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Davidson Institute for Global Security alam.75@osu.edu
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Hanover, New Hampshire 03755

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Dartmouth College, Dickey Center for International Understanding 2025-2026
E. John Rosenwald Jr. '52 TU'53 Postdoctoral Fellow

Ohio State, Modeling Emergent Social Order (MESO) Lab August 2025—present
Research Fellow

Yale University, Jackson School of Global Affairs 2024—2025
Brady-Johnson Program in Grand Strategy, Pre-Doctoral Fellow

Ohio State, Mershon Center for International Security Studies 2023—2025
Graduate Student Fellow

University of Notre Dame, International Security Center 2023—2024
Hans J. Morgenthau Pre-Doctoral Fellow in Grand Strategy

EDUCATION

The Ohio State University, Columbus, OH
Ph.D. – Political Science August 2025
Major Fields: **International Relations** and **Political Methodology**
Committee: Christopher Gelpi (chair), Alexander Thompson, Randall Schweller

Indiana University, Bloomington, IN
M.A. — Political Science October 2018

Hofstra University, Hempstead, NY
B.A. — Political Science and Biology (with honors), *cum laude* May 2016

BOOK MANUSCRIPT **For as Long as It Takes? Time Horizons and Foreign Policy Change**

Winner of the 2025 Matthews and Gilkerson Best Dissertation Award at Ohio State

Despite the importance of time preferences in international relations, few works address the origins of these preferences or directly test their impact on decision-making and policy outcomes. This problem is apparent when we consider puzzling outcomes like foreign policy change: when do leaders change course? When do foreign policies end? I address this fundamental policy question by systematizing the conditions under which leaders possess long- versus short-time horizons. I identify the conditions under which time preferences emerge: leader vulnerability and satisfaction with the current policy. I argue that leaders

possess short time horizons and end policies when they are not vulnerable and are dissatisfied with the existing policy. I test this theory using an empirical strategy of triangulation: first, I rely on multiple survey experiments to identify the microfoundations of time horizons; second, I use computational tools and observational data to model and measure leader time horizons in the post-World War II era. Finally, I assess the validity of the theorized causal mechanism on historical cases of US Presidential foreign policymaking, including Lyndon Johnson (1963-1969) and Richard Nixon's (1969-1973) handling of the war in Vietnam, and Ronald Reagan's intervention in Lebanon (1982-1984). This project is the first to theorize both the sources and consequences of time horizons in decision-making, to specify the mechanisms by which leaders are constrained in the foreign policy process, and to identify the conditions under which policy termination and change are possible. Whereas previous research points to policy persistence as an inevitable and inescapable tendency, this work suggests that change is possible when leaders operate under certain situational and dispositional conditions.

RESEARCH INTERESTS	<p>Substantive: foreign policy decision-making, leaders, public opinion, domestic politics, conflict processes, international order, grand strategy</p> <p>Methodological: causal inference, computational social science, variable measurement, time series, survey experiments, historical process tracing</p>
PUBLICATIONS	<p>Mael van Beek, Michael Z. Lopate, Andrew Goodhart, David A. Peterson, Jared Edgerton, Haoming Xiong, Maryum Alam, Leyla Tiglay, Daniel Kent, and Bear F. Braumoeller. 2024. "Hierarchy and War." <i>The American Journal of Political Science</i> 69(1), 299-313.</p>
WORKING PAPERS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Power to Proxy: Great Powers and Democratic Advantage in Proxy Wars (under review) • Delegates or Trustees? Explaining patterns in state-sponsored insurgency • Modeling and measuring uncertainty in international relations (with Bear F. Braumoeller and Mael van Beek) • The Pretty Prudent Public? Polarization and American Grand Strategy (with Matthew J. Conklin)
WORKS IN PROGRESS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For all of Our Posterity: Time Horizons and Grand Strategy • Introducing the Time in Presidential Statements (TIPS) Dataset • The Baghdad Clock and the Washington Clock: The Civil-Military Gap in Time Horizons • Measuring International Order (with Andrew Goodhart, Jared Edgerton, Haoming Xiong, David Peterson, Michael Lopate, Mael van Beek, and Bear F. Braumoeller) • Warring Leviathans: Conflict Among Hierarchies and the Evolution of Human Prosociality (with Andrew Goodhart, Jared Edgerton, Haoming Xiong, David Peterson, Michael Lopate, Mael van Beek, and Bear F. Braumoeller) • Identifying the impact of the steamship on early colonization (with Jan Pierskalla and Seamus Wagner)
GRANTS AND AWARDS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institute for Humane Studies, Mentorship Grant (\$8,000) January 2025 • Lyndon B. Johnson Foundation, Moody Research Grant (\$2,820) April 2024 • Frederic Bastiat Fellowship (\$2,500) April 2024

