Power Competition Workshop, University of Surrey (Guildford)

2023 — International Studies Association Conference (Montreal)

2021 — 6th Young Scholars Forum on US-China Relations, Carter Center (Atlanta)

2021 — UK PONI/DNO Integrated Review Workshop, RUSI (London)

Courses Taught

Weapons and War in Europe (Boston University, Spring 2025)

International Relations Between the Two World Wars (University of Oxford, Fall 2023)

The Politics and Strategy of Military Competition between NATO and the Warsaw Pact (University of Oxford, Summer 2023)

International Relations (University of Oxford, Winter 2023–Summer 2024)

International Security and Conflict (University of Oxford, Fall 2021–Summer 2024)

Invited Talks

“Inter-alliance Security Dilemmas: Korean Counterforce Systems and Their Effect on the Sino-American Nuclear Competition,” Oxford Changing Character of War Seminar Series, May 28, 2024.

“Where Are the Nukes – And Where Are They Going?” Oxford China Policy Lab Speaker Series, May 20, 2024.

“NATO’s Nordic Neophytes: How Sweden and Finland’s Accession to NATO Alters the Military Balance in Northeast Europe,” Oxford Changing Character of War Seminar Series, March 7, 2023.

“Purchasing Prestige or Seeking Security? Military Procurement Choices Between the Dual Pressures of Status Loss and Military Threats,” Oxford International Relations Colloquium, January 12, 2023.

Skills

Statistical and Typesetting: Microsoft Office, R, Stata, L^AT_EX

Languages: German (B2)