

# Polina Beliakova

## CONTACT INFORMATION

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MIT Security Studies Program

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Cambridge, MA 02139

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## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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**Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Cambridge, MA**

2023-present

Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Security Studies Program

**Dartmouth College, Hanover, NH**

2022-2023

Postdoctoral Fellow in US Foreign Policy and International Security,  
Dickey Center for International Understanding

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## EDUCATION

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**Ph.D. International Relations**, Fletcher School, Tufts University

2022

*Dissertation*: “Don’t Blame the Generals: A Policy-Focused Theory of  
Erosion of Civilian Control”

- Winner of the 2022 Peter Ackerman Dissertation Award, Tufts University

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

2015

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

2011

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## PUBLICATIONS

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### 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)

## Book Manuscript

*Know Thy Military: How Governmental Policies Weaken Civilian Control* (in preparation)

## Work in Progress

Volatile Civil-Military Relations in Intrastate Conflict and International Use of Force (under review)

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

Coups and Democracy: Data Against the Conventional Wisdom

When War Undermines Civil-Military Relations: Evidence from Russia's Invasion of Ukraine  
(data coding completed)

## Analytical Reports, Commentary, Policy

Security Sector Governance in Ukraine 2014-2023, for *UK Government Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office* (March 31, 2023) w/ Sarah Detzner

"The Surprising Success of U.S. Military Aid to Ukraine," [\*Foreign Affairs\*](#) (March 17, 2023)  
w/ Rachel Tecott Metz

"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," [\*World Peace Foundation\*](#) (2018) w/ Sam Perlo-Freeman

## AWARDS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND GRANTS (SELECTED)

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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

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### Tufts University, Medford, MA, USA

<b>Instructor</b> Fletcher School: Russian Foreign Policy (Graduate class)	Fall 2021
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Tufts University, School of Arts and Sciences: Topics in Russian National Security (Undergraduate class)	Fall 2019
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<b>Teaching Assistant</b> Fletcher School: Changing Nature of Security in the 21st Century (Prof. Richard Shultz) The Role of Force in International Relations (Prof. Richard Shultz)	2017 - 2018
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Tufts University, Department of Political Science (undergraduate): Introduction to International Relations (Prof. Jeffrey Taliaferro)	2018
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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
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## INVITED LECTURES AND TALKS (SELECTED)

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“Putin, Zelensky, and their Armies” Dartmouth College	April 2023
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“Civil-Military Relations in Russia’s Invasion of Ukraine, 2022” Fletcher School, Tufts University	February 2023
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“Russia as a Great Power: Foreign Policy Implications” Department of Government, Dartmouth College	February 2023
“Security Sector Governance in Ukraine” Peace & Conflict Resolution Evidence Platform (Online)	November 2022
“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**

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<b>Ukraine in European Dialogue Project, The Institute for Human Sciences (IWM), Vienna, Austria</b> Principal Investigator: Conducted independent research on security sector governance in Ukraine (2014-2023), drafted policy reports, delivered presentations	2022-2023
<b>Civil-Military Research Team, Fletcher School, Tufts University</b> 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
<b>Center for Strategic Studies, Fletcher School, Tufts University</b> 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**

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IR Seminar, Dickey Center, Dartmouth College 2023

International Studies Association Annual Convention 2020\*, 2021

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2019, 2020

ISSS-IS (ISA &amp; 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**

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Reviewer: *Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Comparative Political Studies, Journal of Peace and War Studies*

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**

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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**

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<p><b>Moscow, Russia</b>          Archival research (State Archives of the Russian Federation and Russian State Archives of Social and Political History); Expert interviews.          Projects:  <i>Erosion of Civilian Control in Democracies (Comparative Political Studies, 2021)</i>  <i>How Governmental Policies Weaken Civilian Control (Book project)</i></p>	<p>2019</p>
<p><b>Kyiv, Ukraine</b>          Expert interviews, elite interviews.          Projects:  <i>External Threats and Civilian Control (Book chapter, forthcoming)</i>  <i>Civil-Military Balance in U.S. Security Force Assistance: Evidence from Iraq and Ukraine (Research in progress)</i>  <i>Know Thy Military (Book project)</i></p>	<p>2019, 2020</p>
<p><b>Digital Fieldwork: Ukraine, Russia, Israel, United States, Azerbaijan</b>          Elite interviews, expert interviews, digital archives  <i>Volatile Civil-Military Relations in Intrastate Conflict and International Use of Force (Article under review)</i>  <i>Civil-Military Balance in U.S. Security Force Assistance: Evidence from Iraq and Ukraine (Research in progress)</i>  <i>Know Thy Military (Book project)</i></p>	<p>2021-2023</p>

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**REFERENCES**

**Monica Duffy Toft**  
 Professor of International Politics  
 Fletcher School, Tufts University  
 monica.toft@tufts.edu

**William C. Wohlforth**  
 Professor of Government  
 Dartmouth College  
 william.c.wohlforth@dartmouth.edu

**Roger Petersen**  
 Professor of Political Science  
 Department of Political Science, MIT  
 rpeters@mit.edu

**Elizabeth A. Wood**  
 Professor of History  
 History Faculty, MIT  
 elizwood@mit.edu