

Reid B. C. Pauly

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor of Political Science

Department of Political Science, Brown University, 2020-

Dean's Assistant Professor of Nuclear Security and Policy

Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, Brown University, 2020-

Visiting Scholar

Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College, February 2025

Visiting Scholar

Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School, 2024-2025

Stanton Postdoctoral Fellow

Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University, 2019-2020

Predocctoral Fellow

Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School, 2017-2019

EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, 2013-2019

- PhD, Political Science, Security Studies Program
- Dissertation: "Coercive Assurance in International Politics"
- Committee: Barry Posen, Vipin Narang, Frank Gavin

Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, 2006-2010

- BA, Government and History, magna cum laude

Upper Canada College, Toronto, ON

BOOK

The Art of Coercion: Credible Threats and the Assurance Dilemma (Cornell University Press, Studies in Security Affairs series, forthcoming August 2025)

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Reid B. C. Pauly, "Damned If They Do, Damned If They Don't: The Assurance Dilemma in International Coercion," *International Security*, Vol. 49, No. 1 (Summer 2024): 91-132.

Reid B. C. Pauly and Rose McDermott, "The Psychology of Nuclear Brinkmanship" *International Security*, Vol. 47, No. 3 (Winter 2022/2023): 9-51.

- Subject of an H-Diplo Roundtable.

Erik Lin-Greenberg, **Reid B. C. Pauly**, and Jacquelyn Schneider, "Wargaming for International Relations Research," *European Journal of International Relations*, Vol. 28, No. 1 (2022): 83-109.

- Reviewed in H-Diplo.

Reid B. C. Pauly, "Deniability in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime: The Upside of the Dual-Use Dilemma," *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 66, Iss. 1 (2022).

Cullen G. Nutt and **Reid B. C. Pauly**, “Caught Red-Handed: How States Wield Proof to Coerce Wrongdoers,” *International Security*, Vol. 46, No. 2 (Fall 2021).

Reid B. C. Pauly, “Would U.S. Leaders Push the Button? Wargames and the Sources of Nuclear Restraint,” *International Security*, Vol. 43, No. 2 (Fall 2018): 151-192.

- Reviewed in H-Diplo.

Reid B. C. Pauly, “Bedeviled by a Paradox: Nitze, Bundy, and an Incipient Nuclear Norm,” *The Nonproliferation Review*, Vol. 22, Iss. 3-4 (2015): 441-455.

- Winner of the 2014 McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Scott D. Sagan and **Reid B. C. Pauly**, “Should the United States or the international community aggressively pursue nuclear nonproliferation policies?” in Peter M. Haas and John A. Hird (eds.), *Controversies in Globalization: Contending Approaches to International Relations, 2nd Edition* (Washington, DC: CQ Press, 2013).

Reid B. C. Pauly and Scott D. Sagan, “The Conundrum of Close Calls,” in Henry D. Sokolski and Bruno Tertrais (eds.), *Nuclear Weapons Security Crises: What Does History Teach?* (U.S. Army War College, Strategic Studies Institute, 2013).

ROUNDTABLES AND BOOK REVIEWS

Roundtable Review of Jacques Hymans, “The Bomb as God: A Metaphor that Impedes Nuclear Disarmament.” *Security Studies* (2024). H-Diplo | Robert Jervis International Security Studies Forum, July 24, 2024, <https://issforum.org/to/jrt15-53>.

“The Psychology of Nuclear Brinkmanship,” H-Diplo | Robert Jervis International Security Studies Forum, Policy Roundtable II-5, August 4, 2023, <https://issforum.org/to/jprII-5>.

“Shedding Light on Nuclear Conflict,” *Texas National Security Review*, Roundtable on Paul Avey, *Tempting Fate: Why Nonnuclear States Confront Nuclear Opponents*, August 17, 2020.

OP-EDS, ESSAYS, AND REPORTS

“Putin and the Psychology of Nuclear Brinkmanship,” *Foreign Affairs*, May 30, 2023. With Rose McDermott and Paul Slovic.

“Don’t Be So Confident in Nuclear Decision-Making,” *Lawfare*, February 26, 2023. With Rose McDermott.

“What to Do When Predicting Pandemics,” *Foreign Policy*, September 11, 2020.

“Why Invading Iran Would Be a Military Disaster,” *The National Interest*, January 12, 2020. With Daniel Khalessi.

“A Dangerous and Growing Rift Between Nuclear Strategy and Arms Control,” The Simons Foundation, March 1, 2018.

“This is Why Trump’s Strategy for Iran Will Fail,” *The National Interest*, December 21, 2017. With Mahsa Rouhi and Sahar Nowrouzadeh.

“The Tangled Fates of Pittsburgh and Paris,” *War on the Rocks*, June 12, 2017.

“The Pioneering Role of CIS in American War Gaming,” *Précis*, Fall 2015.

