

Benjamin Denison

Center for Strategic Studies
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Academic Positions

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 M.A. in Political Science, May 2014	Notre Dame, IN
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, <i>magna cum laude</i> , 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](https://doi.org/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 Statebuilding"

(Revise and Resubmit at the *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding*)

"Democratizing the Dispute: Democratization, Issue Salience, and Territorial Dispute Resolution"

(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"

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"

"Varieties of Democratic Diffusion in Colonial and Military Alliance Networks"

Co-Authored with Michael Coppedge

Awards and Grants

Max Weber Fellowship (Declined) European Union Institute	2019-2020
Dartmouth Fellow in US Foreign Policy and International Security Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College	2018-2019
Kellogg Institute for International Studies Dissertation Year Fellowship University of Notre Dame	2017-2018
Paul G. Tobin Dissertation Fellowship (Declined) Nanovic Institute for European Studies, University of Notre Dame	2017-2018
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

"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 Presentations

"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 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 & Anticorrrp 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 Saliency, 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

"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" 2018
Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame

"Using Data" at Varieties of Democracy Launch Workshop 2016
Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame

"Democratizing the Dispute: An Assessment of Democratization, Issue Salience, and Territorial Dispute Resolution." 2015
Kroc Institute Peace and Conflict Research Workshop, University of Notre Dame

"Diverting the Crisis: Elections, Democracy, and Diversionary Crisis Formation" 2014
Kellogg Institute for International Studies Democracy Working Group
University of Notre Dame

Teaching and Research Experience

Research Assistant: Varieties of Democracy Project for Michael Coppedge 2015-2016
University of Notre Dame

Teaching Assistant: On War for Sebastian Rosato Spring 2015
University of Notre Dame

Teaching Assistant: U.S. Foreign Policy for Michael Desch Fall 2014

University of Notre Dame

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

References

Dr. Michael Desch (Chair)
Packey J. Dee Professor of Political Science
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Dr. Sebastian Rosato
Associate Professor, Department of Political Science
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