

Dan Altman

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Georgia State University

Associate Professor of Political Science

2023-Present

Assistant Professor of Political Science

2017-2023

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2015

PhD in Political Science (International Relations)

Brown University

2008

BA in International Relations with Honors (*magna cum laude*)

Fellowships

Harvard Kennedy School – Belfer Center (Postdoctoral Fellow)

2016-2017

Dartmouth College – Dickey Center (Postdoctoral Fellow)

2015-2016

Stanford University – CISAC (Predoctoral Fellow)

2013-2015

Peer-Reviewed Publications

“The Psychology of Coercion Failure: How Reactance Explains Resistance to Threats” (with Kathleen E. Powers), *the American Journal of Political Science*, Vol. 67, No. 1 (2023), pp. 221-238. [LINK](#)

- Award: Best Conference Paper, APSA Foreign Policy Section

“Why Territorial Disputes Escalate: The Causes of Conquest Attempts since 1945” (with Melissa M. Lee), *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 56, No. 4 (2022). [LINK](#)

“Red Lines: Enforcement, Declaration, and Ambiguity in the Cuban Missile Crisis,” *the Journal of Strategic Studies*, early access (2021). [LINK](#)

“The Evolution of Territorial Conquest after 1945 and the Limits of the Territorial Integrity Norm,” *International Organization*, Vol. 74, No. 3 (2020), pp. 490-522. [LINK](#)

- Award: Best International Security Article, APSA International Security Section
- Award: Best Research Article on U.S. Foreign Policy and Grand Strategy, Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at Johns Hopkins SAIS

“Advancing without Attacking: The Strategic Game around the Use of Force,” *Security Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (2018), pp. 58-88. [LINK](#)

“By Fait Accompli, Not Coercion: How States Wrest Territory from Their Adversaries,” *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 61, No. 4 (2017), pp. 881-891. [LINK](#)

“Red Lines in Nuclear Nonproliferation” (with Nicholas L. Miller), *The Nonproliferation Review*, Vol. 24, No. 3-4 (2017), pp. 315-342. [LINK](#)

“The Strategist’s Curse: A Theory of False Optimism as a Cause of War,” *Security Studies*, Vol. 24, No. 2 (2015), pp. 284-315. [LINK](#)

Work in Progress

Territorial Conquest Since 1945 (revise and resubmit at Cornell University Press – email for draft)

Challenging Deterrence: Understanding Limited Deterrence Failures (book manuscript – in progress)

“Do States Really Sink Costs?” (with Kai Quek), submitted for review.

“For the Land Itself? Disentangling Motives in Territorial Conflicts” (with Kathleen E. Powers)

“Coercion versus Imposition in International Politics” (early stages)

Non-Refereed Publications

“NATO Can Do More Without Provoking Moscow,” *Foreign Affairs*, July 12, 2022.

“When Redlines Fail,” *Foreign Affairs*, February 2, 2022 (with Kathleen E. Powers).

“The Future of Conquest,” *Foreign Affairs*, September 24, 2021.

- Award: Emerging Scholars Global Policy Prize, Perry World House (University of Pennsylvania)

“What the History of Modern Conquest Tells Us about China and India’s Border Crisis,” *War on the Rocks*, July 9, 2020.

Review of *Coercion, Survival, and War*, H-Diplo International Security Studies Forum, May 22, 2017.

“How to Sell Arms to Taiwan,” *The Diplomat*, November 2, 2016.

“Modern Conquest: Land Grabs Are on the Rise,” *Foreign Affairs* Infographic (in collaboration with *Foreign Affairs*), July 20, 2016.

“The Long History of ‘Green Men’ Tactics – And How They Were Defeated,” War on the Rocks, March 17, 2016.

“Is Crimea Obama’s Fault? Why Deterrence Failed in Crimea,” *Huffington Post*, March 18, 2014.

Awards

Best International Security Article (2020), International Security Section, American Political Science Association, 2021.

Best Conference Paper (2020), Foreign Policy Section, American Political Science Association, 2021.

Best Research Article on U.S. Foreign Policy and Grand Strategy (\$3,500), Henry A. Kissinger Center for Global Affairs at Johns Hopkins SAIS, 2021.

Dean’s Early Career Award (\$3,000), GSU College of Arts and Sciences, 2021.

Emerging Scholars Global Policy Prize (\$10,000), Perry World House at the University of Pennsylvania, 2020.

Grants

Nuclear Security Course Development Grant (\$50,000), Stanton Foundation, 2019.

Courses Taught

POLS 3450: U.S. Foreign Policy

POLS 3800: Introduction to Political Research

POLS 4470: Causes of War

POLS 4475: Nuclear Weapons and International Politics

POLS 8470: Military Conflict and International Security

POLS 8800: Elements of Political Research

Students Advised (PhD Dissertations)

Ayşe Lokmanoglu (GSU Communications): Awarded in 2021

Mark Flowers (Chair): In progress

Saad Ullah Khan (Chair): In progress

Younis Sarwer (Chair): In progress

Abdelrahman Rashdan: In progress

Busra Nur Ozguler Aktel: In progress

Dexter Lensing: In progress

Efe Can Coban: In progress

Kristian Warpinski: In progress
Mustafa Abdellatif Salama Muhammad: In progress
Sachal Jacob: In progress

Students Advised (MA Thesis or Non-Thesis Paper)

Luciano Pereira de Souza (Thesis): Awarded in 2021
Joshua Allen (Thesis): Awarded in 2019
Sarosh Sultan (Thesis): In progress
Joshua Redmond (Non-Thesis Paper): Awarded in 2020

Students Advised (Undergraduate Honors Thesis)

Dyllan (Kenzie) Barnett, Honors Thesis, 2020
Ayub Yusuf, Honors Thesis, 2019.

