David C. Logan

CONTACT INFORMATION

Assistant Professor
Fletcher School
Tufts University

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https://www.davidcloganphd.com/

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Security Studies, *Fletcher School, Tufts University*, 2023-current
– 2025 Faculty Research Award

Faculty Affiliate, *International Security Studies Program, Fletcher School*, 2023-current

Assistant Professor in National Security Affairs, *Naval War College*, 2022-2023

Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow, *MIT Security Studies*, 2021-2022

EDUCATION

Princeton University, *School of Public & International Affairs*, Princeton, NJ
Ph.D., Public Affairs
– Dissertation: *Extended Deterrence in the Nuclear Era: Strategy, Theory, and Consequences*
– Fields: International Relations; Security Studies (*with Distinction on General Exams*)
M.A., Public Affairs
M.P.A., International Relations (*with High Distinction on Qualifying Exams*)

Grinnell College, Grinnell, IA
B.A., Political Science (*with Honors*)

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed Books and Monographs

1. *Discerning the Drivers of China's Nuclear Force Development: Models, Indicators, and Data*, China Strategic Perspectives 18 (NDU Press, 2023), with Phillip C. Saunders.
–Media Coverage: *The New York Times*, *Voice of America*, Center for Advanced China Research, CSIS ChinaPower Podcast, German Marshall Fund Global China Podcast, *Asia Times*

Peer-Reviewed Journals

9. "Shadow Conflicts in the Shadow of the Bomb: The Link Between Nuclear Weapons and Indirect Conflict," with Kyle Atwell *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.
8. "Domestic Kindling, International Sparks? When and How Domestic Conditions Influence Foreign Policy Preferences," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 69, No. 4 (2025), with Meir Alkon.
7. "Elite-Public Gaps on Nuclear Weapons: The Roles of Salience and Knowledge," *International Organization*, Vol. 79, No. 3 (2025).
6. "Chinese Views of Strategic Stability," *International Security*, Vol. 49, No. 2 (2024).
5. "Are They Reading Schelling in Beijing? The Dimensions, Drivers, and Risks of Nuclear-Conventional Entanglement in China," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 46, No. 1 (2023) [lead article].
4. "Debating China's Use of Overseas Ports," *International Security*, Vol. 47, No. 3 (2023), with Robert C. Watts IV.
3. "The Nuclear Balance Is What States Make of It," *International Security*, Vol. 46, No. 4 (2022).

2. "Career Paths in the PLA Rocket Force: What They Tell Us," *Asian Security*, Vol. 15, No. 2 (2019).

1. "The Hard Constraints on a Chinese Nuclear Breakout," *Nonproliferation Review*, Vol. 24, No. 1/2 (2017).

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

5. "China's Sea-Based Nuclear Deterrent: Implications for the PLAN, Chinese Nuclear Strategy, and U.S.-China Strategic Stability," in Andrew Erickson and Ryan Martinson, eds., *Chinese Undersea Warfare* (Newport, RI: Naval War College Press, 2024).
   –Reprinted as "China's Sea-Based Nuclear Deterrent: Organizational, Operational, and Strategic Implications," China Maritime Studies Institute, China Maritime Report No. 33 (2023).
   –Media Coverage: *The New York Times*, *Asia Times*

4. "The Implications of the PLA's Nuclear Expansion and Modernization for China's Crisis Behavior," in Roy D. Kamphausen, ed., *China's Military Decision-Making in Times of Crisis and Conflict* (Washington, D.C.: National Bureau of Asian Research, 2023), with Phillip C. Saunders.

3. "China's Regional Nuclear Capability, Non-Nuclear Strategic Systems, and Integration of Concepts and Operations," in *China's Strategic Arsenal: Worldview, Doctrine, and Systems*, Paul Bolt and James M. Smith, eds. (Washington, D.C.: Georgetown University Press, 2021), with Phillip C. Saunders.

2. "Rocket Force Personnel in the Age of Xi Jinping," in *The People in the PLA 2.0*, ed. Roy Kamphausen (Carlisle, PA: U.S. Army War College Press, 2021).

