

Christopher M. Faulkner

National Security Affairs Department
US Naval War College
Newport, RI 02840

Phone: (401) 856-5536
E-mail: christopher.faulkner@usnwc.edu
Website: <https://christophermfaulkner.wordpress.com>

Academic Positions

Associate Professor, National Security Affairs United States Naval War College, College of Distance Education	August 2026-Present
Assistant Professor, National Security Affairs United States Naval War College, College of Distance Education	August 2022-August 2026
Non-resident Senior Fellow, Eurasia Program Foreign Policy Research Institute	2024-present
Non-resident Senior Fellow Delphi Global	2025-present
Postdoctoral Fellow United States Naval War College, National Security Affairs Department	July 2021-August 2022
Postdoctoral Research Associate University of Central Florida, School of Politics, Security, and International Affairs	May 2021-July 2021
Visiting Assistant Professor in International Studies Centre College, International Studies Program	August 2019-July 2021
Minerva-Jennings Randolph Peace and Security Scholar United States Institute of Peace	September 2018-May 2019

Education

Ph.D., Security Studies University of Central Florida	August 2019
Graduate Certificate, Intelligence and National Security University of Central Florida	July 2018
MA, Conflict Management and Resolution - National and International Security University of North Carolina Wilmington	May 2013
Graduate Certificate, Conflict Management and Resolution - National and International Security University of North Carolina Wilmington	May 2013

MPA, Public Management
University of North Carolina Wilmington

May 2010

BA, Political Science
University of North Carolina Wilmington

May 2008

Publications

Books

Moscow's Mercenaries: The Rise and Fall of the Wagner Group, with Colin Clarke and Raphael Parens, Columbia University Press

Book link: <https://cup.columbia.edu/book/moscows-mercenaries/9780231216906/>

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

Escribà-Folch, Abel, **Christopher M. Faulkner**, and Marius Mehrl. (2025). Foreign Legionnaires and Military Mutinies. *Journal of Global Security Studies*, 10(2).

Article link: <https://academic.oup.com/jogss/article/10/2/ogaf001/8010887>

Faulkner, Christopher M., and Roos Haer. (2024). The Pitfalls and Potential of Systematic Collection of Information on Child Soldier Recruitment. *Civil Wars*, 26(3): 455-477.

Article link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13698249.2023.2179911>

Schiel, Rebecca, Bruce Wilson, Malcolm Langford, and **Christopher M. Faulkner**. (2023). Democracy and Public Goods Revisited: The Role of Local Institutions and Development. *British Journal of Politics and International Relations*, 25(2): 237-259.

Article link: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/13691481211070176>

Faulkner, Christopher M., and Blair Welsh. (2022). Rebel Recruitment of Child Soldiers and the Use of Sexual Violence. *International Studies Quarterly*, 66(4).

Article link: <https://academic.oup.com/isq/article/66/4/sqac073/6808775>

Faulkner, Christopher M., Joshua E. Lambert, Bruce Wilson, and Matthew S. Faulkner. (2021). The Human Right to Water and Sanitation: Using Natural Language Processing to Uncover Patterns in Academic Publishing. *Water*, 13(24).

Article link: <https://www.mdpi.com/2073-4441/13/24/3501>

Faulkner, Christopher M., and Austin C. Doctor. (2021). Rebel Fragmentation and the Recruitment of Child Soldiers. *International Studies Quarterly*, 65(3): 647-659.

Article link: <https://academic.oup.com/isq/article/65/3/647/6256832>

Schiel, Rebecca, Jonathan Powell, and **Christopher M. Faulkner**. (2021). Mutiny in Africa, 1950-2018. *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 38(4): 481-499.

Article link: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/0738894220934882>

Haer, Roos, **Christopher M. Faulkner**, and Beth Elise Whitaker. (2020). Forcible Recruitment of Children by Rebel Groups: Exploring the Relationship between Endowments and Recruitment. *European Journal of International Relations*, 26(1): 236-262.

Article link: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/1354066119850622>

Faulkner, Christopher M., Jonathan Powell, and Trace Lasley. (2019). Funding, Capabilities and the Use of Child Soldiers. *Third World Quarterly*, 40(6): 1017-1039.

Article link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/01436597.2019.1577680>

Faulkner, Christopher M., Joshua Lambert, and Jonathan Powell. (2019). Reassessing Private Military and Security Company (PMSC) 'Competition' in Civil War: Lessons from Sierra Leone. *Small Wars & Insurgencies*, 30(3): 641-659.

Article link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09592318.2019.1601869>

Faulkner, Christopher M. (2019). Buying Peace: The Duration of Peace and Private Military & Security Companies. *Civil Wars*, 21(1): 82-102.

Article link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13698249.2017.1406037>

Faulkner, Christopher M. and Samuel Schiffer. (2019). Unwelcomed? The Effects of Statelessness on Involuntary Refugee Repatriation in Bangladesh and Myanmar. *The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs*, 108(2): 145-158.

