

# Chad Levinson

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## Current Employment

### **Virginia Tech**

*Assistant Professor*

Government and International Affairs  
School of Public and International Affairs  
College of Architecture and Urban Studies

2018 – Present

## Education

### **University of Chicago**

Ph.D. — Political Science

June, 2017

Dissertation — *Moral Subsidy: The Origins of Influential Interest Groups in US National Security Politics*  
Committee — John Mark Hansen (chair), William G. Howell, John J. Mearsheimer

Abstract: How do interest groups gain influence in US national security politics? I argue that ambitious presidential administrations recruit extra-governmental organizations that agree with the proposed policy and possess independent credibility, to act as collaborators in propaganda campaigns aimed at overcoming public resistance and congressional opposition. Such groups provide a “moral subsidy” — legitimating third-party support — to administrations running deficits in their ability to persuade, and enable them to circumvent laws that prohibit the domestic distribution of government propaganda. Collaborating groups gain access to professional, political, and informational resources that increase their influence. This dissertation uses large-n observational, experimental, and analytic-historical analysis to explain the emergence and development of a network of influential extra-governmental organizations that has taken a central role in US national security politics, which I call the “credibility cartel.”

### **University of Chicago**

A.M. — Social Science

### **Columbia University**

B.A. — English, Columbia College

## Research Interests

National Security Politics, the US Presidency, Civil Society, American Political Development, Information Warfare, Information Technology & Politics, Propaganda

## Academic Employment History

<b>Williams College</b> <i>Stanley Kaplan Postdoctoral Fellow</i> Department of Political Science and Leadership Studies Program	2017 – 2018
<b>University of Chicago</b> <i>Preceptor</i> Committee on International Relations	2014 – 2017
<b>Harvard University</b> <i>Research Fellow, International Security Program</i> Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Kennedy School of Government	2013 – 2014

## Publications & Research

### *Journal Articles*

“Gilt by Associations: Executive Appointments to National Security Federal Advisory Committees,” *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, 49:1 (March, 2019).

### *Book Chapters*

**Cutting the Fuse**, Robert A. Pape and James K. Feldman, University of Chicago Press, 2010.  
– *Chapter 3: Iraq*  
– *Chapter 6: Al Qaeda*

### *Reports*

**Report to the Office of Naval Research on MVEOs**, 2008  
– *Iraq Sub-report*  
– *Al Qaeda Sub-report*

### *Commentary*

“A (Mostly) Rationalist Critique of the Gaza Blockade,” *Cicero Magazine*, August 16, 2014.

### *In Progress*

**The Credibility Cartel**  
The Origins and Development of Extra-Governmental National Security Organizations, 1937–1989

**A Blob is Born**  
Extra-Governmental Organizations and the Politics of the US War in Vietnam

**Selecting Surrogates**  
Source-Frame Congruence in National Security Appeals

**Soft Power Politics**

Information Warfare, Civil Society, and Social Media

*Datasets and Databases***FAC Check**

Author and Programmer

**Measuring American Legislatures** — Nolan McCarty and Boris Shor

Programmer

**Suicide Attack Database** — Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism

Programmer and Designer

**Grants**

<b>Institute for Society, Culture, and Environment, Virginia Tech</b> Scholars Program Grant, 2019–2020 (Principal Investigator)	\$30,000
<b>LBJ Foundation</b> Moody Research Grant, 2015	\$1,480
<b>Truman Library Institute</b> Inaugural John K. Hulston Scholarship, 2014	\$2,600
<b>The Roosevelt Institute</b> Grant-in-aid, 2014	\$750
<b>The Eisenhower Presidential Library</b> Abilene Travel Grant, 2014	\$875
<b>University of Chicago</b> Research Travel Grant, 2013	\$2,500

**Awards**

<b>American Political Science Association</b> Leonard D. White Award for best doctoral dissertation on public administration	2019
<b>University of Chicago</b> Grodzins Prize Lectureship	2015–2016

**Teaching***Virginia Tech*

<b>International Politics</b> Graduate Seminar	2019
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<b>Contemporary American Foreign Policy</b> Graduate Seminar	2019
<b>Power and Policy in the US</b> Graduate Seminar	2019
<b>Cyber Leaders</b> Undergraduate Capstone Program	2019
<b>Foreign Policy and Diplomacy</b> Undergraduate Seminar	2018

*Williams College*

<b>Interest Groups and US Foreign Policy</b> Undergraduate seminar	2018
<b>International Security</b> Undergraduate lecture	2018
<b>Introduction to International Relations</b> Undergraduate lecture, with James McAllister	2017

*University of Chicago*

<b>The US Presidency</b> Undergraduate seminar	2016
<b>Perspectives on International Relations</b> Graduate lecture (with Milena Ang, Dina Rashed, and Kevin Weng)	2014, 2015, 2016

## Presentations

*Conferences*

<b>Emerging Trends: New Tools, Threats, and Thinking</b> <i>Intelligence and National Security Alliance</i> Panelist — Social Computing and Its Impact on Intelligence	2019
<b>National Security Education Program Colloquium</b> <i>Hume Center for National Security and Technology</i> Panelist — Technical and Policy Considerations of Cyber Influence Operations	2019
<b>Cutting the Fuse: Moving Beyond the War on Terror</b> <i>Chicago Project on Security and Terrorism</i> Rapporteur — Strategy in the Middle East	2010

*Professional Association Annual Meetings***American Political Science Association**

Panelist — New Perspectives on the Study of Information Technology and Politics	2019
Organizer, Discussant, and Panelist — Information Warfare Past and Present	2018
Panelist — Leaders and Executive Institutions in Foreign Policy Making	2016

**International Studies Association**

Panelist — American Political Development of Foreign Policy: The Modern Period	2020
Panelist — Foreign Policy Attitudes: Experimental Approaches	2019
Discussant — Diasporas and the Formation of Foreign Policy	2019
Panelist — Experimental Research on Information and Emotions in International Relations	2017
Panelist — Presidential Foreign Policy: Constraints Versus Opportunities	2013

**Midwest Political Science Association**

Panelist — Foreign Policy and American Political Development	2020
Discussant — Executives and Foreign Policy Making	2018
Panelist — Diasporas, Foreign NGOs, and Policy Outcomes	2012
Panelist, with Eric Oliver — Connecting Behavioral Economics and Political Psychology	2011

**Southern Political Science Association**

Chair and Discussant — Political Networks and International Conflict	2016
Panelist — Presidents, Personnel, and Public Management	2016

**Social Science History Association**

Panelist — Civil Society, Deliberation, & Policymaking	2015
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*Guest Lectures***War and the Nation-State** — John Mearsheimer

<i>World War II on the Eastern Front</i>	2016
<i>The Causes of World War II in Asia</i>	2013

## Professional Development

**Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy**

Columbia University's Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, hosted by Cornell University

**Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Methods Research**

Consortium on Qualitative Research Methods, Syracuse University

## Service

*Committees***Honorifics Committee**

Virginia Tech, College of Architecture and Urban Studies

**International Relations Hiring Committee**

*Graduate Student Liaison*

University of Chicago, Political Science Department

**Political Science Association**

University of Chicago, Political Science Department

*Peer Review*

International Security, Political Geography, International Theory

**Memberships**

American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, International Studies Association, Southern Political Science Association, Social Science History Association