

# Shahin Berenji

## Curriculum Vitae

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US Naval War College  
Department of Strategy and Policy  
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### ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Assistant Professor, Strategy and Policy Department, US Naval War College, June 2023- Present

Postdoctoral Fellow, Albritton Center for Grand Strategy, Bush School of Government and Public Service, Texas A & M University, August 2022-May 2023

Visiting Assistant Professor and Colin Powell Postdoctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science and John G. Tower Center for Public Policy and International Affairs, Southern Methodist University, August 2020-July 2022

### EDUCATION

University of California Los Angeles

Ph.D in Political Science, September 2017

Committee: Deborah Larson (Chair), Marc Trachtenberg, Robert Trager, and Stanley Wolpert

M.A. in Political Science, October 2010

University of Southern California

B.A. in Political Science, December 2006

Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Golden Key Honors Society

### RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Relations Theory, Political Psychology, Diplomacy/Diplomatic History, Conflict Resolution, Foreign Policy Decision-Making, the Middle East, the Cold War, Qualitative Methodology

### PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

["Empathy, Risk-Taking, and Concession-Making: Gorbachev's Bold Proposals at Reykjavik to End the US-Soviet Arms Race,"](#) *Security Studies* Vol. 32, No. 2 (2023): 306-337. Published online Dec. 2022.

["Sadat and the Road to Jerusalem: Bold Gestures and Risk Acceptance in the Search for Peace,"](#) *International Security* Vol. 45, No. 1 (Summer 2020): 127-163.

["Consumers and the Case for Labeling Genfoods."](#) *Journal of Research for Consumers* Issue 13, 2007.

### WORKING PAPERS

"Signaling and Reassurance: Ronald Reagan's 1984 Peace Offensive"

## **WORKS IN PROGRESS**

“Empathy’s Role in Facilitating the Reagan Reversal”

“To the Brink and Back: Egypt, Israel, and the War Scares of 1977”

Book Project (based on dissertation), *Accepting Risks and Making Bold Gestures: Why Decision-makers Initiate Conciliation in Rivalries*

## **OTHER PUBLICATIONS**

“[Stepping Back from the Brink: A Clausewitzian Explanation of Israel’s Restraint Toward Iran](#)” (with Vanya Eftimova Bellinger), The Modern War Institute at West Point, May 3, 2024

“[Clausewitz, the Culminating Point of Victory, and Israel’s Perilous Rafah Operation](#)” (with Vanya Eftimova Bellinger), The Modern War Institute at West Point, March 22, 2024

“[Arms Alone Cannot Win the Peace in Ukraine](#),” *The National Interest Online*, August 2, 2022

“[Jimmy Carter’s Role in Securing Middle East Peace](#),” *E-International Relations*, April 2016

[Review](#) written for *History, Politics, and Diplomacy of the Arab-Israeli Conflict: A Source Document Reader*, ed. Kenneth W. Stein, March 2015

“[Consumers & Genetically Engineered Foods](#),” *USC Journal of Law and Society* 3, Fall 2007

## **CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS**

New England Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2024

Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations Annual Meeting, June 2023

Albritton Center for Grand Strategy, Texas A & M University, March and May 2023

International Studies Association Annual Meeting, 2015, 2018

International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting, 2015

(Co-presented with Elizabeth Goodhue, Carrier Sanders, and Molly Jacobs) 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Continuums of Service Conference, 2015

International Studies Association–West Annual Meeting, 2013

International Association for Conflict Management Annual Meeting, 2013

## **INVITED TALKS/WORKSHOPS**

(Participant) The Program on Grand Strategy, The Albritton Center for Grand Strategy, Texas A & M University, August 2023-Present

(Discussant) The U.S.-Japan Security Alliance and Japan’s New Foreign Policy, symposium organized by SMU’S Tower Center Sun and Star Program on Japan and East Asia, 2022

(Presenter) "Region in Turmoil: The Middle East and its Unending Civil Wars," *Beyond the Headlines* Speaker Series, Osher Lifelong Learning Institute, UCLA, 2019

(Presenter) "U.S. Foreign Policy in the Middle East," West Los Angeles College Annual Global Conference, 2016