Article link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/00358533.2019.1591766>

Powell, Jonathan, **Christopher Faulkner**, William Dean, and Kyle Romano. (2018). Give Them Toys: Military Allocations and Regime Stability in Transitional Democracies. *Democratization*, 25(7): 1153-1172.

Article link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/13510347.2018.1450389>

Schiell, Rebecca, **Christopher Faulkner**, and Jonathan Powell. (2017). Mutiny in Côte d'Ivoire. *Africa Spectrum*, 52(2): 103-115.

Article link: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/full/10.1177/000203971705200205>

Faulkner, Christopher M. (2016). Money and Control: Rebel Groups and the Forcible Recruitment of Child Soldiers. *African Security*, 9(3): 211-236.

Article link: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/abs/10.1080/19392206.2016.1208472>

Editorial Reviewed Articles/Analyses/Reports

Christopher Faulkner, Marcel Plichta, and Raphael Parens. (2024). "Africa Corps: Has Russia Hit a Ceiling in Africa?," *CTC Sentinel*, 17(11): 23-30.

Article link: <https://ctc.westpoint.edu/africa-corps-has-russia-hit-a-ceiling-in-africa/>

Christopher Faulkner, Raphael Parens, and Marcel Plichta. (2023). "After Prigozhin: The Future of the Wagner Model in Africa," *CTC Sentinel*, 16(9): 13-21.

Article link: <https://ctc.westpoint.edu/after-prigozhin-the-future-of-the-wagner-model-in-africa/>

Colin Clarke, **Christopher Faulkner**, Raphael Parens, and Kendal Wolf. (2023). "The Wagner Group's Expanding Global Footprint," *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, April 27.

Article link: <https://www.fpri.org/article/2023/04/the-wagner-groups-expanding-global-footprint/>

Faulkner, Christopher M., Raphael Parens, and Marcel Plichta. (2023). "Commentary: "Who Thinks Wins": How Smarter U.S. Counterterrorism in the Sahel Can Pay Dividends for Great Power Competition." *CTC Sentinel*, 16(4): 1-9.

Article link:

<https://ctc.westpoint.edu/commentary-who-thinks-wins-how-smarter-u-s-counterterrorism-in-the-sahel-can-pay-dividends-for-great-power-competition/>

Faulkner, Christopher M. (2022). Undermining Democracy and Exploiting Clients: The Wagner Group's Nefarious Activities in Africa. *CTC Sentinel*, 15(6): 28-37.

Article link:

<https://ctc.westpoint.edu/undermining-democracy-and-exploiting-clients-the-wagner-groups-nefarious-activities-in-africa/>.

Faulkner, Christopher M., and Gray, David H. (2014). The Emergence of AQAP and the Effectiveness of US Counterterrorism Efforts. *Global Security Studies*, 5(1): 1-17.

Policy Reports

"Shaping the Security Landscape: How do Russia and China Approach the Issue of Security in Africa?" with Colin Clarke and Raphael Parens. (April 2026). Conducted with *Delphi Global* in support of U.S. European Command's (EUCOM) Russia Strategic Initiative (RSI), <https://www.delphigrc.org/research/shaping-the-security-landscape-how-russia-and-china-approach-the-issue-of-security-in-africa>.

Faulkner, Christopher M., Evan Perkoski, Alec Worsnop, and Loken, Meredith Maloof. (2024) "The Drivers and Consequences of Child Recruitment by Violent Non-State Actors," *The National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE) - Reports, Projects, and Research*. 111, <https://digitalcommons.unomaha.edu/ncitereportsresearch/111/>.

Curran, Meghan, **Christopher Faulkner**, Curtis Bell, Tyler Lycan, Michael Van Ginkel, and Jay Benson. (2020). Violence at Sea: How Terrorists, Insurgents, and Other Extremists Exploit the Maritime Domain. *Stable Seas - One Earth Future*, <https://stableseas.org/publications/violence-sea-terrorist-insurgents>.

Book Chapters in Edited Volumes

Ben-Hammou, Salah, **Christopher Faulkner**, and Jonathan Powell. (Forthcoming). "Coups Contagion," in the *Encyclopedia on Authoritarianism*, Edward Elgar Publishing.

Welsh, Blair and **Christopher Faulkner**. (2025). "Chapter 14: The Gendered Composition of Child Soldiers and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence," in the *Handbook on Gender and Security*, Edward Elgar Publishing.

Book Reviews

Faulkner, Christopher M. (Forthcoming). Review: *Putin's Sledgehammer: The Wagner Group and Russia's Collapse into Mercenary Chaos*, by Candace Rondeaux. *H-Diplo*.

Faulkner, Christopher M. (2026). Review: *America's Great Power Opportunity: Revitalizing U.S. Foreign Policy to Meet the Challenges of Strategic Competition*, by Ali Wyne. *H-Diplo - Jervis Forum Roundtable* 17-43,
<https://issforum.org/roundtables/jervis-forum-roundtable-17-43-on-wyne-americas-great-power-opportunity>.

