

Adam M. McMahon

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EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

May 2018 (expected)

The Graduate Center, City University of New York

Dissertation: "State Unbuilding: Presidents & the American National Security State, 1952-2016"

Committee: Profs. Andrew J. Polsky (Chair), Peter J. Liberman, Charles Tien

At war's end, presidents take advantage of the context they inherit in order to reduce the size of the national security state. By analyzing federal spending for the Department of Defense and archival material from presidential libraries, I argue that presidents can influence the trajectory of the national security state more than its size. Even when there is consensus among members of Congress about American foreign policy goals, the legislature does not give the executive adequate budgetary powers to see these objectives accomplished. The result is innovation; presidents implement new policies, embrace new solutions to old policy problems, and pursue alternatives in order to secure greater reductions in defense spending. The relevance of this research is increasingly evident given the rise of a permanent national security state over the past six decades, as well as the United States' continued engagement in wars throughout the world.

Master of Science in Political Science

August 2011

Portland State University

Thesis: "From Blooming Judicial Philosophies to Castrated Legislation: Sexuality, Desire, and Nominations to the Supreme Court of the United States"

Committee: Profs. Christopher Shortell (Chair), Richard Clucas, Bruce Gilley

Bachelor of Arts in Political Science & Spanish

May 2005

Bowling Green State University

Pi Sigma Alpha Political Science Honor Society

PUBLICATIONS

"Unchained Succubus: A Queer New Institutional Analysis of U.S. Supreme Court Nomination Hearings," *Politics & Gender* 13, no. 4 (December 2017), p. 683-709.

"Peace Dividends: President Eisenhower and the Unbuilding of the American National Security State," with Andrew J. Polsky in *The Eisenhower Presidency: Lessons for the Twenty-First Century*. 2015. Lexington Books.

Book review, "Choosing to Lead: Understanding Congressional Foreign Policy Entrepreneurs," by Ralph G. Carter and James M. Scott (2009). *Political Studies Review* 9, no. 1 (January 2011).

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"Less is More: Eisenhower, Carter, & Security-Based Retrenchment," (in progress)

CONFERENCE PAPERS

“JFK, George W., & Men on the Moon”

Northeastern Political Science Association 49th Annual Meeting, November 9-11, 2017.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

“The National Security State at Détente’s End: Lessons from the Vietnam War”

American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 1-4, 2016.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

“Barack Obama and the Unbuilding of the American National Security State”

The Barack Obama Presidency: Legacy and Record Conference, University of Mount
Union, March 10-11, 2016.
Alliance, Ohio

“In Search of a Peace Dividend: Cutting U.S. Defense Spending After the Cold War”

Northeastern Political Science Association 47th Annual Meeting, November 12-14, 2015.
Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

“Sexual Scandal in the Digital Age” with Charles Anthony Smith

American Political Science Association Annual Conference, August 29-September 1,
2013. Chicago, Illinois

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Hunter College, CUNY

Fall 2012 – present

Adjunct Lecturer

Courses taught as Instructor of Record: American Government: A Historical Introduction (POLSC 110), Public Opinion & Political Participation (POLSC 215), Presidency in Crisis (POLSC 217.20), Research Design in Political Science (POLSC 206), American Presidency (POLSC 230), American Congress (POLSC 235), Constitutional Law: Civil Rights (POLSC 341)

Marymount Manhattan College

Spring 2018

Adjunct Lecturer

Teaching Political Participation as Instructor of Record

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The Morgan Library and Museum

Summer 2017

American Presidents Series project

The Graduate Center, CUNY

Fall 2011 – Spring 2012

Research assistant, Distinguished Professor Uday S. Mehta

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Presidency Research Fund Grant

Spring 2016

APSA Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs

Altfest Graduate Summer Internship Summer 2016
Public Relations Intern at Salon Media Group

Doctoral Student Research Grant Summer 2016
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Knickerbocker Archival Research Grant in American Studies Summer 2014
Graduate Center Archival Research Conference

Graduate Fellow, Office of Career Planning & Professional Development Summer 2013 & 2014
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Student Fellow & Research Assistant, Mellon Sawyer Seminar Series Fall 2012 – Spring 2013
“Democratic Citizenship and the Recognition of Cultural Differences”
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Enhanced Chancellor’s Fellowship Fall 2011 – Spring 2016
The Graduate Center, CUNY

INVITED TALKS

“Open Educational Resources and Zero Cost Courses: Principles and Practices,”
Lunchtime seminar for the Academic Center for Excellence in Research and Teaching,
October 26, 2017, Hunter College.

“How to Cut Defense Spending,” guest lecture presented to Professor Sherrie Baver’s Master’s
Core Seminar class, September 26, 2017, The Graduate Center, CUNY.

“Archival Research at Presidential Libraries,” guest lecture presented to Professor Heath
Brown’s Master’s Core Seminar class, November 15, 2016, The Graduate Center,
CUNY.

“National Security & Election 2016: Status Quo versus the Unknown,” talk for The State of the
Presidential Race and Its Meaning panel, September 20, 2016, The Graduate Center,
CUNY.

UNIVERSITY SERVICE

The Graduate Center, CUNY
Doctoral Students’ Council, Officer for Student Life and Services Fall 2013 – Summer 2014

Doctoral Students’ Council, at-large representative Fall 2013 – Spring 2014

Political Science Graduate Student Association, committee member Fall 2012 – Spring 2014

Political Science Elections Committee Fall 2012 – Spring 2014

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS

American Political Science Association, member

SKILLS

Proficient in MS Office, WordPress, SPSS, Stata, Atlas.ti.