1. "Making Sense of China's Missile Forces," in *Chairman Xi Remakes the PLA: Assessing Chinese Military Reforms*, ed. Phillip C. Saunders and Joel Wuthnow (Washington, D.C.: NDU Press, 2019).
   –Media Coverage: *The New York Times*

Policy Analysis & Other Writing

22. *Implications of a PRC Shift to a Launch-on-Warning Nuclear Posture* (Washington, D.C.: Defense Threat Reduction Agency, 2025), with Phillip C. Saunders.
    –Media Coverage: *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*

21. *Deterring a Nuclear North Korea: What Does the Theory Tell Us?* (Washington, D.C.: The Stimson Center, 2024), with Terence Roehrig.

20. "Opinion: Did Putin Just Inch Russia and the U.S. Closer to Nuclear War?" *The Los Angeles Times* (2023).

19. "Intensifying U.S.-China Nuclear Competition: The Evolution of U.S. and Chinese Nuclear Strategies," in *Next Steps for the U.S.-China Strategic Nuclear Relationship*, ed. David Santoro (Honolulu, HI: Pacific Forum, 2022).

18. "Nuclear Dynamics on the Korean Peninsula: What We Can Learn from the Literature," *Korea On Point*, Sejong Institute (2022).

17. "Trilateral Arms Control: A Realistic Assessment of Chinese Participation," *The Stimson Center* (2021).

16. "The Dangerous Myths About China's Nuclear Weapons," *War on the Rocks* (2020).

15. "Pulling Back the Curtain on China's Rocket Force," *The Diplomat* (2018).

14. "The Military in Politics," *Naval History*, Vol. 32, No. 2 (2018).

13. "Hard Constraints on China's Nuclear Forces," *War On the Rocks* (2017).

12. "The Evolution of the PLA's Red-Blue Exercises," *China Brief* (2017).

11. "Who Will Command China's New SSBN Fleet?" *The Diplomat* (2017).

10. "China's Future SSBN Command & Control Structure," *National Defense University Press* (2016).
9. "Overconfidence in Confidence Building," *Foreign Affairs* (2016).
8. "PLA Reforms and China's Nuclear Forces," *Joint Force Quarterly*, Vol. 83, No. 4 (2016).
7. "Should Taiwan Fear China's New Rocket Force?" *Policy Forum* (2016), with Joel Wuthnow.
6. "The Complex and Increasingly Dangerous Nuclear Weapons Geometry of Asia," *Arms Control Association* (2016), with Greg Thielmann.
5. "Drawing a Line Between Conventional and Nuclear Weapons in China," *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (2015).
4. "What if China Develops MIRVs?" *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists* (2015), with Zhao Tong.
3. "Is America About to Launch a New Wave of Proliferation?" *The National Interest* (2013).
2. "China's Mystery Warriors," *The Diplomat* (2013).
1. "Paths to Modernity," *Foreign Affairs* (2007).

Working Papers

- "Signaling, Perception, and Nuclear Crises: Evidence from the 1969 Sino-Soviet Clash," (R&R at *International Security*).
- "Between a Rock and a Hard Place: The Use-Or-Lose Dilemma, Conflict, and Escalation," (R&R at *Journal of Strategic Studies*).
- "The Logic of Extended Deterrence: Strategies and Theory" (Under Review).

Ongoing Research

- "The Logic of Extended Deterrence: Strategies and Theory," (Book Project, Under Review).
- "Useful Adversaries? Domestic Politics and Strategic Competition," (In Progress).
- "Deterrence and Defense across the Taiwan Strait," (In Progress).
- "Second-Order Nuclear Beliefs," (In Progress), with Joshua A. Schwartz.
- "Prospects and Implications of a Chinese Launch-on-Warning Posture," (In Progress), with Phillip C. Saunders.

