

David C. Benson

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

School of Advanced Air and Space Studies

Maxwell AFB, Montgomery, AL

Professor of Strategy and National Security

Assistant Professor

2016–

Southern Methodist University

Dallas, TX

Computer Science & Political Science Dept.

Post-Doctoral Researcher

2015–2016

EDUCATION

University of Chicago

Political Science, PhD.

Chicago

August 2015

University of Chicago

International Relations, A.M.

with Honors

Chicago

June 2009

Defense Language Institute

Chinese-Mandarin, Certificate

with High Honors

Monterey, CA

May 2002

Brigham Young University

Political Science, B.A.

Provo, UT

April 2000

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

David C. Benson (2014). "Why the Internet Is Not Increasing Terrorism". In: *Security Studies* 23.2 (2), pp. 293–328

DISSERTATION

Title: *The Internet Effect: How Authoritarian Governments Use Internet Communications Technologies to Maintain Control of States*

Committee: Robert A. Pape (Chair), Charles Lipson, Paul Staniland

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Dissertation of the Year: 2016

APSA Information Technology and Politics Section

William J. and Myrtle N. Hawley Scholarship: 2011-2013

University of Chicago

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship, Chinese: 2009-2011

University of Chicago

CURRENT PROJECTS

TYPE	TITLE	STATUS
Article	Beyond Censorship: How Authoritarians Use Information to Selectively Repress Opposition	Under Review
Book	Authoritarianism Online: How Authoritarian Regimes Use Online Information to Thwart Democracy Globally	Soliciting Publishers
Article	How Information Operations Affect the Global Balance of Power	Working Paper
Article	The Weakness of Weak Ties: Why Social Movements Should Not Be Treated as Strategic Actors	Working Paper

COURSE DIRECTOR

Information and Cyber Power 2017–9

COURSES TAUGHT

Foundations of International Relations 2016–8

BOOK REVIEWS

David Benson (2016b). "Terrorism in Cyberspace: The Next Generation by Gabriel Weimann. New York, Columbia University Press, 2015. 344 pp. Cloth, 90.00; *paper*, 30.00." In: *Political Science Quarterly* 131.3, pp. 659–660

David Benson (2017a). "Cyberspace in Peace and War". In: *Strategic Studies Quarterly* 11.1 (Spring). URL: <http://www.airuniversity.af.mil/SSQ/Display/Article/1086525/volume-11-issue-1-spring-2017/>

COMPUTER SKILLS

- o R
- o Python
- o git
- o Gephi
- o L^AT_EX
- o github

LANGUAGES

Chinese Mandarin: Professional Proficiency

Spanish: Professional Proficiency

Portuguese: Professional Proficiency

Arabic: Conversational/Casual Competency

German: Conversational/Casual Competency

SAMPLE OF ACADEMIC PRESENTATIONS

"Unforeseen Threats to U.S. from Terrorists' <i>ISAT/DARPA</i>	Cambridge, MA <i>February 16, 2017</i>
"The Internet and International Espionage" <i>Program on International Politics, Economics, and Security</i>	Chicago, IL <i>October 27, 2016</i>
"The Internet Effect: ..." <i>APSA National Conference</i>	Philadelphia, PA <i>September 1, 2016</i>
"Current U.S. Counter-terrorism Policy." <i>Beijing Foreign Studies University</i>	Beijing, China <i>April 29, 2016</i>
"The Challenges of ISIS to Sino-American Cooperation." <i>New Faces in International Relations, Beijing Foreign Studies University</i>	Beijing, CN <i>October 18, 2015</i>
"The Challenges of ISIS to Sino-American Cooperation." <i>New Faces in International Relations, Beijing Foreign Studies University</i>	Beijing, CN <i>October 18, 2015</i>
"Just Beneath the Surface: Non-Governmental Sources ... War." <i>APSA National Conference</i>	Washington, D.C. <i>August 29, 2014</i>
"Political Economy of Weakly-Institutionalized Settings." <i>Chicago Method of International Relations</i>	Beijing Summer Institute <i>August 19-21, 2014</i>
"The History of Suicide Terrorism." <i>NATO C-IED Conference</i>	Utrecht, Netherlands <i>June 1, 2014</i>
"Terrorism on the Internet." <i>NATO C-IED Conference</i>	Utrecht, Netherlands <i>June 1, 2014</i>
"The History of Suicide Terrorism." <i>NATO Center of Excellence - Defense Against Terrorism (COE-DAT)</i>	Ankara Turkey <i>April 7, 2014</i>
"Terrorism on the Internet." <i>NATO Center of Excellence - Defense Against Terrorism (COE-DAT)</i>	Ankara Turkey <i>March 13, 2014</i>
"The History of Suicide Terrorism." <i>NATO Center of Excellence - Defense Against Terrorism (COE-DAT)</i>	Ankara Turkey <i>March 13, 2014</i>
"Complex Interdependence and International Relations" <i>International Relations for Non-Political Scientists, Guest Lecture</i>	Beijing F.S.U. <i>November 11, 2013</i>
"The Internet, International Relations and China" <i>International Dialogue Series</i>	Beijing Normal University <i>November</i>
"The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." <i>NATO Center of Excellence - Defense Against Terrorism (COE-DAT)</i>	Ankara Turkey <i>February 26, 2013</i>
"The Social Logic of Suicide Terrorism." <i>NATO Center of Excellence - Defense Against Terrorism (COE-DAT)</i>	Ankara Turkey <i>February 26, 2013</i>
"The Strategic Logic of Suicide Terrorism." <i>NATO Center of Excellence - Defense Against Terrorism (COE-DAT)</i>	Ankara Turkey <i>January 24, 2012</i>
"The Social Logic of Suicide Terrorism." <i>NATO Center of Excellence - Defense Against Terrorism (COE-DAT)</i>	Ankara Turkey <i>January 24, 2012</i>
"Networks of Alliances." <i>Political Networks Conference, Posters Session</i>	Boulder, Colorado <i>June 30, 2012</i>