“History, Close Calls, and Nuclear Materials Security,” with Scott D. Sagan, commissioned by the Nuclear Threat Initiative for preparation of the Nuclear Materials Security Index 2.0, December 2012.

WORKING PAPERS

“Second Order Beliefs and the Nuclear Taboo” (with Lee-Or Ankori-Karlinsky and Dan Post)

“‘Rhetorical Evaporation’ in Nuclear Security Studies”

“Success and Failure of Coercive Diplomacy” (with Jessica Chen Weiss, for an edited volume on *Inside the Situation Room: The Theory and Practice of Crisis Decision Making*, eds. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Keren Yarhi-Milo, Oxford University Press)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

International Strategy Fellow, Schmidt Futures and the Rockefeller Foundation, Class of 2020

Stanton Postdoctoral Fellowship, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University, 2019-2020

Predocctoral Fellowship, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Managing the Atom and International Security Program, Harvard University, 2017-2019

Carnegie Junior Scholar, Carnegie International Policy Scholars Consortium, 2015-2018

High Distinction, General Examinations in International Relations and Security Studies, 2015

Winner of the 2014 McElvany Nonproliferation Challenge, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Middlebury Institute of International Studies at Monterey

Winner of the 2012 Harvard University Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs and *Foreign Policy* Essay Contest on “Lessons of the Cuban Missile Crisis,” scholars and practitioners category

Winner of the 2009-2010 Cold War Essay Contest, John A. Adams Center for Military History and Strategic Analysis, Virginia Military Institute

Winner of the Project on Nuclear Issues 2010 Undergraduate Essay Contest, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, DC

Winner of the Janice N. and Milton J. Esman Prize for Outstanding Undergraduate Scholarship, Cornell University, 2010

Varsity Letter, Cornell University, Division I Varsity Heavyweight Rowing, 2006-2010

RESEARCH GRANTS

Longview Philanthropy, Research Grant, 2024

Watson Institute, Research Workshop, 2023

Stanton Foundation, Nuclear Security Research Grant, 2022-2025

Schmidt Futures, International Strategy Forum Impact Grant, 2022

Birkelund Award for Watson Institute Faculty Research, 2022

Naval War College and MIT Center for International Studies, Research Workshop, 2019

Simons Foundation, Graduate Research Award for Disarmament, Arms Control, and Nonproliferation, 2018

Center for International Studies, Summer Study Grant, 2018

Center for International Studies, Starr Travel Grant, 2018

Smith Richardson Foundation, World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship, 2017

Tobin Project, Graduate Fellowship, 2017

Center for International Studies, Summer Study Grant, 2017

TEACHING AND ADVISING

The Politics of Nuclear Weapons, Undergraduate Lecture, Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Spring 2024

The Shadow of Power, Undergraduate GISP, Spring 2024

Coercion: Deterrence and Compellence, Undergraduate Seminar, Fall 2020, Spring 2022

Foundations of Security, Undergraduate Lecture, Spring 2023

Nuclear Proliferation and International Security, Graduate Seminar, Spring 2021

U.S. Military Power, Teaching Assistant for Professor Barry Posen, M.I.T., Spring 2019

Causes of War, Teaching Assistant for Professor Stephen Van Evera, M.I.T., Spring 2016

PhD Committees: Omar Afzaal, Beenish Pervaiz, Dan Post '23

DISCIPLINARY SERVICE

Reviewer for *American Journal of Political Science*, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, *Columbia University Press*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *International Interactions*, *International Organization*, *International Security*, *Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *Oxford University Press*, *Security Studies*, *Texas National Security Review*

Member of the American Political Science Association, International Studies Association, Midwest Political Science Association

Representative of the Political Science Department on the M.I.T. Graduate Student Council, 2016-2017

Co-chair of the Political Science Graduate Student Council, 2016-2017

Co-chair of the MIT Nuclear Weapons Working Group, 2015-2016

OTHER POLICY ENGAGEMENT

Track II Diplomacy

- US-UK-France Trilateral Dialogue 2023, 2024
- US-China Strategic Stability Dialogue 2019, 2023 (virtual)

CSIS Project on Nuclear Issues

- Mid-Career Cadre, Class of 2021

- PONI Conference Advisory Board

Schmidt Futures International Strategy Forum, Class of 2020

Carnegie International Policy Scholars Consortium (IPSCON)

- Member of the IPSCON Alumni Steering Committee

Bridging the Gap

- International Policy Summer Institute 2022
- New Era Workshop 2016

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Adjunct Researcher, RAND Corporation

Washington, DC; September 2016-December 2023

Graduate Assistant, Carnegie International Policy Scholars Consortium

MIT, Cambridge, MA; September 2016-June 2017

Summer Associate, RAND Corporation

Washington, DC; June 2016-September 2016

Research Assistant, M.I.T. Internet Policy Research Initiative

Cambridge, MA; September 2015-June 2016

Research Assistant to Scott Sagan, Center for International Security and Cooperation

