

# BRIAN C. CHAO

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## EDUCATION

PhD in Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, 2020  
Dissertation committee: Avery Goldstein (chair), Michael C. Horowitz, Alex Weisiger.  
Fields: International Relations, comparative politics.  
Certificate in College and University Teaching, 2017  
AM in Political Science, University of Pennsylvania, 2016  
AB (*cum laude*) in Government, with High Honors, Dartmouth College, 2009

## ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

*Continental Powers and Naval Development: Strategy Coherence, Threat Diffusion, and Success at Sea*. Cass Series: Naval Policy and History. Abingdon, UK: Routledge. Forthcoming.  
“Muddled Waters: Freedom-of-Navigation Operations as Signals in the South China Sea,” with Hyun-Binn Cho. *The British Journal of Politics and International Relations* 27, no. 1 (February 2025): 154-78.  
“New Imagined Geographies into Old Geobodies: Problems and Prospects for China and Taiwan in the South China Sea.” *Territory, Politics, Governance* 12, no. 5 (2024): 628-48.  
“Security in the Asia-Pacific and Signaling at Sea,” with Hyun-Binn Cho. *International Relations of the Asia-Pacific* 23, no. 3 (September 2023): 511-39.  
“Three’s a Crowd: The Impact of Two Chinas on the China Seas Territorial Disputes.” In *Security, Development and Sustainability in Asia: A World Scientific Reference on Major Policy and Development Issues of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Asia*, edited by Zhiqun Zhu, vol. 1, *Geopolitics, Security and Foreign Policy*, 235-51. Hackensack, NJ: World Scientific, 2023.  
“‘A Brilliant Second’: France as a Naval Great Power.” In *Navies in Multipolar Worlds: From the Age of Sail to the Present*, edited by Paul Kennedy and Evan Wilson, 23-46. Cass Series: Naval Policy and History 66. Abingdon, UK: Routledge, 2021.

## OTHER MEDIA AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

### Writing

*China, Taiwan and the Crime of Aggression: An International Criminal Law Analysis of China’s Military Operations in the Indo-Pacific Region*, with John Dotson and Brian Zhang. JuraLaw, 2024.

“Erasing the American Global Military Footprint Won’t Make a Better World,” with Jahara Matisek. *Newsweek*, December 19, 2023.

“Five Recommendations for Left-of-Boom Security Assistance to Taiwan,” with Jahara Matisek and William Reno. *War on the Rocks*. December 18, 2023.

“War Books: Taiwan.” United States Military Academy Modern War Institute. May 5, 2023.

“A New Analogy: America and China through the Lens of the Pax Britannica.” US Naval Institute. May 2, 2022.

“Protecting the Taiwan Strait in the 21st Century.” East Asia Forum. February 4, 2021.

“Coast Guards Could Accidentally Spark War in the South China Sea.” *The National Interest*. June 28, 2016.

“East Asia’s Lessons from World War I.” *The Diplomat*. July 16, 2014.

“China’s Military Political Commissar System in Comparative Perspective,” with Kenneth Allen and Ryan Kinsella. *China Brief* 13, no. 5 (March 4, 2013): 15-19.

NB: also included in the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees’ [Refworld](#).

“South Korea Accepts Japanese Yellow Sea Deployment.” *Atlantic Sentinel*. June 12, 2012.

## **Speaking**

“US Freedom-of-Navigation Operations as Signals in the South China Sea,” with Hyun-Binn Cho. Franco-German Observatory of the Indo-Pacific. January 29, 2025.

“The Taiwan Question at 75: Coexistence and Confrontation, Past and Future.” The College of New Jersey Politics Forum. November 1, 2024.

Testimony on Taiwanese statehood and right to self-determination at The Court of the Citizens of the World’s China Tribunal, July 8, 2024.

“China’s Rise and the Taiwan Question: The Conventional Wisdom and Underexplored Issues.” Lecture to the Union League of Philadelphia, Whitemarsh, PA, April 27, 2023.

“The Taiwan Question: Cross-Strait Relations and US Policy Past, Present, and Future.” Naval War College Foundation Newport Lecture Series. Video recorded April 19, 2023.

“History Rhymes: Lessons from the Past for Today’s US-China Maritime Competition.” Maritime Security Challenges Virtual Session 10. Video recorded December 1, 2021.

“French Seapower.” Interview by Jared Samuelson. *Center for International Maritime Security Sea Control* 268, August 15, 2021.

