

Svetla Ben-Itzhak

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Academic Positions

- 2023- **Adjunct Assistant Professor**, Johns Hopkins University, SAIS, Washington DC
Deputy Director, West Space Scholars Program, Johns Hopkins University
Course Director, West Space Scholars Program, Johns Hopkins University
- 2021- **Assistant Professor**, West Space Seminar, Air War College, Montgomery AL
2021-2023 **Academic Advisor** and **Course Director**, West Space Seminar, Air War College
- 2012-2020 **Political Science Adjunct Faculty**, Department of Political Science
Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
- 2006-2020 **Applied Linguistics, English & French Language Faculty/Instructor**
English Language Program, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
Modern Languages Department, Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
- 2005-2007 **US Government Faculty**, Central Texas College, Fort Riley Military Base, KS

Education

- 2015 **Ph.D. Political Science**, International Relations & US Politics
University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS
Dissertation: "Foreign Aid and Terrorism: When is Aid Effective in Reducing Terror?"
- 2002 **M.A. Political Science**, with an additional Certificate in **International Service**
Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS
MA Thesis: "A Three-Level Resolution Model for Protracted, Intrastate Conflicts"
- 2000 **M.A. & B.A. (Maîtrise & Licence), Applied Linguistics & Scientific Translation**
(English, French, Russian). Université de Blaise Pascal, Clermont-Ferrand, France

Classes Developed and Taught

- **International Security** (and the Space Domain) - Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024
- **Space Security and Policy** – Spring 2025, Johns Hopkins Global Policy Program
- **Space Security** - Spring 2022, Spring 2024, Johns Hopkins Public Policy Program
- **Space Regional Security Studies** (varied regional foci) - Spring 2022, Fall 2023, Fall 2024
- **Global Security Threats** (International Relations) – 2017, 2018
- **US Politics** – 2012, 2018, 2019, 2020
- **Comparative Politics** - 2013
- **US Government: State and Local**- annually from 2005 to 2007
- **Linguistics/Language Acquisition**:
English (all skills, all levels), French (all skills, all levels), ~6-7 courses/year from 2009 to 2020

Research Interests

Space: Space Theory, Space Security, Quantitative Study of Space Power Capabilities
International Relations: Anarchy and State Survival (Theory), International Cooperation, Foreign Aid, Political Instability & Terrorism, Relative Deprivation and Political Violence

Book

Space Security, manuscript completed, second and final revision - under contract, *the MIT Press*

Peer-Reviewed Articles

- 2025 **"The Potential for Conflict in Cislunar Space: Findings from a TableTop Exercise,"** with Borowitz, Moltz, Hines, Rubin, and Miller, *Space Policy*, May 30. [LINK](#)
- 2024/25 **"The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Space Operations,"** *SAIS Review of International Affairs*, Fall-Spring, [LINK](#)
- 2024 **"International Relations Theory, Space Theory, and the Space Weaponization Debate,"** in the Handbook of Space Policy, ch 3. December [LINK](#)
- 2024 **"The Role of Commercial Actors and States in Space Travel and Exploration,"** in the Handbook of Space Policy, ch 6. December, [LINK](#)
- 2024 **"Network Analysis of International Cooperation in Space 1958-2023: Evidence of Space Blocs"** *Journal of Peace Research*, 62(3):517-537. [LINK](#)
- 2023 **"Securing the Space Domain with Active Orbital Debris Removal: Lessons from Europe and Japan Towards a U.S. Strategy"** *Astropolitics*, October, pp. 2-25 (with Kathleen Sullivan). [LINK](#)
- 2023 **"US & European Energy Security Amid Great Power Competition,"** *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, pp.13-26. (with Shawn Willis and Anthony Rizzuto) [LINK](#)
- 2021 **"On the Varying Effectiveness of Computer/Mobile-Assisted Language Learning,"** *International Journal of Education and Development using ICT* 17 (3).
- 2020 **"O Uso De Telefones Celulares Como Ferramentas Pedagógicas Propulsoras Da Motivação E Da Interação"** in *Perspectivas Para O Ensino De Línguas*. (with Marco De Araújo & Thiago Moraes)
- 2011 **"Realism and Neorealism,"** in *21st Century Political Science: A Reference Handbook*, ed by J. Ishiyama & M. Breuning, SAGE Publications, ch. 37, pp. 311-319.
- 2011 **"Islamic Political Thought,"** in *21st Century Political Science: A Reference Handbook*, ed by J. Ishiyama & M. Breuning, SAGE, ch. 67, pp. 568-577.