Stanford, CA; May 2011-June 2013

Rapporteur, U.S.-Pakistan and Pakistan-India Track II diplomatic meetings

Stanford, CA; 2011-2013

Research Assistant, Ploughshares Fund

Washington, DC; August 2010-May 2011

CONFERENCES AND INVITED TALKS

“Coercive Assurance”

- Cornell University, Ithaca, NY, September 2024
- Yale University, New Haven, CT, May 2023
- University of Pennsylvania, Philadelphia, PA, April 2023
- American Political Science Association, Montreal, Canada, September 2022
- International Studies Association, Nashville, TN, March 2022
- University of Virginia, virtual, November 2020
- Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, Livermore, CA, January 2020
- Stanton Conference, Washington, DC, October 2019
- Harvard Kennedy School, Belfer Center, Cambridge, MA, April 2019
- International Studies Association, Toronto, ON, March 2019
- New Faces Conference, Triangle Institute for Security Studies, Durham, NC, October 2018
- Yale International Security Studies Research Workshop, New Haven, CT, September 2018
- Seoul National University, Seoul, South Korea, September 2018
- Harvard Kennedy School, Belfer Center, Cambridge, MA, April 2018
- Tobin Foundation, Cambridge, MA, September 2017

“Coercive Bargaining Theory and International Hostage Negotiations”

- Bridging the Gap and CSIS, Washington, DC, September 2024

“Wargames as Historical Evidence”

- MIT Wargaming Lab, Endicott House, Dedham, MA, July 2024

“Second Order Beliefs and the Nuclear Taboo”

- MIT, Cambridge, MA, April 2024

“Deterrence and Compellence on the Korean Peninsula”

- Belfer Center Korea Project, Cambridge, MA, April 2022
- Midwest Political Science Association, virtual, April 2022

“The Benefits of Secrecy and Transparency in Arms Control”

- CSIS, Washington, DC, March 2022

“Wargaming: Its History, Application, and Future Use”

- Three-part webinar series, co-sponsored by Hoover, Watson, and MIT SSP, February-March 2022

“Keynote: Wargames and Strategic Deterrence”

- U.S. Naval War College, virtual, February 2022

“Understanding Threats That Leave Something to Chance”

- U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI, December 2021
- Peace Science Society International, virtual, November 2020

“Deniability in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime”

- Watson Institute, Brown University, virtual, October 2021
- GW Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, virtual, October 2020
- CISAC, Stanford University, Stanford, CA, February 2020
- Nuclear Studies Research Initiative, Hamburg, Germany, December 2019
- American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, August 2019

“Would U.S. Leaders Push the Button? Wargames and the Sources of Nuclear Restraint”

- King’s College London, virtual, March 2021
- UC Berkeley, Nuclear Policy Working Group, Berkeley, CA, September 2019
- Amherst College, Amherst, MA, April 2019
- American Political Science Association, Boston, MA, September 2018
- U.S. Naval War College, Newport, RI, June 2018
- Harvard Kennedy School, Belfer Center, Cambridge, MA, February 2018
- International Studies Association, Baltimore, MD, February 2017
- RAND Corporation Center for Gaming, Washington, DC, August 2016

“Wargaming for Political Science Research”

- American Political Science Association, virtual, September 2020

“Prospects for US-China Nuclear Arms Control”

- Shanghai Academy of Social Sciences, Shanghai, China, December 2019

“Wargaming and Simulations in International Security Studies”

- NATO Defense College, Rome, Italy, December 2019
- International Studies Association, Toronto, ON, March 2019
- American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, August 2019

“Coercion, Diplomacy, and Nuclear Weapons: Eyes on Iran”

- Harvard Kennedy School, Belfer Center, Cambridge, MA, April 2019

“Nuclear Strategy 101”

- Harvard Kennedy School, Belfer Center, Project on Managing the Atom, Cambridge, MA, December 2018

“Wargaming in the Nuclear Age”

- Tufts University, Medford, MA, October 2018

“Selective Secrecy: The Strategic Logic of Deniability in Coercive Bargaining”

- International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, April 2018

“War Plan Orange: Lessons for Healthy Joint Planning”

- International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA, April 2018
- RAND Corporation, Washington, DC, August 2016

“Deterrence vs. Disarmament: A Dangerous and Growing Rift in the Nuclear Weapons Expert Community”

- Global Affairs Canada, Ottawa, ON, March 2018

“Projecting Military Power in the Arctic”

- Conference of Defense Associates Institute, Kingston, Ontario, October 2014

PODCASTS

“Shall We Play a Game?”

- ‘The Risk Calculus’ Podcast, UC Berkeley Risk and Security Lab, September 2023

“Coercion: Deterrence and Compellence”

- ‘Profiles in Strategy’ Podcast, U.S. Naval War College, May 2023

“The Psychology of Nuclear Brinkmanship”

- ‘Trending Globally’ Podcast, Watson Institute, January 2023