

Benjamin Denison

Notre Dame International Security Center
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Academic Positions

University of Notre Dame

Assistant Director and Senior Research Associate
Notre Dame International Security Center

Notre Dame, IN
2020 - Present

Tufts University

Postdoctoral Fellow
Center for Strategic Studies, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

Medford, MA
2019-2020

Dartmouth College

Postdoctoral Fellow in US Foreign Policy and International Security
Dickey Center for International Understanding

Hanover, NH
2018-2019

Education

University of Notre Dame

Ph.D. in Political Science, August 2018

Dissertation: "Strategies of Domination: Uncertainty, Local Institutions, and the Politics of Foreign Rule"

Committee: Michael Desch (Chair), Sebastian Rosato, Tanisha Fazal

Fields: International Relations and Comparative Politics

Notre Dame, IN

M.A. in Political Science, May 2014

Texas A&M University

George H.W. Bush School of Government and Public Service

M.I.A. in International Affairs, May 2012

College Station, TX

Clemson University

B.A. in Philosophy and B.A. in Political Science, *magna cum laude*, May 2010

Clemson, SC

Articles

Peer Reviewed:

Benjamin Denison and Brian Blankenship. 2019. "Is America Prepared for Great Power Competition?" *Survival* 61(5): 43-65. Available at: [doi:10.1080/00396338.2019.1662134](https://doi.org/10.1080/00396338.2019.1662134)

Non-Peer Reviewed:

Benjamin Denison. "The More Things Change, the More They Stay the Same: The Failure of Regime-Change Operations." Policy Analysis No. 883, Cato Institute, Washington, DC, January 6, 2020. Available at: <https://doi.org/10.36009/PA.883>

Benjamin Denison. 2017. "The Perils of a Bright-Line Between Anarchy and Hierarchy in Conceptualizing International Orders." A Response to Butcher and Griffiths in "Comparing International Systems in World History: Anarchy, Hierarchy, and Culture." *International Studies Quarterly Online Symposium*. Available at: doi:10.7910/DVN/VDZG7L

Benjamin Denison, Michael Coppedge, Lucia Tiscornia, and Staffan I. Lindberg. 2016. "Varieties of Democratic Diffusion: Colonial and Neighbor Networks." V-Dem Working Paper Series 2016:2(2), The Varieties of Democracy Institute, University of Gothenburg.

Book Chapters

Denison, Benjamin. 2016. "The Appeal of Ethnic Resentment." In John Sides and Henry Farrell, eds., *The Science of Trump: Explaining the Rise of an Unlikely Candidate*. The Monkey Cage.

Working Papers

"Conceptualising Foreign Rule: A Unified Relational Approach to Understanding Intervention and State-building" (Under Review)

"Democratizing the Dispute: The Interdependence of Democratization and History of Conflict Management Attempts "
(Revise and Resubmit at *International Interactions*)
Co-authored with Krista Wiegand

"We're Here, Now What? Local Institutional Strength and the Politics of Foreign Rule Strategy"

"The Fog of Intervention: Uncertainty, Local Institutions, and Postwar Strategy"

"Seeds of its own Destruction: Primacy, Regime Change and the Liberal International Order" (Under Review)
Co-Authored with Emma Ashford

"The Owl of Minerva Flies at Dusk: The Organizational Sources of Military Optimism"
Co-Authored with Jon Askonas

"Regime Change Anxieties: Forcible Regime Change and Revisionist Challenges to American Hegemony"
(Under Review)

"Competing International Influences on Democratization"
Co-Authored with Michael Coppedge, Lucia Tiscornia, and Paul Friesen

Awards and Grants

Max Weber Fellowship (Declined) European Union Institute	2019-2020
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Dartmouth Fellow in US Foreign Policy and International Security Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College	2018-2019
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Kellogg Institute for International Studies Dissertation Year Fellowship University of Notre Dame	2017-2018
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Paul G. Tobin Dissertation Fellowship (Declined)	2017-2018
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Nanovic Institute for European Studies, University of Notre Dame	
Notre Dame International Security Center Predoctoral Fellowship University of Notre Dame	2016-2017
Striving for Excellence in Teaching Certificate Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame	2016
Research Fellow Varieties of Democracy Project University of Notre Dame	2015-2017
Notebaert Professional Development Grant Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame	2015
Nanovic Institute Graduate Professional Development Grant University of Notre Dame	2015
Kellogg Institute for International Studies Research Affiliate University of Notre Dame	2014-2018
John P. Sears Fellowship University of Notre Dame	2014
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting Travel Grant American Political Science Association	2014
Kellogg Institute for International Studies Conference Travel Grant University of Notre Dame	2014
Graduate Student Union Conference Presentation Grant University of Notre Dame	2013, 2015-2018
Summer Language Abroad Grant Center for the Study of Languages and Cultures, University of Notre Dame	2013
Summer Language Institute Grant Department of Slavic Languages, University of Pittsburgh	2013
U.S. Department of State Extra Mile Award U.S. Embassy Rome	2011
King Foundation Bush Fellowship Texas A&M University	2010

Opinion and Commentary

"Where US Sees Democracy Promotion, Russia Sees Regime Change."
Russia Matters, July 29, 2020

"Stay Out of the Regime Change Business."
War on the Rocks, June 16, 2020

"Here We Go Again With The Regime Change."