Public Writing

- 2024 **"SpaceX's Elon Musk endorsed Donald Trump for president – what this could mean for US space policy,"** *The Conversation*, Aug 13, 2024. [LINK](#) *
- 2023 **"Is the US in a space race against China?"** *The Conversation*, April 12. [LINK](#)

Public Writing (cont.):

- 2022 **"Space Technology and Its Impact on Humanity,"** Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania, workshop proceedings on "Challenges and Opportunities at The Dawn of The New Space Age," Sept 30. [LINK](#)
- 2022 **"NASA is crashing a spacecraft into an asteroid to test a plan that could one day save Earth from catastrophe,"** *The Conversation*, Sept 22. [LINK](#) *
- 2022 **"The Changing Dynamics of International Cooperation in Space: Network Analysis of Space Blocs,"** 73rd International Astronautical Congress, Paris, France, Sept 19.
- 2022 **"What Russia's ISS Withdrawal Means for Space Power Configurations,"** *Australian Outlook*, Australian Institute of International Affairs, Aug 4. [LINK](#)
- 2022 **"NASA's head warned that China may try to claim the Moon – two space scholars explain why that's unlikely to happen,"** *The Conversation*, July 8 (with L. Hines). [LINK](#)
- 2022 **"Planning Earth's defence against cosmic objects,"** *360Info Special Report*, Monash University, Australia, by invitation for the UN International Asteroid Day, June 30. [LINK](#)
- 2022 **"Space Blocs: The future of international cooperation in space is splitting along lines of power on Earth,"** *The Conversation*, April 21. [LINK](#) *
- 2022 **"An asteroid impact could wipe out an entire city – a space security expert explains NASA's plans to prevent a potential catastrophe,"** *The Conversation*, March 1. [LINK](#)
- 2022 **"Companies are Commercializing Outer Space. Do Government Programs Still Matter?"** *The Washington Post*, Jan 11. [LINK](#)

*My articles in *The Conversation* have been read by > 440,000 worldwide and translated into numerous languages.

Invited Academic Talks

The International Institute for Strategic Studies, Washington DC,

Topic: The Future of Space Policy: IR and Space Theory, March 11, 2025

Reischauer Center for East Asia Studies, Johns Hopkins University – Keynote address

Topic: Space Security, Space Sustainability, and Orbital Debris, February 10, 2025

Johns Hopkins University, SAIS – ILE, Course: Leadership in the Space Domain Course

Topic: European Space Politics, Spring, 2024; Spring, 2025

Institut d'Études de Stratégie et de Défense (IESD) under the French Ministry of Defence, France

Topic: Space Blocs: The Reorganization of Power Dynamics in Outer Space

Inaugural Lecture, Feb 20, 2024.

Summer Workshop on Teaching Space (SWOTS), Montgomery, Alabama, July 28, 2022

Topic: France's Space Capabilities and Aspirations

Air Command and Staff College, Faculty Forum, April 17, 2022

Topic: Introducing the Space Power Capabilities Database (SPOC)

University of Pennsylvania, World Perry House, March 21, 2022

Topic: The Future of Space Technology and Its Impacts on Humanity

Air War College, Regional Security Studies Course, SLE, Spring 2022

Lecture 1 Topic: British Space Power | Lecture 2 Topic: French Space Power

Conference Presentations/Talks/Workshops

Securing Space: Current Threats, Future Challenges, and Career Trajectories, Faculty Forum, Johns Hopkins University, May 7, 2024.

International Cooperation in Near-Earth and Cislunar Space: A Network Analysis Approach
Space Research Colloquia, US Space Force PME, Johns Hopkins University, April 9, 2025

On Cooperative Network Dynamics in Cislunar Space

"Far Out! Cislunar Research Forum" organized by US Space Force Delta 13 and Foreign Policy Institute, Johns Hopkins University, March 26, 2025

Patterns of International Cooperation in Cislunar Space

- International Studies Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, March 5, 2025
- Cislunar Security Conference, Applied Physics Lab, Johns Hopkins University, Dec 5, 2024
- International Astronautical Congress, Milan, Italy, Oct 15, 2024.