Faulkner, Christopher M. (2025). Review: *The Wagner Group: Inside Russia's Mercenary Army*, by Jack Margolin. *European History Quarterly*, 55(4).
Review link: <https://journals.sagepub.com/doi/abs/10.1177/02656914251378001m>

Faulkner, Christopher M. (2019). Review: *Tools of War, Tools of State. When Children Become Soldiers*, by Robert Tynes. *African Studies Quarterly*, 18(3): 29-30.
Review link: <https://journals.flvc.org/ASQ/article/view/136035/140468>

Faulkner, Christopher M. (2020). Review: *Fighting for Peace in Somalia: A History and Analysis of the African Union Mission (AMISOM), 2007–2017*, by Paul D. Williams. *African Affairs*, 119 (477): 649-651.
Review link: <https://academic.oup.com/afraf/article/119/477/649/5872708>

Commentaries, Op-Eds, & Other Writing

“Mali Plays Russian Roulette,” with Raphael Parens, *Foreign Policy*, 13 May 2026,
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2026/05/13/mali-attacks-security-russia-france-partnership-sahel/>.

“Mercenarism Reborn: Drone Operators, Coders, and the Post-Ukraine Market for Force,” with Raphael Parens, *Modern War Institute*, 15 January 2026,
<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/mercenarism-reborn-drone-operators-coders-and-the-post-ukraine-market-for-force/>.

“The Africa Blind Spot: The US National Security Strategy and the Risks of Retreat,” *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 6 January 2026,
<https://www.fpri.org/article/2026/01/the-africa-blind-spot-the-us-national-security-strategy-and-the-risks-of-retreat/>.

“Russia’s Hollow Promises: Mali’s Fuel Blockade Exposes the Myth of Moscow’s Power,” with Raphael Parens, *Delphi Global*, 12 November 2025,
<https://www.delphigrc.org/research/russia-s-hollow-promises-mali-s-fuel-blockade-exposes-the-myth-of-moscow-s-power>.

“Prigozhin’s Ghost Haunts Africa Corps,” *Foreign Policy*, 3 September 2025,
<https://foreignpolicy.com/2025/09/03/africa-corps-russia-mali-wagner/>.

“Drones Aren’t the Solution to Africa’s Security Crises,” with Raphael Parens and Marcel Plichta, *Modern War Institute*, 7 July 2025,
<https://mwi.westpoint.edu/drones-arent-the-solution-to-africas-security-crises/>.

“The ‘America First’ Case for U.S. Engagement in Africa,” with Curtis Bell, *Foreign Policy*, 19 May 2025, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2025/05/19/america-first-africa-trump-engagement/>.

“A Cobalt Quagmire? The Risks of a Security-for-Minerals Deal in the DRC,” with Raphael Parens and Marcel Plichtha, *Modern War Institute*, 30 April 2025, <https://mwi.westpoint.edu/a-cobalt-quagmire-the-risks-of-a-security-for-minerals-deal-in-the-drc/>.

“What Washington Keeps Getting Wrong in War Planning,” with Andrew Stigler and James Guimond, *Foreign Policy*, 28 March 2025, <https://foreignpolicy.com/2025/03/28/war-planning-will-to-fight-ukraine-russia-china/>.

*Note: *FP* author guidelines only allowed for two authors on byline of this article so Christopher Faulkner is listed as a contributor at the article’s conclusion.

“Russia in Africa: Private Military Proxies in the Sahel,” with Raphael Parens, *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, 24 March 2025, <https://gjia.georgetown.edu/2025/03/24/russia-in-africa-private-military-proxies-in-the-sahel/>.

“The US May Have Lost the Sahel – But Russia is No Savior,” with Raphael Parens and Marcel Plichtha, *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 3 October 2024, <https://www.fpri.org/article/2024/10/the-us-may-have-lost-the-sahel-but-russia-is-no-savior/>.

“Wagner Group Setback in Mali Challenges Moscow’s Strategy in Africa and the Region’s Faith in Russian Mercenaries,” *The Conversation*, 9 August 2024, <https://theconversation.com/wagner-group-setback-in-mali-challenges-moscows-strategy-in-africa-and-the-regions-faith-in-russian-mercenaries-236285>.

“The Wagner Group Lives on in Africa,” with Marcel Plichtha and Raphael Parens, *Lawfare*, 21 June 2024, <https://www.lawfaremedia.org/article/the-wagner-group-lives-on-in-africa>.

“Russia’s Mercenary-Industrial Complex in Africa,” with Raphael Parens, *War on the Rocks*, 6 June 2024, <https://warontherocks.com/2024/06/russias-mercenary-industrial-complex-in-africa/>.

“Africa Faces the Unintended Consequences of Relying on Russian PMCs,” with Jaclyn Johnson-Avalos, and Zach Streicher, *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 30 May 2024, <https://www.fpri.org/article/2024/05/africa-russian-pmcs/>.

