

Shahin Berenji

Curriculum Vitae

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

Adjunct Research Fellow, Pell Center for International Relations and Public Policy, Salve Regina University, September 2025-Present

Nonresident Research Fellow, Modern War Institute at West Point, September 2024-September 2025

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

M.A. in Political Science, October 2010

University of Southern California
B.A. in Political Science, December 2006
Magna cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa

RESEARCH INTERESTS

International Security, International Relations Theory, Political Psychology, Diplomacy/Diplomatic History, Foreign Policy Decision-Making, the Middle East (with specialties in the Arab-Israeli Conflict and Iran), 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.

["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* No. 13 (2007).

WORKING PAPERS

(under review) "Reassuring Israel after the 1973 War: Sadat's Empathic Signaling and Its Effects on Israel's Decisionmakers"

"On the Brink: Egypt, Israel, and the War Scare of 1977"

WORKS IN PROGRESS

(w/ Lt. Col. Colby Broadwater) "SOF Power: How Green Berets Can Generate Indigenous Mass in an Age of Great Power Competition"

Book Project, *Accepting Risks and Making Bold Gestures: Why Decision-makers Initiate Conciliation in Rivalries*

BOOK REVIEWS

(w/ Lt. Col. Colby Broadwater) [Book Review](#) of *Training for Victory: U.S. Special Forces Advisory Operations from El Salvador to Afghanistan* by Frank K. Sobchak. *Small Wars and Insurgencies* Vol. 36, No. 7 (2025) :1426-1431.

OTHER WRITINGS

["Why Israel's Security Doctrine Won't Help It Achieve Strategic Stability in the Middle East," the Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists](#), September 2, 2025.

Editor and Annotator (with translations provided by Yara Malshy) of "[Israeli Defense Force General Staff Discussions Regarding Sadat's visit to Israel](#)," US Naval War College Archives, May 2025.

["Keeping the Middle East on Edge: Why Iran Threatens to Retaliate Against Israel – and Why It Has Not Yet Done So,"](#) Modern War Institute at West Point, August 20, 2024.

["Stepping Back from the Brink: A Clausewitzian Explanation of Israel's Restraint Toward Iran"](#) (with Vanya Eftimova Bellinger), 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), Modern War Institute at West Point, March 22, 2024.

["Arms Alone Cannot Win the Peace in Ukraine,"](#) *National Interest*, August 2, 2022.

["Jimmy Carter's Role in Securing Middle East Peace,"](#) *E-International Relations*, April 2016.

CONFERENCES AND PRESENTATIONS

International Political Science Association 75th Anniversary Conference, September 2024

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) 18th Annual Continuums of Service Conference, 2015

International Studies Association–West Annual Meeting, 2013

International Association for Conflict Management Annual Meeting, 2013

INVITED TALKS/WORKSHOPS

(Presenter) "The Security Architecture of the Modern Middle East, 1979 to the Present," Circle of Scholars Program, Salve Regina University, November 25, 2025.

(Participant and Presenter) The Program on Grand Strategy, The Albritton Center for Grand Strategy, Texas A & M University, August 2023-August 2025

(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

USNWC, Assistant Professor (Seminar Co-Moderator and Lecturer)
Strategy and War, Fall 2023, Fall 2024, Fall 2025 (Graduate)

Strategy and Policy, Winter 2024, Winter 2025 (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

USNWC

Panelist and Speaker on Iran and the Middle East, Perspectives on Modern War Conference, December 2025

Lectured on the Middle East/CENTCOM as part of the Judge Advocate Career Training Program at the Naval Justice School, June 2025

On the steering committee for the Women, Peace, and Security (WPS) Program, September 2024-Present

On the Strategy and Policy Department's Book Committee, September 2023-September 2025

On the Strategy and Policy Department's Postdoc Search Committee, February - April 2024

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

Reviewer for *Global Studies Quarterly*, *International Security*, *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific*, 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/Invitee, part of UCLA-student delegation hosted by Kuwait's Ministry of Information, Summer 2011

Invited to learn about political and economic developments in Kuwait 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) for a NSF-funded project

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

MEDIA APPEARANCES

Interviewed by NBC10 WJAR [Rhode Island] (live TV) about the [Iran-Israel ceasefire](#), June 24, 2025

Interviewed by BBC World News (live TV)

[with Sally Bundock] On the escalating tensions between Israel and Iran (and its proxies), July 31, 2024

[with Sally Bundock] On the passing of UN Security Council resolution 2728, March 26, 2024

Interviewed by the Australian Broadcasting Corporation [ABC] (radio)

[with Samantha Donovan] On [Prime Minister Netanyahu's visit to the US](#), the PM program, July 26, 2024.

[with Samantha Donovan] On [Israel's Rafah offensive](#), the PM program, May 28, 2024

On rising tensions in the [Red Sea](#), world news program, January 4, 2024

Quoted online in NBC news articles

On the humanitarian consequences of the [Israel-Hamas war](#), February 29, 2024

On [Israel's right-wing ministers' comments](#) amid the Gaza conflict, November 13, 2023

Quoted in [El Mercurio](#) [Chilean newspaper] on the likelihood of a regional war, December 28, 2023, A4

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 (intermediate)