## **FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AND AWARDS**

SMU

Colin Powell Teaching Fellowship in International Relations, 2020-2022

UCLA

Non-Senate Faculty Professional Development Award, Office of the Vice-Chancellor for Academic Personnel, 2018, 2019, 2020

Department of Political Science  
Dissertation Fellowship, 2016-2017

Research Grant, Summer 2014, 2015, 2016

Department of Psychology, Dissertation Research Grant in Political Psychology, Summer 2016

Graduate Division  
Research Travel Grant, Winter 2015

Graduate Summer Research Mentorship Fellowship, Summer 2009, 2010

Middle East Studies Research Travel Grant, UCLA Younes and Soraya Nazarian Center for Israel Studies, 2014

Dispute Resolution Research Center (DDRC) Travel Scholarship, Northwestern University, 2013

## **TEACHING**

US NWC, Assistant Professor (Seminar Co-Moderator)  
Strategy and Policy, Winter 2024 (Graduate)

Strategy and War, Fall 2023 (Graduate)

Texas A & M, Postdoctoral Fellow  
The Art of Diplomacy and Statecraft, Spring 2023 (Graduate)

SMU, Visiting Assistant Professor  
Governments and Politics of the Middle East, Spring 2022

Principles of Public Policy, Spring and Fall 2021

Introduction to International Relations, Fall 2020, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022

UCLA, Lecturer  
Foreign Policy in an Uncertain World, Fall 2017, 2018, 2019

International Politics, 1914 to the Present, Winter 2018, 2019, 2020

The International Relations of the Middle East, Spring 2018, 2020

World Order, Spring 2019

California Lutheran University (CLU), Adjunct Professor  
American Foreign Policy, Spring 2019

## **SERVICE**

US NWC, Strategy and Policy Department  
Member of the Postdoc Search Committee

Member of the Book Committee

SMU

Moderator for Middle East-related talks/events hosted by the Tower Center for Public Policy and International Affairs, Spring 2021-Spring 2022

Taught students within the selective Tower Scholars Program, Spring and Fall 2021

UCLA

Presenter & Participant, International Relations Reading Group, 2011-12, 2015-2019

Mentor in the Alumni Mentor Program, 2014-2015

Reviewer for *International Security*, *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, and *Communication Studies*

Member of the American Political Science Association (APSA), International Studies Association (ISA), Southern Political Science Association (SPSA), and the Society for Historians of American Foreign Relations (SHAFR)

## **OTHER PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITIES**

Participant, Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy (SWAMOS), Cornell University, July 9-23, 2023

Summer Academy Fellow, International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP), San Diego, June 30-July 2, 2015

Participant, UCLA-student delegation hosted by Kuwait's Ministry of Information, Summer 2011  
Invited to visit Kuwait to learn about the political and economic developments in the country and the broader Middle East.

Graduate Student Research Assistant, Barbara Geddes, Summer 2011, Winter-Spring 2012  
Researched authoritarian regimes (particularly, those in the Middle East and South Asia) as part of a NSF-funded project

Editorial Assistant, *American Political Science Review*, Fall 2009-Summer 2010

## **MEDIA APPEARANCES**

Interviewed by [BBC News](#) on the passing of UN Security Council resolution 2728 and its implications for the Israel-Hamas war, March 26, 2024

Quoted in [NBC News](#) on the humanitarian consequences of the Israel-Hamas conflict, February 29, 2024.

Interviewed by the [Australian Broadcasting Corporation](#) on rising tensions in the Red Sea, January 3, 2024

Quoted in [El Mercurio](#) [Chilean newspaper] analyzing the possibility of the Gaza conflict broadening into a regional war, December 28, 2023, A4

Quoted in [NBC News](#) examining the comments made by Israeli officials and their rhetoric amid the Israel-Hamas Conflict, November 13, 2023

Interviewed by [BBC Bangla](#) on the history of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, October 20, 2023

Quoted in [Clarín](#) [Argentine newspaper] about President Biden's objectives in visiting the Middle East, October 17, 2023

Interviewed Dr. Anita Kellogg for [Kellogg's Global Politics](#) podcast on the outbreak of the Russia-Ukraine War, March 20, 2022

Quoted in [the Argonaut](#) [local West LA newspaper] on US foreign policy toward Europe since the end of the Cold War, November 7, 2019, p. 9

## **LANGUAGES**

English (native), French (advanced), and Farsi (basic)