## **CONFERENCES**

### **Paper Presentations**

International Studies Association Annual Convention, March 2025

International Studies Association International Security Studies Section-American Political Science Association International Security Section Annual Conference, 2024

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition, 2024

International Studies Association Annual Convention, 2024

American Political Science Association International Security Section-International Studies Association International Security Studies Section Annual Conference, 2023

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Convention, 2021  
United States Naval Academy McMullen Naval History Symposium, 2021  
United States Naval Academy McMullen Naval History Symposium, 2019  
University of Pennsylvania Conference on International Borders in a Globalizing World, 2019  
Cornell University Interdisciplinary Graduate Workshop on Peace and Conflict, 2019  
International Studies Association Annual Convention, 2019  
Yale University Naval History Conference, 2018  
University of Pennsylvania Center for the Study of Contemporary China Weekly Forum, 2018  
The George Washington University Asian Politics Workshop, 2018  
International Studies Association International Conference, 2017  
Columbia University in the City of New York Conference on East Asia, 2016  
Mid-Atlantic Region Association for Asian Studies Annual Conference, 2015  
Council on Asian Affairs Young Researchers Symposium, 2015  
University of California, San Diego Minerva China Scholars Conference, 2012

### **Other Participation**

Panel discussant, International Studies Association Annual Convention, March 2025  
Panel chair and co-discussant, International Studies Association International Security Studies Section-American Political Science Association International Security Section Annual Conference, 2024  
Panel chair and co-discussant, American Political Science Association Annual Meeting and Exhibition, 2024  
Panel co-organizer, International Studies Association Annual Convention, 2024  
Panel discussant, International Studies Association Annual Convention, 2024  
Discussant, Cornell University Interdisciplinary Graduate Workshop on Peace and Conflict, 2019  
Panel moderator and discussant, University of Pennsylvania Pi Sigma Alpha Beta Tau Chapter Undergraduate Research Conference, 2018  
Co-organizer, University of Pennsylvania China and International Relations Graduate Research Workshop, 2017  
Panel discussant, University of Pennsylvania China and International Relations Graduate Research Workshop, 2016  
Co-organizer and panel discussant, University of Pennsylvania China and International Relations Graduate Research Workshop, 2015

## **TEACHING**

### **Naval War College**

The Taiwan Question: Cross-Strait History, US Policy, and the Future, 2022-present  
Theater Security Decision Making, 2021-present  
National Security Decision Making, 2021-present

## **University of Pennsylvania**

Introduction to International Relations, with Alex Weisiger, 2019

American Foreign Policy, with Michael C. Horowitz, 2017

War, Strategy, and Politics, with Michael C. Horowitz, 2016

International Security, with Avery Goldstein, 2016

Chinese Politics, with Avery Goldstein, 2015

## **Guest Teaching**

Contemporary Asia, with Shuxian Luo, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, 2024

Advanced Strategist Program Course, with David A. Brown, Naval War College, 2022-23

Strategy and Policy, with MAJ Sean Marquis USA, United States Military Academy, 2023

Joint Military Operations, with Joint Military Operations Department, Naval War College, 2022, August 2025

Governing China: The Chinese Party-State and PRC Foreign Policy, with Isaac B. Kardon, Naval War College, 2022

International Crises, with Christopher Chiego, Haverford College, 2020

Critical Inquiries, with Maya Pindyck, Moore College of Art and Design, 2019

## **NAVAL WAR COLLEGE SERVICE**

Asia-Pacific Studies Prize student essay judging committee, 2022-present

Cyber and Innovation Policy Institute tenured associate professor search committee, Strategic and Operational Research Department, 2023

Master’s thesis advisor, Advanced Strategist Program, 2022-23

Cyber and Innovation Policy Institute tenure-track assistant professor search committee, Strategic and Operational Research Department, 2022

Master’s thesis advisor, Advanced Strategist Program, 2022

Theater Security Decision Making International Security sub-course curriculum working group, National Security Affairs Department, 2021-2022

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS**

American Political Science Association

International Institute for Strategic Studies

International Studies Association

## **FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

Chinese: Mandarin; simplified and traditional.

Certificate in Chinese Language, National Taiwan University, 2011

Certificate in Chinese Language, Tsinghua University, 2010

Certificate in Modern Chinese, Peking University (Stanford-Peking University Program), 2009

French

## OTHER EXPERIENCE

Research Fellow, Modern War Institute, United States Military Academy, 2022-2023

Contributing Analyst, Asia-Pacific Desk, Wikistrat Inc., 2012-2015

Research Associate for East Asia, Center for Intelligence Research and Analysis, Defense Group Inc., 2011-2014

Country Director and Dartmouth College Class of 1964 Public Policy Intern; China, Taiwan, and Mongolia Team; Office of the Secretary of Defense; US Department of Defense, 2008

Intern, Presidential Materials Staff, Office of Presidential Libraries, US National Archives and Records Administration, 2007

Intern, Schools Program, and Associate *ad interim*, Public Programs, World Affairs Council of Northern California, 2006

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