“Russia’s Mercenaries are Bolstering Autocratic Regimes in the Sahel,” with Marcel Plichtha, *The Loop: European Consortium for Political Research*, 15 May 2024, <https://theloop.ecpr.eu/russias-mercenaries-are-bolstering-autocratic-regimes-in-the-sahel/>.

“Niger’s Pivot to Moscow: What’s Next for US Engagement in Africa?,” with Raphael Parens and Marcel Plichtha, *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 5 April 2024, <https://www.fpri.org/article/2024/04/nigers-pivot-to-moscow-whats-next-for-us-engagement-in-africa/>.

“Why Child Soldiering Persists in Africa,” *Georgetown Journal of International Affairs*, 25 February 2024, <https://gjia.georgetown.edu/2024/02/25/why-child-soldiering-persists-in-africa/>.

“Revisiting Coup Contagion,” with Jaclyn Johnson and Jonathan Powell, *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 6 December 2023, <https://www.fpri.org/article/2023/12/revisiting-coup-contagion/>.

“Why Private Military and Security Companies Persist in Africa?,” *Private Security Conversations*, International Code of Conduct Association, 29 November 2023, <https://blog.icoca.ch/why-private-military-security-companies-persist-in-africa/>.

“Norms at Home, Norms Abroad: Security Force Assistance and Civil-Military Relations,” with Jaclyn Johnson, Salah Ben Hammou, and Jonathan Powell, *Modern War Institute*, 18 September 2023. <https://mwi.westpoint.edu/norms-at-home-norms-abroad-security-force-assistance-and-civil-military-relations/>.

“Wagner’s Head is Dead, Now Bury the Body,” with Marcel Plichta and Raphael Parens, *Foreign Policy Research Institute*, 6 September 2023. <https://www.fpri.org/article/2023/09/wagners-head-is-dead-now-bury-the-body/>.

“Wagner Group Licks its Wounds in Belarus,” with Colin Clarke and Raphael Parens, 11 August 2023. <https://www.fpri.org/article/2023/08/wagner-group-licks-its-wounds-in-belarus/>.

“The West Needs to Prepare for the ‘Next Wagner’ in Africa,” with Rapel Parens and Marcel Plichta, *World Politics Review*, 20 July 2023. <https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/russia-wagner-group-africa-mali-central-african-republic/>.

“Is Wagner Pivoting Back to Africa?,” with Colin Clarke, Raphael Parens, and Kendal Wolf, *Foreign Affairs*, 11 May 2023. <https://www.foreignaffairs.com/africa/ukraine-wagner-pivoting-back-africa>.

“Wagner Group’s Battlefield Demotion is Good—for Wagner,” with Colin Clarke, *Newsweek*, 10 March 2023. <https://www.newsweek.com/wagner-groups-battlefield-demotion-good-wagner-opinion-1786792>.

“How to Beat the Wagner Group,” with Marcel Plichta, *Foreign Policy*, 13 February 2023. <https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/02/13/russia-wagner-group-sanctions-ukraine-putin/>.

“Designating Wagner Group as a Transnational Criminal Organization is a First Step – but there’s More Work to Do,” with Marcel Plichta. *The Hill*, 2 February 2023. <https://thehill.com/opinion/national-security/3834632-designating-wagner-group-as-a-transnational-criminal-organization-is-a-first-step-but-theres-more-work-to-do/>.

“Win, Lose, or Draw, the Wagner Group Benefits from the War in Ukraine,” with Marcel Plichta. *Lawfare*, 23 October 2022. <https://www.lawfareblog.com/win-lose-or-draw-wagner-group-benefits-war-ukraine>.

“Russia’s Reliance on Mercenaries in Ukraine Points to the Weakness of its Military – and Putin’s Strategy of Deflecting Blame.” *The Conversation*, 15 September 2022. <https://theconversation.com/russias-reliance-on-mercenaries-in-ukraine-points-to-the-weakness-of-its-military-and-putins-strategy-of-deflecting-blame-190612>.

“Ukraine Wants a No-Fly Zone. What Does This Mean, and Would One Make Any Sense in This War?,” with Andrew Stigler. *The Conversation*, 16 March 2022. <https://theconversation.com/ukraine-wants-a-no-fly-zone-what-does-this-mean-and-would-one-make-any-sense-in-this-war-179282>.

“Don’t Blame Contagion for the Resurgence of Coups,” with Jaclyn Johnson and Naunihal Singh. *World Politics Review*, 1 March 2022. <https://www.worldpoliticsreview.com/don-t-blame-contagion-for-the-resurgence-in-military-coups/>.

"U.S. Airstrikes are Legitimizing a New Kind of War," with Jeffrey Rogg and Andrew Stigler. *The Los Angeles Times*, 23 January 2022.

<https://www.latimes.com/opinion/story/2022-01-23/civilian-casualties-airstrikes>.

