

Polina Beliakova

CONTACT INFORMATION

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Citizenship: Ukraine, U.S. Permanent Resident

Languages: Ukrainian (native), Russian (fluent), Hebrew (intermediate)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Postdoctoral Fellow in US Foreign Policy and International Security, 2022-2023
John Sloan Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College

EDUCATION

Ph.D. International Relations, Fletcher School, Tufts University 2022
Dissertation: *Don't Blame the Generals: A Policy-Focused Theory of Erosion of Civilian Control*

M.A. Government, summa cum laude, IDC Herzliya, Israel 2015

B.A. Sociology, International Solomon University, Kyiv, Ukraine 2011

PUBLICATIONS

Refereed Journal Articles and Book Chapters

“External Threats and Civilian Control: The Case of Ukrainian Military’s Professional Adaptation to Russian Aggression,” in David Kuehn, Aurel Croissant, and David Pion-Berlin Eds. *Research Handbook of Civil-Military Relations* (Edward Elgar Publishing, Forthcoming)

“Erosion by Deference: Civilian Control and the Military in Policymaking.” [Texas National Security Review](#) 4, no. 3 (2021).

“Erosion of Civilian Control in Democracies: A Comprehensive Framework for Comparative Analysis.” [Comparative Political Studies](#) 54, no. 8 (2021).

“Say Terrorist, Think Insurgent: Labeling and Analyzing Contemporary Terrorist Actors,” [Perspectives on Terrorism](#) 8, no. 5 (2014) (with Assaf Moghadam and Ronit Berger)

Work in Progress

Civil-Military Balance in U.S. Security Force Assistance: Evidence from Iraq and Ukraine (with Rachel Tecott)

Civil-Military Relations and Russia's Invasion of Ukraine

Russia's Military Interventions and Democratization of the Post-Soviet States

Counterbalancing or Soviet Legacies: the Military and Security Forces in the Former Soviet States

Leading or Following: the Role of the Military in Democratic Backsliding

Analytical Reports and Commentary

"Can Ukraine's Military Keep Winning," [Foreign Affairs](#) (May 9, 2022)

"Russian Military's Corruption Quagmire," [POLITICO](#) (March 8, 2022)

"Volunteer troops can be a curse, not a blessing. But Ukraine may be figuring it out," [The Washington Post](#) (February 27, 2022)

"How a Russian-Led Alliance Keeps a Lid on Central Asia," [War on the Rocks](#) (February 4, 2022)

"COVID-19 and the Limits of Putin's Power," [War On the Rocks](#) (May 13, 2020)

"How Does the Kremlin Kick When It's Down?" [War On the Rocks](#) (August 13, 2019)

"Corruption in the Russian Defense Sector," w/ Sam Perlo-Freeman, [World Peace Foundation](#) (2018)

AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS

United States Institute of Peace, USIP-Minerva Peace Scholarship	2019 - 2020
Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship	2019 - 2020
World Peace Foundation Summer Research Grant	Summer 2019
Carnegie Corporation of New York, Fletcher Russia and Eurasia Program Fieldwork Funding, Tufts University	2018 - 2019
Lynde and Harry Bradley Foundation Fellowship, International Security Studies Program, Fletcher School, Tufts University	2017 - 2019
Ragonis Foundation Award for Promoting Research in Counterterrorism and Homeland Security, IDC Herzliya, Israel	2014 - 2016
Government of Israel and The Jewish Agency for Israel Masa Scholarship for tuition support at IDC Herzliya Lauder School of Government	2012 - 2013