DISSERTATION ADVISING

Bonner, Ernest L. "Linc": Operational Cyberwarfare

Defend in November

Sullivan, Lawrence "Gordo": Chinese Strategic Culture

Poxon, Benjamin: Risk Assessment and Social Media Use

Mintz, John: Integrating Artificial Intelligence into Strategy

Pope, Billy: Cyber-security in Military Strategy

POPULAR PUBLICATIONS

David Benson (2017d). "Options for Constitutional Change in Afghanistan". In: *Divergent Options*. URL: <https://divergentoptions.org/2017/09/25/options-for-constitutional-change-in-afghanistan/>

David Benson (2017b). "Hoisted By Which Petard, Exactly?: Cyber-Warfare, Collisions at Sea and Threat Inflation". In: *War on the Rocks*. URL: <https://warontherocks.com/2017/08/hoisted-by-which-petard-exactly-cyber-warfare-collisions-at-sea-and-threat-inflation/>

David Benson (2017f). "What Truly Makes a Terrorist". In: *Real Clear World*. URL: http://www.realclearworld.com/articles/2017/02/16/what_truly_makes_a_terrorist.html

David Benson (2017e). "#Reviewing: Cyberspace in Peace and War". In: *The Strategy Bridge*. URL: <https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2017/2/13/reviewing-cyberspace-in-peace-and-war>

David Benson (2017c). "Negotiating an Advance: How Negotiation Can Shift the Digital Battlespace in Favor of the U.S.". In: *The Strategy Bridge*. URL: <https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2017/2/7/negotiating-an-advance-how-negotiation-can-shift-the-digital-battlespace-in-favor-of-the-us>

David Benson (2016a). "Consequences of a U.S.-China Trade War". In: *Real Clear World*. URL: http://www.realclearworld.com/articles/2016/11/21/the_consequences_of_a_us-china_trade_war_112128.html

OTHER RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

Conference Coordinator

CPOST, Chinese/American Scholars Outreach
Beijing, China

University of Chicago

2013–2015

Program Coordinator

Program on International Politics, Economics and Security

University of Chicago

2011–2013

Conference Coordinator

Cutting the Fuse Conference, Washington, D.C.

University of Chicago

2010

Infantry Officer

U.S. Army

2003–2007

Mandarin-Chinese Cryptological Linguist

U.S. Army

2000–2003

MEDIA APPEARANCES

ABC 7

Eyewitness News

CLTV Chicago

Politics Tonight

WBEZ Chicago (NPR)

Afternoon Edition

CLTV Chicago

Politics Tonight

89 WLS Chicago

Bruce Wolf & Dan Proft

WTTW Chicago (PBS)

Chicago Tonight

CLTV Chicago

Politics Tonight

Portuguese Public Radio

United States Election Coverage, Portuguese

Chicago Policy Review: Policy Radio

Cyber Security in the 21st Century

(Unbroadcast Interview) CNN

Release of Inspire Magazine

BBC Radio 5

U.S. Election Return Coverage

Assassination of Harold Greene

August 6, 2014

Obama NSA Program Changes

January 17, 2014

Social Responses to Mass Violence

September 24, 2013

International Security Since 9/11

September 11, 2013

Discussing PRISM and the NSA

June 12, 2013

Discussing PRISM and the NSA

June 6, 2013

Discussing the Boston Bombers

April 19, 2013

The U.S. Election

October 28, 2012

Terrorism and the Internet

February 27th, 2012

On the Release of the Latest *Inspire* magazine

October 15, 2010

American Students Perspective of Election

November 4, 2008