"Rising Instability in Mali Raises Fears About Role of Private Russian Military Group." *The Conversation*, 10 January 2022.

<https://theconversation.com/rising-instability-in-mali-raises-fears-about-role-of-private-russian-military-group-174634>.

"Ten Years after the al-Awlaki Killing: A Reckoning for the United States' Drones Wars Awaits," with Jeffrey Rogg. *Modern War Institute* at West Point, 27 September 2021.

<https://mwi.usma.edu/ten-years-after-the-al-awlaki-killing-a-reckoning-for-the-united-states-drones-war-s-awaits/>.

"Rising Violence and the Risks to Children in Burkina Faso," with Jared Thompson. *Political Violence at a Glance*, 11 August 2021.

<https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2021/08/11/rising-violence-and-the-risks-to-children-in-burkina-faso/>.

"DRC's Nyiragongo Erupts: Does This Mean Conflict Will Too?," with Jaclyn Johnson. *Political Violence at a Glance*, 14 June 2021.

<https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2021/06/14/drcs-nyiragongo-erupts-does-this-mean-conflict-will-too/>.

"Making Waves: Militant Maritime Operations Along Africa's Eastern Coast," with Tyler Lycan and Austin Doctor. *War On The Rocks*, 4 November 2020.

<https://warontherocks.com/2020/11/making-waves-militant-maritime-operations-along-africas-eastern-coast/>.

"Another Mutiny Turned Coup: Mali is No Stranger to Military Unrest," with Jaclyn Johnson, Jonathan Powell, and Rebecca Schiel. *The Conversation*, 21 August 2020.

<https://theconversation.com/another-mutiny-turned-coup-mali-is-no-stranger-to-military-unrest-144797>.

"Clearing the Lens of the Periscope: On the Lookout for Violent Non-State Armed Groups at Sea," with Tyler Lycan. *Stable Seas*, 7 August 2020.

<https://stableseas.org/maritime-terrorism/sea-blindness-non-state-actors>.

"Population Size Does Not Explain the High Number of COVID-19 Cases in the United States," with Jonathan Powell.

- *The Cairo Review*, 4 April 2020.

<https://www.thecaireview.com/covid-19-global-crisis/population-size-does-not-explain-the-high-number-of-covid-19-cases-in-the-united-states/>

- *Addressing Global Crisis Project – UCF's Office of Global Perspectives & International Initiatives*, 25 March 2020.

<https://ucfglobalperspectives.org/population-size-does-not-explain-the-high-number-of-covid-19-cases-in-the-united-states/>.

"Flattening the Curve," with Jonathan Powell. *Duck of Minerva*, 16 March 2020.

<https://duckofminerva.com/2020/03/flattening-the-curve.html#more-39243>.

“Peeling back the layers on the role of private security companies in Africa,” with Joshua Lambert and Jonathan Powell. *The Conversation*, 4 August 2019.

<https://theconversation.com/peeling-back-the-layers-on-the-role-of-private-security-companies-in-africa-121145>.

“Why some rebel groups force kids to fight: It depends on how they are funded,” with Roos van der Haer and Beth Elise Whitaker. *The Conversation*, 26 June 2019.

<https://theconversation.com/why-some-rebel-groups-force-kids-to-fight-it-depends-on-how-they-are-funded-119133>.

“Rohingya Refugees in Bangladesh: How the Absence of Citizenship Rights Acts as a Barrier to Successful Repatriation,” with Samuel Schiffer. *South Asia Centre at The London School of Economics*, 12 June 2019.

<https://blogs.lse.ac.uk/southasia/2019/06/12/rohingya-refugees-in-bangladesh-how-a-lack-citizenship-rights-are-a-barrier-to-successful-repatriation/>.

“Children for Hire.” *Political Violence at a Glance*, 20 February 2019.

<https://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2019/02/20/children-for-hire/>.

“Making Sense of Recent Mutinies in Côte d’Ivoire,” with Rebecca Schiel. *Political Violence at a Glance*, 9 June 2017.

<http://politicalviolenceataglance.org/2017/06/09/making-sense-of-recent-mutinies-in-cote-divoire/>.

Working Projects

Under Review

“The Logic of Militant Maritime Exploitation,” with Austin Doctor, Tyler Lycan, and Curtis Bell.

“Missteps and Mutinies: A New Coup-Proofing Paradox,” with Jaclyn Johnson and Jonathan Powell.

“Coup-proofing, Mutinies, & Private Military and Security Companies in Africa,” with Joshua Lambert.

Working Papers

“Examining Temporal Variation in Child Recruitment: The Case of Child Soldiers in the PKK”

“Help Wanted: Loss of Foreign Military Support and Decisions to Contract PMSCs”

“Following the Money? Considering the Effect of External State Sponsorship on Rebel Child Soldiering”

“No Longer Invisible: Girl Soldiering and the Consequences for Conflict,” with Jaclyn Johnson and William O’Connell.