Presentations, Conferences, Briefings & Media

"Mitigating Nuclear Rivalry between the U.S. and China"
– *Discussant, Watson School, Brown University*, May 2026

"Perceiving the Slippery Slope: Beliefs in the Ability to Control Events and Attitudes toward Nuclear Weapons"
– *Watson School, Brown University*, April 2026

"U.S.-China Security Relations"
– *University of Wisconsin-Madison*, February 2026

"China Expands Nuclear Warhead Manufacturing Capacity, Research Finds"
– *The Washington Post*, December 2025

"China Is Shifting Its Nuclear Forces to Swifter Footing, Pentagon Says"
– *The New York Times*, December 2025

"The Missiles Threatening Taiwan"
– *The New York Times*, September 2025

"Launch On Warning and U.S.-China Nuclear Relations"
– U.S. Department of Defense, August 2025

"Elite-Public Gaps on Nuclear Weapons: The Roles of Salience and Knowledge"
– U.S. Naval War College, April 2025

"Strategies of Extended Deterrence"
– International Studies Association Annual Meeting, March 2025
– Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, The Elliott School, George Washington University, September 2024
– ISSS-IS Annual Conference, October 2024

"The Growing Risks of Nuclear Competition in US-China Relations"
– Boston Committee on Foreign Relations, January 2025

"An Updated U.S. Nuclear Strategy"
– *War On the Rocks* WarCast Podcast, August 2024

"Chinese Nuclear Expansion and Modernization"
– U.S. Naval War College Future Warfighting Symposium, August 2024

"The 1969 Nuclear Crisis: Confusion, Contingency, and China"
– Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University, April 2024
– International Studies Association Annual Meeting, April 2024

"Nuclear Deterrence"
– U.S. State Department, March 2024

"US-China Military Dialogue Resumes for First Time in Over a Year as Top American Officer Talks with Counterpart"
– *South China Morning Post*, December 2023

"SAV Q&A: Understanding the Evolution of Missile Technology in Southern Asia"
– Stimson Center, South Asian Voices, October 2023

"Assessing U.S.-China Deterrence Dynamics and Crisis Management"
– National Bureau of Asian Research, October 2023

"China's Expanding Nuclear Capabilities: A Conversation with David Logan and Phil Saunders"
– CSIS ChinaPower Podcast, September 2023

"David Logan on His Newest Publication on China's Nuclear Buildup"
– Center for Advanced China Research, September 2023

"The Reckoning That Has Chinese Officials Dropping Like Flies"
– *The Daily Beast*, quoted in article August 2023

"Xi's Surprise Shake-Up Exposes Problems at Top of China's Nuclear Force"
– *The New York Times*, quoted in article August 2023

""上不封顶、不可预测"中国火箭军十年内惊人扩张，习近平会否考虑先发制人核打击？["Unlimited, Unpredictable" China's Rocket Force has Expanded Astonishingly Within a Decade. Would Xi Jinping Consider a Preemptive Nuclear Strike?]"
– 美国之音 [Voice of America], quoted in article July 2023

Japan-AUKUS Strategic Dialogue
–National Bureau of Asian Research, King's College London, Defense Threat Reduction Agency, July 2023

"Deterrence Across the Taiwan Strait"
–Interagency China Working Group, May 2023

"Nuclear Weapons in the 21st Century"
–Hunter College High School, May 2023

"The Implications of China's Sea-Based Deterrent"
–China Maritime Studies Institute Annual Conference, April 2023

"China Pushes Largest-Ever Expansion of Nuclear Arsenal"
–Agence France-Presse, quoted in article, April 2023

"'Tremendous Uncertainty': David Logan on China's Nuclear Capabilities and China-US Nuclear Dynamics"
–Center for Advanced China Research, March 2023

"Extended Deterrence In the Nuclear Era: Strategy and Theory"
–International Studies Association Annual Meeting, March 2023

"The Nuclear Balance Is What States Make of It"
–United States Military Academy, February 2023

"The PLA Rocket Force"
–National Bureau of Asian Research, November 2022

"Director's Strategic Resilience Initiative Workshop on Strategic Stability"
–Los Alamos National Laboratory, October 2022

"中国发展陆基中段反导技术，会否改变印太核态势？ [Will China's Development of Land-Based Mid-Course Anti-Missile Technology Change the Nuclear Situation in the Indo-Pacific?]"
– 美国之音 [Voice of America], quoted in article June 2022

"The U.S., China and Nuclear Deterrence in the Hypersonic Era"
–The Jamestown Foundation, December 2021

"Shadow Conflicts in the Shadow of the Bomb: The Link Between Nuclear Weapons and Indirect Conflict," with Kyle Atwell
–Yale University Nuclear Security Symposium, April 2023
–American Political Science Association annual conference, Seattle, WA, October 2021
–U.S. Military Academy, West Point, NY, September 2021