Panel: The Future of Space Exploration and Innovation

Making Rules for the Moon: Challenges of Multi-Stakeholder Regime Building in Semi-governed Spaces, Roundtable

International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, March 4, 2025

Panel: Science, Technology and Art in International Relations

Why do Authoritarian Regimes Educate? (updated)

International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, March 2, 2025 ,

Panel: Education and Learning in International Affairs

The Use of Artificial Intelligence in Space Capabilities - special panel organized by the *SAIS Review of International Affairs*, February 19, 2025

Current International Approaches to Planetary Defense: Framework and Problematics, *lightning talk*, Cislunar Security Conference, Johns Hopkins, Applied Physics Lab, Dec 7, 2024

Security Challenges in Space, roundtable, by invitation.

The International Institute for Strategic Studies, Washington DC, June 11, 2024.

Europe and International Regime Formation in Cislunar Space

International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, April 4, 2024

Panel: Multi-stakeholder Regime Formation for Cislunar Space Governance

International Relations Theory and their Impact on the Space Weaponization Debate

International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, April 3, 2024

Panel: Outer Space and International Security

Forecasting Future Tie Formation in International Cooperation in Cislunar Space

Applied Physics Lab: Cislunar Security Conference, Johns Hopkins University, Dec 8, 2023

Network Analysis of International Cooperation in Space

International Studies Association, Annual Convention, Montreal, Canada, March 18, 2023

Panel: Navigating Cooperation and Competition in Outer Space

Using the Space Power Capabilities Database

International Studies Association, Annual Convention, Montreal, Canada, March 15, 2023

Panel: Space, Conflict and Colonialism

The Changing Dynamics of International Cooperation in Space: A Network Analysis Approach

International Astronautical Congress, Paris. France, Sept 19, 2022

Panel: The Future of Space Innovation and Exploration

Conference Presentations/Talks/Workshops (cont.)

Power in Space Politics

International Studies Association's Annual Convention, Memphis, Tennessee, April 1, 2022
Panel: The Evolving Context of Security in Airpower and Space

On Space Theory, ESSCA Space Policy Workshop *and*

2021: The End of Government Monopoly of Space Travel and Exploration?

European Space Agency (ESA/ESRIN), Frascati, Rome, Italy, Nov 2021

The Predictive Power of Structural Realism - International Studies Association's 61st Annual Convention, Honolulu, Hawaii, 2020, *Panel: Re-Examining Realisms*

Current Power Configuration in Space Politics

International Studies Association 60th Annual Convention, Toronto, Canada, 2019
Panel: Politics of Outer Space: Power, Competition and Cooperation

Anarchy and State Survival

International Studies Association 60th Annual Convention, Toronto, Canada, 2019
Panel: Rethinking the Origins of State Sovereignty and the International System

Mapping International Cooperation in Space Exploration - International Studies Association's 58th Annual Convention, Baltimore, 2017 - *Panel: Understanding Change in World Politics*

Scientific Progress and Political Stability or Why States Should Invest in Research and Development, International Studies Association 58th Annual Convention, Baltimore, 2017

Foreign Aid and Terrorism, International Studies Association's 57th Annual Convention, 2016

The Linkages of Poverty and Foreign Aid to Political Stability in Weak and Fragile Sub-Saharan African States: 1990-2007, International Studies Association's 51st Annual Convention, New Orleans, 2010. *Panel: Aid, Trade, and Finance*

A Three-Level Resolution Model for Protracted, Intrastate Conflicts, International Studies Association's 46th Annual Convention, Honolulu, 2005

On Intrastate Conflict Resolution, Research Seminar, Department of International Relations, Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Jerusalem, Israel. 2005

It All Starts from the Roots: on Conventional Resolution Methods, Research Colloquia, Political Science Department, Kansas State U, Manhattan, KS 2002

Resolution Models for Internal Conflicts, Graduate Research Forum
Kansas State University, Manhattan, KS, Spring, 2002

Research Grants:

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|-----------|---|
| 2023-2025 | Minerva/DECUR DoD Grant (\$394,651)
Topic: Understanding Multi-stakeholder Regime Formation: The Case of Cislunar Space
Team: Ben-Itzhak with Dr. M. Borowitz, Dr. L. Rubin, and Dr. L. Hines (Georgia Tech), Dr. C. Moltz (Naval Postgrad), and Dr. G. Miller (Johns Hopkins/ACSC). |
| 2020-2021 | African Union Grant FHI360. Principal Writer of the Concept Design (\$103,566)
Kansas State University, ELP, June 2020.
Team: Ben-Itzhak with Ketty Reppert and Andrea Law (KSU) |
| 2005 | Davis Center Research Grant. Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Israel. (\$4,000) |

Quantitative Database

The **Space Power Capabilities (SPOC)** database - compiling 40+ quantitative measures of national space power capabilities. Since 2021. Completed. Will be made available soon, free of charge, to all.

Current Projects

Book:

Space Security. Manuscript completed and submitted .

Expected print: 2026. (under contract with *the MIT Press*)

Research Grant

Minerva/DECUR DoD Grant 2022-2024.

Topic: Understanding Multi-stakeholder Regime Formation: The Case of Cislunar Space, - *in progress.* At least two papers:

- (1) **"Theory and Practice in International Regime Formation"** - to be submitted to *Space Policy* (with Mariel Borowitz and Lawrence Rubin)
- (2) **"European Shareholders' Concerns for International Regime Formation in Cislunar Space,"** - content analysis of primary sources, to be presented to the US Department of Defense and to be submitted in a special issue on regime formation and space policy.

Quantitative Database

The Space Power Capabilities Database (SPOC) - collecting, updating, and disseminating a quantitative database - the first of its kind - that assesses space power capabilities along 40+ quantitative vectors.

Compiled and ready; will be made shortly available, free of charge, at spocdata.org or via Johns Hopkins University.

Additional Working Papers (at various levels of completion)

- **Planetary Defense: Where Neorealism and Neoliberalism Intersect** - to be submitted to *International Affairs*
- **On the Polemics of Space Weapons** - to be submitted to *Astropolitics*
- **Who is the Loudest? International Relations Theories and their Impact on the Space Weaponization Debate** - to be submitted to *International Studies Perspectives*
- **Commercializing Outer Space: Past, Present, and Future** - to be submitted to *Space Policy On Defining Space Security* - to be submitted to *Space Policy*
- **Why Do Authoritarian Regimes Educate, World Politics**
- **The Relative Efficacy of Foreign Aid as a Counterterrorist Tool** - *Public Choice*
- **Scientific Progress and Political Stability: Why States Should Invest in Research and Development** - to be submitted to *International Affairs*
- **Comparative Analysis of British and French Space Aspirations** - to be submitted to the *European Journal of International Relations*
- **The Predictive Power of Structural Realism** - to be submitted to the *American Journal of Political Science*

Completed articles (stage: journal selection):

- "International Cooperation as an Approach to Space Security"
- "Critical Satellites Network and Their Impact on Individuals, States, and the System"
- "The Role of Orbital Debris in Space Security"
- "Space Terrorism"
- "The Impact of Emerging Space Technologies on Humanity"
- "Que Imus: Space Sustainability and Space Governance"

Faculty Research Advisor

2024-2025 (Johns Hopkins University – Space PME) – *awards currently under consideration*

- **Col Andy Wang**, USSF, *Topic*: Defining the Line: Building Deterrence in Space Through Norms and Clarity, **Winner of the Global Perspective Award**
- **Col Joan Thomson**, USSF, *Topic*: The Making of a Guardian: Identity Formation in the Final Frontier, **Winner of the Commandant's Award**
- **Col Ross Kinkead**, US Air Force, *Topic*: Democratized Space Data and its Influence on Modern Warfare
- **Col Benjamin Martin**, USSF, *Topic*: Unlocking the Soft Power Potential of the USSF
Winner of the Driving Change Award
- **LTC April Foley**, US Space Force, *Topic*: The Strategic Importance of SDA for Deterrence
- **LTC Christina Balocki**, Air National Guard
Topic: Rhetoric v. Reality: The Chinese Space Narrative
- **LTC Fabien Niel**, French Space Force
Topic: Integrating Space Deterrence: A French Perspective
- **LTC Josh Edwards**, US Marine Corps, *Topic*: The Future of the USSF: Redefining the Organizational Structure and Command and Control