“Exploring the Conditions of Implementation: US Enforcement of the CSPA of 2008”

“Lighting the Long Fuse: The Dangers of America’s Drone Campaigns,” with Jeffrey Rogg and Andrew Stigler.

Datasets

Child Soldier Dataset – Forced Recruitment Update

- Data collection on non-state actors’ coercive recruitment of child soldiers.
- Collaboration with Roos van der Haer, Ph.D. (Leiden University, Netherlands)
- Published in the *European Journal of International Relations*.

Mutiny in Africa, 1950-2018

- Data collection on mutinies across Africa from 1950-2018.
- Collaboration with Rebecca Schiel, Ph.D. (University of Central Florida) and Jonathan Powell, Ph.D. (University of Central Florida).
- Published in *Conflict Management and Peace Science*

Teaching Experience

U.S. Naval War College August 2022-Present
College of Distance Education

*Director of the Foreign Policy Analysis (FPA) sub-course of
Theater Security Decision Making (TSDM)

Courses Taught:

- Perspectives on Modern War - co-taught with Professor Andrew Stigler AY 25-26
- Irregular Warfare in the 21st Century - co-taught with Professor Michael Mooney, Col. USMC, Retired Winter 2025
Winter 2024
- Theater Security Decision Making - Fleet Seminar Program September 2024-June 2025
September 2023-June 2024
September 2022-June 2023
- Naval Command & Staff College – The Security Environment *Online Course September 2023-November 2023

Postdoctoral Fellow, U.S. Naval War College, July 2021-August 2022
National Security Affairs Department

- Theater Security Decision Making – Foreign Policy Analysis (Fall 2021)
- National Security Decision Making – Foreign Policy Analysis (Winter 2021)

Visiting Assistant Professor, Centre College, August 2019-July 2021
Department of International Studies

- POL 130-Introduction to Comparative Politics (Fall 2019; Spring 2020)
- IST 210-Research Design (Spring 2020)
- POL 260-Introduction to International Relations (Fall 2020)
- POL 343-African Politics (Spring 2020; Spring 2021)
- IST 360-Global Health: COVID in Context (Fall 2020)
- POL 363-National and International Security (Fall 2019)
- POL 454-Child Soldiers: Causes & Consequences

(January 2020)

Graduate Teaching Associate, University of Central Florida,
Department of Political Science

August 2016-December 2017

- POS 3733-Designing Political Science Research
(Fall 2017)
- INR 4075-Human Rights Policy
(Fall 2016; Spring 2017)

Graduate Teaching Assistant (GTA), University of Central
Florida,

August 2014-July 2016

Department of Political Science

- POS 2041-American National Government
- GEO 3471-World Political Geography
- POS 3703-Scope and Methods of Political Science
- POS 4030-Politics of Sport
- INR 4008-Global Perspectives
- INR 4114-American Security Policy
- IDS 4315-Global Perspectives
- CPO 4731-Politics of Democratization
- INR 4075-Human Rights Policy

Adjunct/ Part-time Faculty, University of North Carolina
Wilmington,

August 2011-May 2014

Department of Public and International Affairs

- PLS 111-Politics and Government in the Global Perspective
(Fall 2012, 2013; Spring 2014)
*Instructor as part of a “Living-Learning Community” in
partnership with English 110 and First-Year Seminar
- PLS 220-Introduction to International Relations
(Fall 2013; Spring 2014)
- PLS 423 –National Security Policy
(Fall 2011; Fall 2012)

Additional Research Experience

Research Consultant

July 2019-April 2020

One Earth Future – Stable Seas Program,
Broomfield Colorado

Resident Graduate Fellow

January 2017-August 2018

Prince Mohammad bin Fahd Program for Strategic Research and Studies,
University of Central Florida

Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Demet Mousseau,
University of Central Florida

May-July 2018

Graduate Research Assistant for Dr. Jonathan Powell,
University of Central Florida