Conference Papers and Invited Talks

“The Dawn of the Nuclear Age and Nonproliferation,” Atlanta Undergraduate Nuclear Security Workshop (Truman Center), April 2023.
“Deciphering Putin’s Red Lines,” Georgia Institute of Technology, March 2023.
Participant in the Young Strategist’s Forum, Tokyo, January 2023.
“Chinese Territorial Expansionism,” Strategic Competition Symposium, Air War College, December 2022.
“The Fait Accompli: Understanding the Threat from China and Russia,” 11th Annual Pacific Information Operations and Electronic Warfare Symposium, October 2022.
“The Psychology of Coercion Failure: How Reactance Explains Resistance to Threats,” University of Queensland, August 2022.
“Territorial Conquest Since 1945,” Lonestar Forum [book workshop], April 2022.
“The Rarity of Sinking Costs in International Politics,” ISA 2022.
“The Evolution of Territorial Conquest after 1945 and the Limits of the Territorial Integrity Norm,” Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania, February 2022 [\$250].
“The Fait Accompli: Understanding the Threat from China and Russia,” Maneuver Warfare Conference, Fort Benning, February 2022 [\$500].
“The Evolution of Territorial Conquest after 1945 and the Limits of the Territorial Integrity Norm,” Afyon Kocatepe University, November 2021.
“The Fait Accompli: Concept, History, and Trends,” Army Futures Command, October 2021
“The Causes of Modern Conquest,” APSA 2021.
“Do States Signal Resolve by Sinking Costs or Downpaying Costs?,” APSA 2021.
“The Puzzle of Compellence Failure: How Psychology Explains Resistance to Threats,” ISA 2021.
“Do States Signal Resolve by Sinking Costs or Downpaying Costs?,” ISA 2021.
“The Causes of Modern Conquest,” ISA 2021.
“The Evolution of Territorial Conquest after 1945 and the Limits of the Territorial Integrity Norm,” Princeton University, February 2021.
“The Puzzle of Compellence Failure: How Psychology Explains Resistance to Threats,” Peace Science, November 2020.

“The Evolution of Territorial Conquest after 1945 and the Limits of the Territorial Integrity Norm,” Emory University, November 2020.

“The Fait Accompli: Concept, History, Trends, and Lessons for a Rising China,” Defense Intelligence Agency (JMITC), October 2020

“The Puzzle of Coercion Failure: How Psychology Explains Resistance to Threats,” George Washington University, September 2020

“The Puzzle of Coercion Failure: How Psychology Explains Resistance to Threats,” APSA 2020

“The Causes of Modern Conquest,” ISA 2020 (canceled – pandemic)

“The Puzzle of Coercion Failure: How Psychology Explains Resistance to Threats,” ISA 2020 (canceled – pandemic)

“The Evolution of Territorial Conquest after 1945 and the Limits of the Norm of Territorial Integrity,” ISSS-IS 2019

“Red Lines: Declaration, Enforcement, and Ambiguity in the Cuban Missile Crisis,” ISSS-IS 2019

“Trump, Putin, and the Future of the Territorial Integrity Norm,” Roundtable, ISSS-IS 2019

“The Causes of Modern Conquest,” APSA 2019

“The Puzzle of Coercion Failure: How Psychology Explains Resistance to Threats,” APSA 2019

“Advancing Without Attacking: The Strategic Game Around the Use of Force,” Berlin Airlift Symposium, Texas A&M University, April 2019.

“Is the Fait Accompli the Primary Challenge for Deterrence in the 21st Century?” Marine Corps University Symposium, January 17, 2019

“Is the Fait Accompli the Primary Challenge for Deterrence in the 21st Century?” U.S. Strategic Command Academic Alliance Speaker Series, December 12, 2018

“Red Lines: Declaration, Ambiguity, and Enforcement in the Cuban Missile Crisis,” APSA 2018

“The Evolution of Territorial Conquest,” Dickey Center (Dartmouth), May 2018

“The Evolution of Territorial Conquest,” ISA 2018

“The Fait Accompli in the 21st Century International Security Landscape: From Crimea to Doklam to the Spratly Islands,” Stimson Center, October 19, 2017

“The Evolution of Territorial Conquest,” ISA-Brown Workshop on New Frontiers in Norms, March 17, 2017

“The Evolution of Territorial Conquest,” ISA 2017

“Red Lines in Nuclear Nonproliferation,” ISA 2016

“The Fait Accompli in Interstate Crises: Land Grabs from 1918 to 2014,” ISA 2016

“Advancing without Attacking: The Non-Use of Force in Crisis Strategy,” APSA 2015

“Red Lines or Red Bands: The Role of Ambiguity in Deterrence,” Presentation at the United States Strategic Command, Omaha, March 31, 2015

“Red Lines and Faits Accomplis in Interstate Coercion and Crisis,” Stanton Nuclear Security Conference, Washington, D.C., October, 2013

“Red Lines and Faits Accomplis in Interstate Coercion and Crisis,” CISAC Social Science Seminar, Stanford, October, 2013

“Red Lines and the Fait Accompli: A Theory of Bargaining, Coercion, and Crisis among Nations,” ISA, 2013

“Why Not Fight and Trade? Dissecting the Logic of the Opportunity Cost Mechanism,” ISA, 2013

“Why Not Fight and Trade? Dissecting the Logic of the Opportunity Cost Mechanism,” NPSA, 2012

“The Strategist’s Curse: A Theory of False Optimism as a Cause of War,” APSA, 2012 (canceled – hurricane)

“The Strategist’s Curse: A Theory of False Optimism as a Cause of War,” ISA, 2012

“Red Lines in Coercive Nonproliferation,” CSIS Project on Nuclear Issues Annual Conference,
Washington, D.C., July, 2011

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