2023-2024 (Johns Hopkins University – Space PME)

- **LtCol Harald Katin**, Germany Air and Space Force
Topic: Germany's Role in Shaping a Collaborative Space Security Policy for Europe.
- **CDR Mate Aerandir**, USN. *Topic*: Potential for Military Conflict in Space for Resources
Winner of the Dean of Space Education Award
- **LtCol Justin Moeykens**, USMC.
Topic: Capitalizing on the Entertainment Industry for Deception Operations in Space
- **LtCol Leah Shubin**, USSF. *Topic*: The Case for Cooperation in Space
- **LtCol Tillis Marshall**, USSF. *Topic*: Enabling USSF Theory of Success through Space Policy
Winner of the Commandant's Award
Winner of the Driving Change Award

2022-2023 (Air War College, West Space Seminar)

LtCol Kathleen M. Sullivan, USSF

Topic: The Case for an Active US Orbital Debris Removal Strategy

Published in *Astropolitics*, 2023 (October) as "Securing the Space Domain with Active Orbital Debris Removal: Lessons from Europe and Japan Towards a U.S. Strategy" [LINK](#)

LtCol Emma Palombi, Italian Air Force, *Topic*: NATO's Role in Space

Winner of the 2023-2024 Douhet-Mitchell International Airpower AWC Award

Published in the *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, 2023 (May-June), pp. 48-80. [LINK](#)

LtCol James R. G. Brown, United Kingdom Royal Air Force

Topic: How should the UK Develop its Future Space Capabilities?

2021-2022 (Air War College, West Space Seminar)

Lt Col Justin Hodge, US Space Force, *Topic*: Security Cooperation in the Space Warfighting Domain: The Case for Increased Partnership with India

Winner of the 2021-2022 Air War College Research Excellence Award

Lt Col Lars Bibow, Germany Air Force

Topic: Space System Architectures How to Improve the Resiliency of the German Armed Forces Space Communication Services

Roslyn Barbee, United Space Force Acquisitions Officer

Topic: The Impact of Decreasing Launch Costs on Future Space Acquisition Efforts

Academic Service

Deputy Director, West Space Scholars Program, Johns Hopkins University, 2023-present.
Course Director, International Security and the Space Domain, West Space Scholars Program, Johns Hopkins University, 2023-present.
Chair, Defense Culture Award Committee, Johns Hopkins University, 2023-2024.
Member, International Security/Strategy Hiring Committee, Johns Hopkins University, 2024.
Course Director, International Security, West Space Seminar, Air War College, 2022-2023.
Course Director, International Security, West Space Seminar, Air War College, 2021-2021.
Academic Advisor, West Space Seminar students, Air War College, 2022-2023.
Academic Advisor, West Space Seminar students, Air War College, 2021-2022.
Member, West Space Student Selection Committee, Air War College, 2022-2023.
Participant, WSS/ASCS curriculum development, 2022-2023.
Member, Research Excellence Award Faculty Committee, Air War College, 2021-2022.
Member, Maj Gen Edward G Landsdale International Affairs Award Committee, Air War College, 2021- 2022.
Faculty Field Trip Leader/Instructor – Space Regional Security Studies (SRSS)- taught, led, and assisted with the following SRSS trips:
Germany, January 2024 (Johns Hopkins University)
France, February 2023 (Air War College)
US Space, October 2022 (Air War College)
United Kingdom, March 2022 (Air War College)
Attended and provided written feedback on numerous **DEI job talks and candidates**, Air War College, 2021-2022, 2022-2023
Attended and provided feedback on **operational design briefs** given by West Space Seminar students on numerous occasions: Strategic Leadership Course, Foundations of Strategy Course, End-of-Semester Space Security Briefs, Air War College, 2021-2022.
Seminar Leader - led 2 class sessions on Russia and Russian space capabilities, National Security Forum, Air War College, May 2022 and May 2023.
Assisted with **Final Capstone Projects**, Air War College, May 2022 and May 2023.
Member, Outreach Planning Committee, English Language Program (ELP), Kansas State University, 2010-2015.
Member, Strategic Planning Committee, ELP, Kansas State University, 2010-2015.
Member, Technology Committee, ELP, Kansas State University, 2014-2018.
Contributing Writer to the ELP Tech Committee blog: Tech News for ELP Teachers.
Trained practicum MA ESL students, 2012-2013.