May-July 2017;
May-August 2020

Invited Talks/Presentations/Podcasts/Media Appearances

Virtual Book Talk: Moscow's Mercenaries: The Rise and Fall of the Wagner Group. <i>Foreign Policy Research Institute</i> . https://www.fpri.org/event/2026/moscows-mercenaries-the-rise-and-fall-of-the-wagner-group/ .	21 July 2026
Podcast: "The Rise + Fall of the Wagner Group." <i>Imperial Twilight Podcast</i> . https://substack.com/@imperialtwilight/p-203844409 .	28 June 2026
Invited Lecturer: "Conducting Research on Non-State Actors." North Carolina State University. *Virtual Presentation	4 June 2026
Invited Speaker/Presenter: "Russia in Africa." <i>National Foreign Affairs Training Center (NFATC), Department of State</i> . *Virtual presentation for Foreign Service Officers. Presentation delivered as part of the sub-Saharan Africa overview course at NFATC.	3 June 2026
Invited Lecturer: Private Military and Security Proxies in Africa. Irregular Warfare Center (IWC) virtual lecture program.	6 May 2026
Invited Speaker/Presenter: Shaping the Security Landscape: How Russia and China Approach the Issue of Security in Africa. *Research report release and presentation <i>Delphi Global</i>	April 2026
Invited Presenter: 7th Annual Peace and War Summit: Africa's Strategic Crossroads: Conflict, Governance, and Great Power Rivalry, <i>Norwich University</i> .	March 22-24, 2026
Invited Speaker/Presenter: "Russia in Africa." <i>National Foreign Affairs Training Center (NFATC), Department of State</i> . *Virtual presentation for Foreign Service Officers. Presentation delivered as part of the sub-Saharan Africa overview course at NFATC.	February 4, 2026
Invited Panelist: Great Power Competition & Conflict in the Age of Authoritarian Collusion <i>U.S. Army - Mad Scientist Initiative</i>	January 26, 2026
Invited Lecturer: "Russia in the Grey Zone." Maritime Security and Governance Staff Course, <i>U.S. Naval War College</i> .	January 22, 2026
Invited Participant: African Defense College Forum 2025, <i>Africa Center for Strategic Studies</i> and <i>National Defence College - Nigeria</i> ; Abuja, Nigeria	July 15-17, 2025
Issues in National Security Lecture Series: Russian Mercenaries, <i>United States Naval War College</i> . https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Es3cwgJSe10	April 22, 2025

Panelist: Militant Recruitment in Armed Conflict: An Academic Perspective, Pathways to Prevention Conference presented by the <i>Alliance to End Human Trafficking</i> .	February 6, 2025
Invited Speaker: United States Institute of Peace (USIP) Symposium on Russia and Instability in the Sahel-Maghreb. <i>USIP</i> , Washington, DC.	October 16-17, 2024
Podcast: "Russia's Wagner Group – Where Are They Now? (1 year later)," <i>Foreign Policy Research Institute</i> . https://www.fpri.org/multimedia/2024/09/russias-wagner-group-where-are-they-now/	September 27, 2024
Podcast: "One Year After Wagner Chief Prigozhin's Death: The Wagner Group's Legacy in Transition," <i>European Resilience Initiative Center</i> . https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=crUHBgcWajM	August 24, 2024
Panelist: "The Wagner Group and Russia in Africa One Year After Prigozhin's Death," <i>The Brookings Institution</i> . https://www.brookings.edu/events/the-wagner-group-and-russia-in-africa-one-year-after-prigozhins-death/	August 2024
Podcast: "Russia's Mercenary-Industrial Complex in Africa," <i>The Insider – War on the Rocks</i> . https://warontherocks.com/episode/the-insider/31498/russias-mercenary-industrial-complex-in-africa/	June 2024
Invited Instructor: Foreign Area Officer Regional Skill Sustainment Course – U.S. Africa Command, <i>George Washington University – Foreign Area Officer Skill Sustainment Initiative</i> .	May 13, 2024
Podcast: "Episode 5: Wagner – The Rise and Fall of a Russian Mercenary Group," <i>The Trident Podcast – Center for Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups (CIWAG)</i> . https://digital-commons.usnwc.edu/the-trident/5/ .	May 7, 2024
Podcast: "Wagner: Russia's Support of Violence in the Region and its Role in Spreading Disinformation," <i>Media Minded Podcast – Shout Out UK</i> . https://www.shoutoutuk.org/2024/04/29/s4e4-wagner-russias-support-of-violence-in-the-region-and-its-role-in-spreading-disinformation/ .	April 29, 2024
Issues in National Security Lecture Series: Russian Mercenaries, <i>United States Naval War College</i> . https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tc7NnD4XK5w&list=PLam-yp5uUR1Y7suKgvL914Vlq1BUtZZ6U&index=14	March 19, 2024
Podcast: "The Wagner Group: Where Are They Now," <i>Foreign Policy Research Institute, Chain Reaction Podcast</i> . https://www.fpri.org/multimedia/2023/11/wagner-group-where-are-they-now/ .	November 29, 2023
Podcast: "The Wagner Group Mutiny," <i>Johns Hopkins Podcast on Foreign Affairs</i> . https://hopkinspofa.com/podcasts/ .	July 17, 2023