- Mershon Center, Affiliate Grant (\$2,000) January 2024
- Charles Koch Foundation Research Grant, with Matthew Conklin (\$11,000) October 2023
- ISA Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$400) October 2023
- Hans J. Morgenthau Fellowship, Notre Dame International Security Center (\$10,000) August 2023
- Institute for Humane Studies, Publication Accelerator Grant (\$5,000) July 2023
- APSA Graduate Student Travel Grant (\$150) June 2023
- Ohio State Department of Political Science Research Grant (\$3,000) May 2023
- Ohio State Mershon Center Graduate Student Grant (\$3,000) April 2023
- Institute for Humane Studies, Conference Travel Grant (\$750) March 2023
- Ohio State Dept. of Political Science, Conference Travel Grant (\$750) March 2023
- Institute for Humane Studies, Acceleration Grant (\$2,000) February 2023
- Ohio State Mershon Center, Study of Realist Policy Grant (\$2,100) October 2022
- Ohio State Social and Behavioral Sciences Fellowship (\$6,000) Summer 2022
- Ohio State Department of Political Science Research Grant (\$2,000) May 2022
- Ohio State Dean's Distinguished University Fellowship (\$64,200) 2019 — 2021
- Ohio State Jacobina Aman Prize for Best Graduate Student Paper August 2020
- APSA Best Graduate Student Paper (Section: Covert Foreign Policy) August 2019
- IU College of Arts and Humanities Institute Fellowship, \$500 October 2018
- APSA Diversity and Inclusion Hackathon Grant, \$500 August 2018
- IU Islamic Studies Travel Grant, \$400 June 2018
- IU Katharine E. Greenough Fellowship, \$300 May 2018
- IU Dhar India Studies Travel Grant, \$500 February 2018
- IU Graduate Fellowship, \$7,030 2016 — 2018
- Pi Sigma Alpha Prize for Best Undergraduate Thesis 2016
- Hofstra University Library Award for Best Undergraduate Thesis 2016

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE **The Ohio State University**
 Research Assistant—Department of Political Science Fall 2021 — Summer 2024
 Research Assistant to Bear F. Braumoeller and the Modeling Emergent Social Order (MESO) Lab
 • Funded by the National Science Foundation and the Carnegie Corporation of New York

TEACHING EXPERIENCE **The Ohio State University**
 Instructor of Record — Department of Political Science
 • PS 2300: **American Foreign Policy** Summer 2023

Indiana University
 Associate Instructor (TA) — Department of Political Science Fall 2016 — Spring 2019

- POLS-Y109: **Introduction to International Relations** Fall 2018
- POLS-Y379: **Ethics and Public Policy** Spring 2018
- POLS-Y105: **Introduction to Political Theory** Fall 2017
- POLS-Y211: **Introduction to Law** Fall 2016, Spring 2017

INVITED TALKS AND CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- Age of Reagan Conference, Reagan Institute and Presidential Foundation July 2025
- Bowling Green State University Research Series March 2025
- Yale International Security Studies Colloquium October 2024
- Southwest Workshop on Mixed Methods Research (SWMMR) October 2024
- Yale MacMillan International Relations Seminar Series September 2024
- Triangle Institute for Security Studies (TISS), New Faces Conference September 2024
- Junior Scholars in Quantitative Conflict May 2024
- American Political Science Association 2018, 2023, 2024
- International Studies Association 2021, 2023, 2024

West Point SOSH Security Seminar	February 2024
New Wave Realism VI (Mershon Center)	December 2023
Bridging the Gap, New Era Workshop	October 2023
Military Frontiers Conference (Mershon Center)	April 2023
West Point SOSH Security Seminar	February 2023
International Order, Governance, and Networks of Cooperation (Mershon Center)	April 2022
New Wave Realism II (Mershon Center)	November 2021
CATO Junior Scholars Symposium	October 2020

OTHER
WRITING

1. **Alam, Maryum.** 2025. “Merely a Buzzword? The Promise of Grand Strategy in the Age of Uncertainty.” Forthcoming.
2. **Alam, Maryum** and Limbocker, Scott. 2024. “Cracking Open the Black Box: Domestic Politics and Foreign Policy in the Era of Great Power Rivalry.” *States, Societies, and Security in the 21st Century*. West Point, New York: West Point Press.

ADDITIONAL
TRAINING AND
EXPERIENCES

- **Johns Hopkins SAIS, Kissinger Center** 2023—2024
Carnegie International Policy Scholars Consortium and Network Fellow
- **Bridging the Gap** 2023—2024
New Era Fellow
- Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) June 2018

ARCHIVAL
RESEARCH

The Lyndon Baines Johnson Presidential Library
The Ronald Reagan Presidential Library
The Beinecke Library, Yale University [Henry Kissinger Papers]
The Richard Nixon Presidential Library
The National Archives
The National Security Archive, George Washington University
Library of Congress

SERVICE

Reviewer: PS: Politics and Political Science, Journal of Conflict Resolution
West Point 2025 Security Seminar Working Group Lead February 2025
Junior Scholars in Quantitative Conflict Workshop, co-organizer 2023—2025
APSA Panel Organizer (War, Leaders, Public Opinion) January 2024
West Point SOSH Security Seminar 2024 Panel Organizer (Leaders and Foreign Policy) August 2023
Ohio State Graduate Immersion Conference Coordinator September 2020 — May 2022
Ohio State Women in Political Science Coordinator May 2020 — May 2021
IR Representative, IU Political Science Graduate Student Association May 2017 — May 2018
IU Political Science Representative, Social Science Research Council Workshop Spring 2019

PROFESSIONAL
MEMBERSHIP

American Political Science Association
International Studies Association
Society for the Historians of American Foreign Relations

SOFTWARE

R, Qualtrics, Python, \LaTeX (Primary)
Stata, Netlogo, ArcGIS (Proficient)
SAS, SQL, Tableau (Beginner)

LANGUAGES

Urdu, Hindi, and Punjabi (Fluent)
Farsi and Spanish (Proficient)
Arabic (reading only)

REFERENCES

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