Professional and Personal Interest Memberships

Member of two Johns Hopkins-Applied Physics Lab working groups (currently, under DARPA):
LOGIC – the Lunar operating guidelines for infrastructure consortium
LSIC - the Lunar Surface Innovation Consortium
Member, American Institute of Aeronautics and Astronautics (AIAA)
Member, American Political Science Association (APSA)
Member, International Studies Association (ISA)
Member, National Space Society (NSS)
Member, Kalamazoo Astronomical Society (KAS)

Professional Service

Initiated and Organized: the **Space Research Colloquia**, School of Advanced International Studies, Johns Hopkins University, August 2024- Present

Advised the United Nations Development Program on issues in institutional governance in near-earth and cislunar space, Sept 23, 2024

Organized and Hosted (with the Minerva team) the **International Regime Formation in Cislunar Space** Workshop, Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC, March 21-22, 2024

Consulted by **NASA's Office of Technology, Policy & Strategy** on networks and international partnerships in space Spring 2023

Participant, European Space Agency's (ESA) high-level Strategic Foresight Workshop - by invitation of ESA's Director General –on the future of the ESA & the European space sector.

Consultant and Reviewer, **the RAND Foundation**, discussed and reviewed a 'SEED' project on network analysis and space governance, Fall, 2023

Peer Reviewer for:

Center for Strategic and International Studies, Aerospace, International Studies Review, Space Policy, RAND Foundation, The MIT Press, Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies Journal, US Army War College Press, Routledge, Cengage, Journal of African Studies and Development, McGraw-Hill, Sage Education Publishing

Panel Chair/Discussant

- "International Spacepower," Space Research Forum, Johns Hopkins University, May 13, 2025.
- "Space, Territory, and Migration Policy," ISA, Chicago, March 2, 2025.
- "Space Debris and Physical Security," 3rd Annual Space Research Forum, Johns Hopkins University, Washington DC, May 13-14, 2024.
- 'Cooperation and Competition in Science and Technology', International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, April 3, 2024
- 'International Spacepower,' West Space Seminar/Schriever Space Scholars research capstone, April 25, 2023
- 'Russia Challenges,' West Space Seminar/Schriever Space Scholars research capstone, May 2022
- 'Comparative Space Policies,' Summer Workshop on Teaching Space, Montgomery, AL, 2021
- 'Foreign Aid and Autocracies,' International Studies Association, March 26, 2020, online.
- 'Living with Terrorism,' International Forum, Kansas State University, April 10, 2002

Community Service

Met with and was interviewed by a bright 10th grader highschooler, Teresa Roberts, writing a research paper for an advanced level research class at Reservoir High School, Maryland on **"Space Politics and the Polemics of Mining in Space"**, Dec 12, 2024

C-SPAN Documentary on **"War in Orbit: The Fight for the Final Frontier"**, interviewed by three inquisitive 8th graders – Leo, Nikhil, and Jasper, from Eastern Magnet Middle School, Silver Spring, Maryland, Dec 22, 2023.

Their documentary **won 2nd place** nationwide. It aired on C-SPAN in March, 2024. [LINK](#)

Recognitions and Awards

Professor of the Year Award, 2024-2025, US Space Force Professional Military Education, Johns Hopkins University, based on teaching, research, and service excellence.

Department of Defense Yearly Appraisal: Outstanding: 5/5 in all 3 categories: teaching, research, service, 2024-2025, 2023/24, 2022/23, 2021/22

Teaching Excellence. Consistently ranked in the upper 90 percentile (based on students' TEVALs) at all 3 academic institutions: Johns Hopkins University, Air War College, Kansas State University, 2006-Present

Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society inductee (academic excellence). University of Kansas, Lawrence, KS, USA. Member: 2012-Present

Walter Thomson Research Scholarship recipient. University of Kansas. 2008

Golden Key International Honor Society member. University of Kansas, since 2008

Phi Kappa Phi National Academic Honor Society (academic excellence). KSU, since 2002

Sigma Iota Rho International Affairs Honors Society inductee. 2001

Graduate Teaching/Research Assistantship recipient. 2000-2001 and 2001-2002

Russian Department Honor Scholarship recipient. Clermont-Ferrand, France, 1997

Media Interviews (in chronological order)

El Mercurio, "On Chile, China, and Outer Space," May 2, 2025. (in Spanish)

Rzeczpospolita. "On Elon Musk and the Space race," April 11, 2025. [LINK](#) (in Polish)

Forbes. "ISS Astronauts Push Back...", March 25, 2025. [LINK](#)

Forbes. "The US May Leave the ISS in 2027: What this means for space relations," Feb 24, 2025. [LINK](#)

Bloomberg. "State Ambitions in Space: the US, Iran, and beyond," Feb 11, 2025.