TEACHING

Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA

Instructor	Fall 2021
Fletcher School: Russian Foreign Policy (Graduate class)	
Tufts University, School of Arts and Sciences: Topics in Russian National Security (Undergraduate class)	Fall 2019
Teaching Assistant	2017 - 2018
Fletcher School: Changing Nature of Security in the 21st Century (Prof. Richard Shultz) The Role of Force in International Relations (Prof. Richard Shultz)	
Tufts University, Department of Political Science (undergraduate): Introduction to International Relations (Prof. Jeffrey Taliaferro)	2018
Lauder School of Government, IDC Herzliya, Israel (Selected): International Law (Dr. Daphné Richemond-Barak) Insurgency and Civil Wars (Prof. Assaf Moghadam) Anatomy of Terrorist Groups (Prof. Assaf Moghadam) Human Rights and Conflicts (Prof. Edy Kaufman) Russia: Politics and Foreign Policy (Dr. Sarah-Masha Fainberg)	2014 - 2016

INVITED LECTURES AND TALKS (SELECTED)

“Russia’s Use of Force and Public Opinion” Russia Strategic Initiative, US European Command (Online)	May 2022
“Russian Invasion of Ukraine,” Bridgewater State University, Bridgewater, MA, USA	March 2022
“Understanding Russian Aggression in Ukraine,” Fletcher School, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA	February 2022
“Qualitative Research in Social Sciences: Process Tracing,” Northeastern University, Boston, MA, USA	October 2021
“Enemy-centric vs. Population-centric Strategies of Counterinsurgency,” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA	October 2020
“Civil-Military Relations in Russia During the First Chechen War,” Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA, USA	April 2020
“Strategy of Deterrence During the Cold War,” Fletcher School, Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA	October 2017

“The Effectiveness of Governmental Use of Force in Preventing Political Violence in Second Palestinian Intifada,” IDC Herzliya, Israel	December 2015
“Understanding Ukrainian Revolution: Nonviolent Resistance, and the Use of Force,” IDC Herzliya, Israel	April 2015

RELATED RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

Civil-Military Research Team, Fletcher School, Tufts University Principal Investigator: Recruited, trained, and managed a team of four assistants to collect data on intra-state conflict and civil-military relations in democracies	2019-2020
Center for Strategic Studies, Fletcher School, Tufts University Senior Ph.D. Research Associate	2017 - 2022
Transparency International, Defense & Security Reviewer, The Government Defence Index on Anti-Corruption in Russia	2019
World Peace Foundation, Fletcher School Tufts University Researcher, Project on Corruption in the Russian Defense Sector	2017 - 2018

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

International Studies Association Annual Convention	2020*, 2021
American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2019, 2020
ISSS-IS (ISA & APSA Joint Security Studies Conference) 2019, Denver, CO	Fall 2019
Davis Center for Russian and Eurasian Studies, Harvard University	2019, 2021
Women in International Politics and Security, MIT, Presenter.	Fall 2018

SERVICE TO PROFESSION, UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Reviewer: <i>Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Peace and War Studies</i>	
International Studies Association, International Security Studies Section Governing Council Representative	2021-2024
International Studies Association, Assistant to the International Security Studies Section Program Chair	2018-2020
Fletcher School, Center for Strategic Studies, Capstone Advising Coordinator	2017-2021

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Director, Center for Strategic Studies, Fletcher School, Medford, MA, USA	2021-2022
Educational Counselor, The Yitzhak Rabin Center, Tel Aviv, Israel	2014-2015
Head of the Department of Informal Education, Jewish Agency for Israel, Kyiv, Ukraine	2009-2012

FIELDWORK

Moscow, Russia 2019

Projects:

Erosion of Civilian Control in Democracies (Comparative Political Studies, 2021)

Don't Blame the Generals (Book project)

Archival research (State Archives of the Russian Federation and Russian State Archives of Social and Political History); Expert interviews.

Kyiv, Ukraine 2019, 2020

Projects:

External Threats and Civilian Control (Book chapter, forthcoming)

Don't Blame the Generals (Book project)

Expert interviews, elite interviews.

RELATED PROFESSIONAL SKILLS

Stata, SPSS, NVivo

REFERENCES

Monica Duffy Toft

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Fletcher School, Tufts University
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Richard H. Shultz

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Fletcher School, Tufts University
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Roger Petersen

Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science, MIT
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Elizabeth A. Wood

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History Faculty, MIT
elizwood@mit.edu