

Adam M. McMahon

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www.adammcmahon.net

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science

May 2018

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

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

EMPLOYMENT

Visiting Assistant Professor

Fall 2022 – current

Department of Political Science

The College of New Jersey

Ewing Township, New Jersey

Assistant Professor II

Fall 2018 – current (on leave 2022-2023)

Department of Political Science

Director, Homeland Security Master's Program

Spring 2019 – Spring 2022

Rider University

Lawrenceville, New Jersey

PUBLISHED ARTICLES

"To the Moon and Back: Reexamining Presidential Decision-Making and the Apollo Program,"
(forthcoming in *Space Policy*)

"Layering and the Foundations of the Modern American Surveillance State, 1970-2020," *Intelligence and National Security* 35, no. 6 (2020).

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

BOOK CHAPTERS

"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 REVIEWS

Subtle Tools: The Dismantling of American Democracy from the War on Terror to Donald Trump, by
Karen Greenberg (Princeton University Press, 2021) in *Peace & Change* (forthcoming).

Nixon's FBI: Hoover, Watergate, and a Bureau in Crisis, by Melissa Graves (Lynne Rienner Publishers: 2020) in *Congress & the Presidency* 48, no. 3 (2021).

War and the Rogue Presidency: Restoring the Republic after Congressional Failure, by Ivan Eland (The Independent Institute: 2019) in *Political Science Quarterly* 135, no. 3 (Fall 2020).

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

WORKING MANUSCRIPTS

Taming the Beast: Presidential Decision-Making and the National Security State (book-length manuscript in progress)

“Identifying QAnon Conspiracy Theory Adherent Types,” as second author with Colton R. Westmark (invited to revise and resubmit)

“Diplomatic Security Failure in Benghazi, Libya, September 11, 2012,” as second author with Brian J. Constantine (under review)

“Do Us A Favor Though’: Presidents and Foreign Policy Scandals” (in progress)

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Obama versus Osama: Presidential Authorization of Risky Covert Operations”
Conference on the Obama Presidency, Hofstra University, April 19-23, 2023.
Hempstead, New York

“I Will Not Pass This Responsibility’: Biden & the Withdrawal from Afghanistan”
American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 15-18, 2022.
Montreal, Quebec, Canada

“Curbing Executive Power: Reagan, Trump, & Foreign Policy Scandals”
Evaluating the Presidency in the 21st Century, APSA Presidents and Executive Politics Micro-Conference, hosted by Chapman University and the Nixon Foundation, February 17-18, 2021
Yorba Linda, California (held virtually due to pandemic)

“Ensnaring Team Trump: The Banking Secrecy Act of 1970 and Congressional Intent”
Northeastern Political Science Association 50th Annual Meeting, November 8-10, 2018.
Montreal, Quebec

“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

OTHER ARTICLES

[“If this is the second Cold War, what can we learn from the first? Biden, Putin, Russia and American history.”](#) with Andrew J. Polsky. *New York Daily News*. March 19, 2022.

[“Pete Buttigieg is the first U.S. presidential candidate in a same-sex marriage. Here are 3 reasons that matters.”](#) Monkey Cage. *Washington Post*. April 10, 2019.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Rider University Fall 2018 – current

Assistant Professor

Courses taught: Introduction to American Politics (POL 100), Great Ideas I (BHP 100), Great Ideas II (BHP 150), Presidency (POL 313), Homeland Security (HLSP 501/HLS 203), Structure and Development of the U.S. Intelligence Community (HLSP 502/HLS 204), Political Communication, Terrorism, and Security (HLSP 508), Presidency and the National Security State (HLSP 516/HLS 316), Congress and the National Security State (HLSP 514/HLS 314), Defense Policy & Analysis (HLSP 520), Disaster Management (HLSP 532), Countering Domestic Extremism (HLSP 522), American National Security (HLSP 550)

Hunter College, CUNY

Fall 2012 – Summer 2018

Adjunct Lecturer

Courses taught as Instructor of Record: American Government: A Historical Introduction (POLSC 110), 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)

THESES SUPERVISED

Constantine, Brian J., “Security Failures Leading to the 2012 Attacks on the U.S. Diplomatic Compound in Benghazi, Libya,” Spring 2022.

Westmark, Colton R., “‘The Great Awakening’: Conspiracy Adherent Types and the Fall of QAnon,” Fall 2021.

Ziegler, Andrew, “An Unequal Relationship: The Dangers of Unchecked Presidential Power,” Fall 2021.

Sandvig, Karoline, “The Impact of Climate Change on U.S. Roads and Critical Infrastructure,” Fall 2020.

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

The Morgan Library and Museum
American Presidents Series project

Summer 2017

The Graduate Center, CUNY

Fall 2011 – Spring 2012

Research Assistant, Distinguished Professor Uday S. Mehta

AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS

Ivo Duchacek Award (for best article published in a peer reviewed journal)
The Graduate Center, CUNY

Spring 2018

Presidency Research Fund Grant (\$2,000; accepted) APSA Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs	Spring 2016
Altfest Graduate Summer Internship Public Relations Intern at Salon Media Group	Summer 2016
Doctoral Student Research Grant The Graduate Center, CUNY	Summer 2016
Knickerbocker Archival Research Grant in American Studies Graduate Center Archival Research Conference	Summer 2014
Graduate Fellow, Office of Career Planning & Professional Development The Graduate Center, CUNY	Summer 2013 & 2014
Student Fellow & Research Assistant, Mellon Sawyer Seminar Series “Democratic Citizenship and the Recognition of Cultural Differences” The Graduate Center, CUNY	Fall 2012 – Spring 2013
Enhanced Chancellor’s Fellowship The Graduate Center, CUNY	Fall 2011 – Spring 2016

INVITED TALKS

“No <i>Quid Pro Quo</i> : Reagan, Trump, & Impeachment” Invited talk, March 25, 2022, Manhattan College.	
“Research in the time of COVID,” Zoom talk for the Department of Political Science, May 11 th , 2020, The Graduate Center, CUNY.	
“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 Bayer’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

Rider University AAUP Executive Committee, Secretary Junior Faculty Subcommittee, Chair	Fall 2021 – current Fall 2021 – current
Undergraduate Research Scholar Awards Committee	Spring 2021
Faculty Development Committee Chair	Fall 2020 – current Fall 2021-current

Faculty Grade Appeals Committee	Spring 2020 – current
Rider AAUP Junior Faculty Subcommittee	Spring 2019 – current
LGBTQ Tripartite Committee	Spring 2020 – Spring 2021
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 ACTIVITY

American Political Science Association, member
 Presidency and Executive Politics subsection member
 George C. Edwards III Dissertation Award committee member, 2021

Ad hoc reviewer
 Intelligence and National Security, Polity

SKILLS

Proficient in Microsoft Office, WordPress, SPSS, Stata, Atlas.ti, FEMA ICS 100, 200, and 700 certified.