Johns Hopkins University Magazine. "Space Initiatives at Johns Hopkins University," Feb 2, 2025.

SkyNews. "Trump's New Space Policy," Jan 21, 2025, [LINK](#)

ViaSatellite, "What a Trump or Harris Election Win Means for the Space and Satellite Industry," October 21, 2024, [LINK](#)

The Strait Times, "Race to the Red Planet: China accelerates Mars mission timeline, signals confidence in exploration, Sept 23, 2024, [LINK](#)

South China Morning Post, "What Musk's Endorsement of Trump would mean for US space policy," July 27, 2024. [LINK](#)

Metro World News (in Spanish) on "The Space Race", July 4, 2024, [LINK](#)

Newsweek on "Asteroid Size of Washington Monument to Pass Close to Earth, NASA Says," June 21, 2024, [LINK](#)

Agence France Press on "Misinformation and the Space Race," July 1, 2024.

POLITICO on "Chang'e 6 lunar landing," June 6, 2024. [LINK](#)

TV interview for Documentary on "**Orbital Revolution**" by TV crew Układ Sił from Poland, Ministry of Culture. in person, crew flew to Johns Hopkins University, May 24, 2024,

The Guardian/Reuters on "The new 'space race'," May 4, 2024. [LINK](#)

Deutsche Welle/PBS, TV live interview on "Current and Future Space Capabilities", May 3, 2024, [LINK](#)

Media Interviews *(cont.)*

NPR on "China has big plans for its space program", April 29, 2024.

CNA on "To the Moon, Mars and Beyond", April 29, 2024. [LINK](#)

NPR on "China launches a new crew to its space station, advancing toward lunar mission," April 25, 2024. [LINK](#)

Newsweek on "NEOs, PHOs, and Asteroid 2023 TM3", Oct 10, 2023. [LINK](#)

Scientific American on "Russia's Luna 25 launch and space aspirations," August 18, 2023 [LINK](#)

Finland's Helsingin Sanomat, Foreign News, on "The Power of Satellites: the case of US, China, and Europe," June 29, 2023.

The Indian Express on "Chinese and Indian Space Aspirations" June 7, 2023. [LINK](#)

The Eurasian Times on "Russia's Nuclear-Powered Orbital Debris 2030 Cleaning Projects" April 20, 2023. [LINK](#)

Canadian Public Radio, Global News: The Roy Green Show, LIVE interview on "Is there a Space Race?" April 16, 2023.

Elsevier Weekblad (EW), a leading Dutch news weekly on "China + Russia vs the US + the West space capabilities", March 23, 2023.

The Daily Beast on "Privatizing Space Defenses", March 6, 2023. [LINK](#)

The Eurasian Times on "Space Weapons and Hypothetical Tectonic Devices" Feb 25, 2023

Space.com on "The Polaris Mission and the Future of Commercial Human Spaceflight," Feb 14, 2023. [LINK](#)

Newsweek on "Artemis Viper rover vs. China's Zhu Rong rover: Does copyright exist in space technology?" November 3, 2022. [LINK](#)

BBC World News, TV LIVE interview on "The Artemis Program and Power Configurations in Space," August 29, 2022. [LINK](#)

Australian Broadcast Corporation/Australia National Radio: Sunday Extra, LIVE interview on "Russia's 2024 withdrawal from the ISS, China's space station, and the future of international cooperation in space," July 30, 2022. [LINK](#)

Morning Rush, on Newsy, LIVE interview on "China's Lunar Aspirations," July 13, 2022.