"China's Nuclear Forces"
–Testified at hearing of the U.S.-China Economic & Security Review Commission, June 2021

"U.S. Nuclear Arms Control Goals with China"
–Princeton-Tsinghua-Wuhan Arms Control Seminar, March 2021

"Surveys of Superiority: Experimental Evidence on the Impact of the Nuclear Balance"
–Stanton Nuclear Security Conference, October 2021
–Nuclear Security Workshop, The Hertie School, June 2021
–Project on Nuclear Issues, Center for Strategic & International Studies, December 2020

"China's Capabilities in Disruptive Technologies: Implications and Lessons"
–Centre for Contemporary China Studies, Indian Ministry of External Affairs, October 2020

"Escalation, Entanglement, and the PLA Rocket Force"
–Joint Staff, October 2020
–United States Indo-Pacific Command, October 2020
–National Intelligence Council, September 2020
–Defense Threat Reduction Agency, U.S. Defense Department, May 2020

"Domestic Kindling and International Sparks: How and When Domestic Dissatisfaction Affects Demand for Aggressive Foreign Policy"
–International Studies Association Annual Meeting, Honolulu, HI, March 2020 (canceled)

"Making Sense of China's Missile Forces"
–Defense Threat Reduction Agency, U.S. Defense Department, May 2019

"Chairman Xi Remakes the PLA"
–RAND Corporation, May 2019

"Rocket Force Personnel in the Age of Xi Jinping"
–*The People in the PLA 2.0* Conference, U.S. Army War College, October 2018

"Conventional-Nuclear Entanglement in China's Missile Forces"
–Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University, August 2016
–Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Defense for Nuclear and Missile Defense Policy, U.S. Defense Department, July 2016
–Bureau of Intelligence and Research, U.S. State Department, July 2016

"China's Military Reforms and the Nuclear Forces"
–Taipei Economic and Cultural Representative Office, July 2016

Professional Experience

Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS), **Columbia University**, New York, N.Y.
Participant, Summer 2021

Defense Threat Reduction Agency,
Department of Defense, Washington, D.C.
Expert Consultant, Fall 2020

Center for the Study of Chinese Military Affairs,
National Defense University, Washington, D.C.
Research Intern, Summer 2016

Arms Control Association, Washington, D.C.
Research Assistant, 2015-2016

Carnegie-Tsinghua Center for Global Policy, Beijing, China
Young Ambassador & Global Policy Intern, 2014-2015

Princeton-in-Asia, Shenyang, China
Post-Graduate Fellow, 2012-2014

The Willow School (formerly Lusher Charter School), New Orleans, LA
Teacher, 2009-2012

Leadership & Service

Fletcher School International Security Studies Program
Faculty Affiliate, 2023-current

Fletcher School International Security Studies Field
Director, 2026-current

Fletcher School Search Committee
Member, 2026

Fletcher School Thought Leadership Committee
Member, 2025-current

Tufts University Center for Expanding Viewpoints in Higher Education
Member, Faculty Advisory Committee, 2025-current

Tufts University Faculty Senate
Co-Chair, Faculty Affairs Committee, 2025-current
Member, 2023-current

Fletcher School Honor Code Committee
Member, 2023-2024

Fletcher School Search Committee
Member, 2023-2024

Manuscript Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, Center for Strategic & International Studies, *Cold War History*, *Global Studies Quarterly*, *International Affairs*, *International Organization*, *International Security*, *International Studies Perspectives*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace and Nuclear Disarmament*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Journal of Strategic Security*, *Pacific Review*, Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft, RAND Corporation, *RUSI Journal*, *Security Studies*, *Texas National Security Review*, *War On the Rocks*

Princeton-Tsinghua-Wuhan Arms Control Seminar
Participant, *Track-2 Dialogue on U.S.-China Security Relationship*, 2020-2022

Center for International Security Studies
Director, *Strategic Education Initiative*, 2018-2019

School of Public & International Affairs Ph.D. Professional Development Series
Organizer, 2017-2018

Teaching Experience

Nuclear Weapons: Technology, Strategy, and Policy
Instructor, *Fletcher School, Tufts University*, Medford, MA