Responsible Statecraft, April 16th, 2020

"The Afghan Deal May Be Doomed, But Bring The Troops Home Anyway" with Monica Dufft Toft.
The American Conservative, March 3, 2020

"Regime change rarely succeeds. When will the U.S. learn?"

The Washington Post, January 09, 2020

"Confusion in the Pivot: The Muddled Shift from Peripheral War to Great Power Competition."

War on the Rocks, February 12, 2019

"Trump's challenge to Venezuela's president could lead to a military occupation. Here's why – and why that's dangerous."

Monkey Cage/Washington Post, January 24, 2019

"Much Ado About Montenegro." with Matthew Fay.

War on the Rocks, April 27, 2017

"A Flawed Focus on American Leadership."

War on the Rocks, September 16, 2016

"How to understand Trump's appeal to resentful whites."

Monkey Cage/Washington Post, February 3rd, 2016.

"No, Russia Doesn't Require Buffer States for Its Own Security."

The National Interest, December 3rd, 2015.

"Syria isn't Bosnia. And no, the problem isn't 'ancient hatreds.'" with Jasmin Mujanović.

Monkey Cage/Washington Post, November 17th, 2015.

"Empire of Confusion."

War on the Rocks, September 3rd, 2015.

"This is not the Middle Eastern order you are looking for." with Andrew Lebovich.

Monkey Cage/Washington Post, June 9th, 2015.

"Bordering on Conflict: Real Talk on Borders, War, and States."

War on the Rocks, February 19th, 2015.

"Bosnia is no model for Ukrainian peace" with Emil Ahmagić. Heather McRobie, and Jasmin Mujanović.
Balkans in Europe Policy Blog, October 20th, 2014.

Conference Presentation

"Competing International Influences on Democratization."

Co-Authored with Michael Coppedge, Lucia Tiscornia, and Paul Friesen

Annual Meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association (Chicago, IL - Cancelled) 2020

"Military Interventions: Historical Trends and Contemporary Challenges." (Roundtable)

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Washington, DC) 2019

"The Owl of Minerva Flies at Dusk: The Structural Sources of Military Optimism."

Co-authored with Jon Askonas.

Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association (Honolulu, HI - Cancelled) 2020

Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Washington, DC)	2019
Annual Meeting of the British International Studies Association (London, UK)	2019
CEEISA-ISA Joint International Conference (Belgrade)	2019
"Regime Change Anxieties: Forcible Regime Change and Revisionist Challenges to American Hegemony"	
CEEISA-ISA Joint International Conference (Belgrade)	2019
"The Fog of Intervention: Uncertainty, Local Institutional Strength and the Politics of Foreign Rule Strategy."	
Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association (Toronto, CA)	2019
Annual Meeting of the British International Studies Association (London, UK)	2019
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Washington, DC)	2019
"Side Effects May Occur: Long-Term Implications of U.S. Reliance on Regime Change."	
Co-Authored with Emma Ashford.	
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Boston)	2018
"Strategies of Domination: Uncertainty, Local Institutions, & the Politics of Foreign Rule."	
Harvard International Security Conference, Harvard University	2017
Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association (San Francisco)	2018
"Varieties of Democratic Diffusion in Military Alliance Networks."	
Co-authored with Michael Coppedge.	
Varieties of Democracy: Nature, Causes, & Consequences International Conference	2016
Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame	
Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association (Baltimore)	2017
"Strategies of Domination: The Politics of Foreign Rule 1900-2015."	
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Philadelphia)	2016
Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association (Baltimore)	2017
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (San Francisco)	2017
"Varieties of Democratic Diffusion: Neighbors, Trade, and Alliance Networks"	
Co-authored with Michael Coppedge, Lucia Tiscornia, and Staffan Lindberg.	
V-Dem Internal Research Conference & Anticorrp Policy Dialogue Conference	2016
University of Gothenburg	
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Philadelphia)	2016
"Varieties of Democratic Diffusion: Colonial, Neighbor, and Trade Networks."	
Co-authored with Michael Coppedge, Lucia Tiscornia, and Staffan Lindberg.	
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (San Francisco)	2015
"Losing History In Conceptual Chaos: Foreign Rule and Relational Structures."	
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Poster - San Francisco)	2015
Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association (Atlanta)	2016
"Democratizing the Dispute: An Assessment of Democratization, Issue Saliency, and Territorial Dispute Resolution."	
Co-Authored with Krista Wiegand.	
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Philadelphia)	2016