The Conversation Weekly Podcast on "Is current space law equipped to handle a new era of shifting power structures in space?", April 29, 2022. [LINK](#)

TRT World UK/Turkey Roundtable Broadcast on "Space: Is Elon Musk writing the rules of space?" on a LIVE panel with Holger Krag, Head of ESA's space safety program, and Michael Byers, Co-Director of the Canadian Outer Space Institute, January 20, 2022

Videos produced based on my articles:

Who Owns Space? animated by Cosmoknowledge – [LINK](#) based on my article "Space Blocs: The future of international cooperation in space is splitting along lines of power on Earth," *The Conversation*, April 21, 2022

NASA's Plan to Stop an Asteroid Strike animated by Cosmoknowledge – [LINK](#) based on my article "An asteroid impact could wipe out an entire city – a space security expert explains NASA's plans to prevent a potential catastrophe," *The Conversation*. March 1, 2022.

Quoted In (select):

EU Reporter. “The battle for the Moon and spy satellites,” [LINK](#), Feb 14, 2025.

Sankyung Today, “U.S. Presidential Election and Prospects for Space Policy” [LINK](#), Oct 31, 2024.

Space.com, “The Polaris Program: One big step for civilian spaceflight,” [LINK](#), Sept 17, 2024

GeekWeek (in Polish), [LINK](#), July 19, 2024.

Business Insider in “The moon is open for business, and entrepreneurs are racing to make billions,” Aug 8, 2023. [LINK](#)

Wikipedia on the “Billionaire Space Race” and “The US”, [LINK](#)

The Eurasian Times in ‘Keep Out, This Is Our Territory’: China Could Gobble Moon as It Is Doing With South China Sea,” Feb 12, 2023. [LINK](#)

Newsweek in “We’re in a New Cold War in Space: China Plans to Take Over the Moon” Jan 9, 2023. [LINK](#)

PBS News Hour in “NASA crashes spacecraft into an asteroid in an attempt to knock it off course,” Sept 6, 2022, and part of their Science Section since Sept 2022.

China Daily in “Space cooperation is now in the balance,” Nov 30, 2022. [LINK](#)

Numerous reprints of my articles, including in (select):

Asia Times in “US still a giant leap ahead of China in space,” April 13, 2023. [LINK](#)

NextGov.org, reprint/repost of all my articles, [LINK](#)

World Economic Forum. reprint of my article “NASA is planning to crash a spacecraft into an asteroid,” Agenda Contributor, Sept 23, 2022.

Yahoo News1, reprint of my article “Space Blocs: The future of international cooperation in space is splitting along lines of power on Earth,” April 21, 2022.

Yahoo News2, reprint of my article “NASA's head warned that China may try to claim the Moon” (with L. R. Hines), July 8, 2022.

Phys.org, reprint of my article “NASA's head warned that China may try to claim the Moon” (with L. R. Hines), July 11, 2022.

Science on the Wire, reprint of my article “The Future of Cooperation in Space is Splitting Along Lines of Power on Earth, April 24, 2022.

The World, reprint of my article “NASA's head warned that China may try to claim the Moon” (with L. R. Hines), July 29, 2022.

The Science Times, in “NASA Fears China Taking Over Moon: What Did International Space Law Say About This Matter?” July 10, 2022.

Astronomy Magazine online, since 2022, [LINK](#)

Articles translated into > 15 languages, including *(select)*:

Albania, LINK	Italy, LINK and LINK
Brazil: Planeta, LINK	Malaysia, LINK
China: LINK	Mexico, LINK and LINK
Croatia, LINK	Poland, LINK
Chile, LINK	Portugal, LINK
Greece, LINK and LINK	Russia, LINK
Hungary, LINK and LINK	Slovakia, LINK
Korea, LINK and LINK	Spain: LINK
India: LINK	Sweden, LINK
Indonesia, LINK LINK	Venezuela, LINK
Iran, LINK	Vietnam, LINK and LINK
	Turkey, LINK

Computer Languages & Programs

Computer: **STATA, Gephi/Network Analysis, R, SPSS, and LyX/Latex** (basic)

Quantitative and qualitative methods

Experience with **large cross-national, longitudinal datasets** (both compiling and using)

Human Languages

English, French, Bulgarian - fluent

Hebrew, Russian – proficient

Spanish, Macedonian, Serbian - understanding

Personal Interests

Stargazing/Astrophysics, Egyptology/Reading Hieroglyphs, reading, biking, gardening.

Hiking Club of Manhattan (founder)