Technological Innovation and International Security
Instructor, *Fletcher School, Tufts University*, Medford, MA

U.S.-China Security Relations
Instructor, *Fletcher School, Tufts University*, Medford, MA

National Security Decision Making
Instructor, International Security Subcourse *Department of National Security Affairs, U.S. Naval War College*, Newport, RI

Theater Security Decision Making
Instructor, International Security Subcourse *Department of National Security Affairs, U.S. Naval War College*, Newport, RI

Policy Writing & Analysis Summer 2017
Instructor, *Junior Summer Institute, Princeton University*, Princeton, NJ

English Conversation & Debate 2012-2014
Instructor, *English Department, Northeastern University*, Shenyang, China
Awarded Best Foreign Teacher as selected by group of students and faculty

United States History 2009-2012
Teacher, *The Willow School*, New Orleans, LA
Taught at then-Title I (low-income) public school. Increased student test scores to highest level in the state. Founded and coached nationally-competitive middle school debate team

Selected Awards, Grants & Fellowships

- 2026: Fletcher School Fine Family Fellowship
- 2025: Fletcher School Faculty Research Award: First untenured tenure-track recipient in award's history
- 2024: Defense Threat Reduction Agency Strategic Trends Initiative Research Funding
- 2024: Stanton Foundation Course Development Grant
- 2024: Stand Together Trust Foreign Policy Research Grant
- 2023: Stanton Foundation Nuclear Security Research Grant
- 2023: Certificate of Recognition for Outstanding Teaching, U.S. Naval War College
- 2022: Stanton Nuclear Security Research Grant
- 2022: Naval War College Foundation Research Grant
- 2021: MIT Stanton Nuclear Security Fellowship
- 2021: Belfer Center Stanton Nuclear Security Fellowship (declined)
- 2020: Center for International Security Studies Graduate Research Grant
- 2019: Center for International Security Studies Research Fellowship
- 2019: Princeton East Asian Studies Research Grant
- 2018: Research in Experimental Social Science Research Grant
- 2018: Center on Contemporary China Graduate Research Grant
- 2018: Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Graduate Fellowship
- 2018: Sasakawa Young Leaders Fellowship

- 2018: Princeton Institute for International and Regional Studies Graduate Fellowship
- 2018: Center for International Security Studies Research Fellowship
- 2017: China and the World Program Research Fellowship
- 2017: Second Place, U.S. Naval Institute Naval History Essay Contest
- 2017: High Distinction, Princeton School of Public & International Affairs Qualifying Exams
- 2015: Kathryn Davis Fellowship for Peace
- 2015-2017: Princeton John Parker Compton Memorial Fellowship in International Relations
- 2015: Finalist, Pickering Graduate Fellowship (declined)
- 2012-2014: Princeton-in-Asia Fellowship
- 2012: Northeastern University (Shenyang) Best Foreign Teacher
- 2010: Loyola Institute of Politics Fellowship
- 2009: Grinnell College Young W. Kihl '59 Political Science Award

Archival & Fieldwork

–Archival work at Belize National Archives (2021*)
–Archival work at United Kingdom National Archives (2021*)
–Archival work at Mudd Manuscript Library, Princeton University (2020*)
–Archival work at Taiwan Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica (2020*)
–Archival work at NATO Archives (2020*)
–Archival work at U.S. Central Intelligence Agency (2020*)
–Archival work at U.S. Department of Defense (2020*)
–Fieldwork in Beijing, China (2017, 2018, 2019)
–Archival work at Ministry of Foreign Affairs Archives, Beijing, China (2019)
–Archival work at Hoover Institute Archives, Stanford University (2018, 2020, 2021*)
–Archival work at University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, China (2018)
–Fieldwork in Hong Kong (2018)
–Fieldwork in Latvia (2018, 2019)
–Fieldwork in Bosnia and Herzegovina (2016)
** indicates remote work due to the Covid-19 pandemic*

Affiliations

–American Political Science Association
–Arms Control Association
–Council for a Livable World
–International Studies Association

Languages

Chinese
–Reading - *ACTFL "Superior" (2015)*
–Speaking - *ACTFL "High-Advanced" (2015)*
Russian - *Intermediate*
Italian - *Intermediate*

Programming

Stata, Qualtrics, LaTeX