CEEISA-ISA Joint International Conference (Ljubljana)	2016
Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association (Atlanta)	2016
"Bosnian Disconnect: EU Conditionality Policy and The Failure of Reform in Bosnia and Herzegovina."	
Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association (New Orleans)	2015
"Imposing Conflict: The Role of Institutions and Former Regime Elites in Foreign Imposed Regime Change and Civil War."	
ISAC-ISSS Annual Conference on Security Studies (Austin)	2014
"Democratizing the Dispute: An Assessment of Democratization, Issue Salience, and Territorial Dispute Resolution."	
Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association (Toronto)	2014
Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association (Washington D.C.)	2014
"Diverting the Crisis: Leadership Selection, Democracy, and Diversionary Crisis Formation."	
Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association (Toronto)	2014
"Non-Barking Dogs: The Evolution of the Negative Peace."	
Co-authored with Gary Goertz, Paul Diehl, and Paul Hensel.	
Annual Meeting of the Peace Science Society (Knoxville)	2013

Invited Talks and Presentations

"The Failure of Forcible Regime-Change Operations"	2020
Policy Forum at the Cato Institute	
"Regime Change Anxieties: The Regime Security Dilemma and Revisionist Challenges to American Hegemony"	2019
New Wave Realism Conference, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, The Ohio State University	
"The Prospects and Challenges of US-led Regime Change in Venezuela"	2019
The John Quincy Adams Society, Syracuse University	
"Toppling the Tyrant: Evaluating the Prospects of Regime Change in Venezuela"	2019
The Political Risk Working Group and the Progressive Security Working Group School of International and Public Affairs, Columbia University	
"Should America Impose Regime Change in Venezuela?"	2019
The John Quincy Adams Society, The King's College	
"The Fog of Intervention: Local Institutional Strength and the Politics of Foreign Rule Strategy"	2019
The Center for Strategic Studies, The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy Tufts University	
"Strategies of Domination: Local Institutional Strength and the Politics of Foreign Rule"	2018
The Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College	

"Getting and Using V-Dem Data" Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame	2018
"Using Data" at Varieties of Democracy Launch Workshop Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame	2016
"Democratizing the Dispute: An Assessment of Democratization, Issue Salience, and Territorial Dispute Resolution." Kroc Institute Peace and Conflict Research Workshop, University of Notre Dame	2015
"Diverting the Crisis: Elections, Democracy, and Diversionary Crisis Formation" Kellogg Institute for International Studies Democracy Working Group University of Notre Dame	2014

Multimedia Appearances

"Changing and Challenges" Counterpoint with Amanda Vanstone ABC Radio National, February 10, 2020	
"Greeted as Liberators? Regime Change and Reality" Power Problems Podcast Cato Institute, February 11, 2020	
"Regime Change: Good Policy Tool?" John Quincy Adams Society Digital Discussion April 9, 2020	
"Regime Change Follies, Venezuela Edition" Empire Has No Clothes Podcast The American Conservative, May 21, 2020	

Teaching and Research Assistant Experience

Research Assistant: Varieties of Democracy Project for Michael Coppedge University of Notre Dame	2015-2016
Teaching Assistant: On War for Sebastian Rosato University of Notre Dame	Spring 2015
Teaching Assistant: U.S. Foreign Policy for Michael Desch University of Notre Dame	Fall 2014
Teaching Assistant: Introduction to International Relations for Susan Rosato Included 2 discussion sections University of Notre Dame	Spring 2014
Teaching Assistant: Europe at War: 1900-1945 for Sebastian Rosato and John Deak Included 2 discussion sections University of Notre Dame	Spring 2014
Research Assistant for Christopher Layne Texas A&M University	2011-2012

Workshops Attended

US-Russia Security Workshop Harriman Institute, Columbia University	2019
Bridging the Gap's New Era Workshop Bridging the Gap Project	2018
The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) Syracuse University	2015
Event History & Survival Analysis Workshop Dr. Paul Allison, Philadelphia, PA	2014
Russian and East European Summer Language Institute Bosnian/Croatian/Serbian, University of Pittsburgh	2013

Professional Service

Member, Innovative Approaches to Grand Strategy Faculty Search Committee University of Notre Dame	2016
Program Coordinator, Notre Dame International Security Program University of Notre Dame	2014-2015
President, Political Science Graduate Student Organization University of Notre Dame	2013-2014
Member, Security Studies Faculty Search Committee Texas A&M University	2011

Professional Memberships

American Political Science Association (APSA)
 International Studies Association (ISA)
 British International Studies Association (BISA)

Languages

Italian - Intermediate