Live Television Interview: “What is the Wagner Group,” <i>BBC World News with Yalda Hakim</i> .	May 26, 2023
Expert Report and Conference on Terrorist Organization Recruitment and Operational Behavior <i>National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE)</i> , University of Maryland, College Park, MD.	May 18-19, 2023
Podcast: “Report in Short: The Wagner Group’s Expanding Global Footprint,” <i>Foreign Policy Research Institute’s Chain Reaction Podcast</i> , https://www.fpri.org/multimedia/2023/05/report-in-short-wagner-group-footprint/ .	May 4, 2023
Invited Speaker: “The Wagner Group and Twenty-First Century Proxy Warfare,” <i>The Council on Foreign Relations</i> , Washington, DC.	March 16, 2023
Invited Lecturer: “The Role of Russian Private Military Companies in Africa, Ukraine, and Beyond,” <i>Worcester World Affairs Council</i> , Worcester, MA.	February 7, 2023
Interview on the Wagner Group with Nic Robertson, CNN International Diplomatic Editor. (Remote)	January 2023
Podcast: “The Wagner Group: Who are They?,” <i>Update from Kyiv</i> , Episode 84. https://updatefromkyiv.podbean.com/e/84-analysis-christopherfaulkneron-the-wagner-groupwhoaretheywhataretheirareas-of-operationandwhatis-the-impact-of-their-involvementin-ukraine/	August 17, 2022
Panelist: “External Joiners – Foreign Volunteers, Units, Mercenaries, and PMCs in Ukraine,” <i>Combatting Terrorism Center at WestPoint and Special Operations Command</i> . (Remote)	May 5, 2022
Invited Speaker: “Russian PMC Activity in Africa,” <i>3rd Special Forces Group (Airborne)</i> , Ft. Bragg, North Carolina. (Remote)	April 6, 2022
Guest Lecturer: “Understanding Rebel Recruitment,” University of Kentucky. (Remote)	February 28, 2022
Invited Participant: “Commercial Actors in Armed Conflict,” pre-conference workshop hosted by the University of Liverpool, Toronto, Canada.	March 25, 2019
United States Institute of Peace – Peace and Security Scholars Presentation	September 2018

Honors and Awards

- Department of the Navy Civilian Service Achievement Medal (CSAM) for role on the New England Commission of Higher Education reaccreditation committee, 10 June 2025.
- Nominee for the Network of European Peace Science (NEPS) Medal for best paper published by a NEPS member in 2022 for “Rebel Child Soldiering and Conflict-Related Sexual Violence,” *International Studies Quarterly*, 66(4).

2019 Order of Pegasus Recipient, University of Central Florida.

*Highest honor UCF awards to students. Recipients are required to have demonstrated exemplary university/community involvement, leadership, academic achievement, and service.

United States Institute of Peace-Minerva Research Initiative Peace and Security Scholar – Dissertation Fellowship (pre-doctoral), 2018-2019.

UCF College of Sciences' recipient of the Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching, 2017-2018 Academic Year.

UCF Graduate Dean's Dissertation Completion Fellowship, Spring 2018.

Jim Winkates Best Graduate Student Paper Award (1st Runner-up), International Studies Association-South Annual Meeting, October 2017.

Florida Political Science Association 2017 Best Graduate Student Paper Award (1st place), Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting, April 2017.

Honorable Mention, Security Studies Ph.D. Program Graduate Student Teaching Award, University of Central Florida, January 2017.

Nominee, College of Sciences Award for Excellence in Graduate Student Teaching, University of Central Florida, January 2017.

Jim Winkates Best Graduate Student Paper Award (1st Runner-up), International Studies Association-South Annual Meeting, October 2016.

Florida Political Science Association 2016 Best Graduate Student Paper Competition (Runner-up), Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting, May 2016.

Jim Winkates Best Graduate Student Paper Award (1st Place), International Studies Association-South Annual Meeting, October 2015.

UCF College of Sciences Honorable Mention for Excellence by a Graduate Teaching Assistant, 2015-2016 Academic Year.

Gerard Alexander Monk Memorial Scholarship Recipient, "Partnering for Compliance" Export/Import Control Training and Education Program, March 2015.

Grants

Community-Based Learning Grant. Centre College – Center for Teaching and Learning, 2020, \$500.

Faculty Development Research Grant. Centre College, 2020-2021, \$1300.

American Political Science Association Travel Grant for Annual Meeting, August 2019, \$200.

University of Central Florida Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (ICCAE) Graduate Student Travel Grant, September 2018, \$1600.

Student Travel Grant Award, International Studies Association Southern Region, for travel to the annual conference, Shepherdstown, WV, October 2016, \$200.

University of Central Florida, Graduate Presentation Fellowship, October 2016, \$500.

Prestage-Cook Travel Award, Southern Political Science Association, for travel to the annual conference, San Juan, Puerto Rico, January 2016, \$300.
 University of Central Florida Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (ICCAE) Graduate Student Travel Grant, January 2016, \$500.
 Student Travel Grant Award, International Studies Association Southern Region, for travel to the annual conference, Tampa, FL, October 2015, \$150.
 University of Central Florida, Graduate Presentation Fellowship, October 2015, \$300.

Conference Presentations (* denotes accepted, but attendance impacted by COVID-19)

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2018, 2019, 2020*, 2021
Florida Political Science Association Annual Conference	2015, 2016, 2017, 2018
International Studies Association Annual Conference	2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022
International Studies Association—South Annual Conference	2016, 2017, 2018
Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science Conference	2017; 2023
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference	2020*, 2021
Southeast Methods Meeting & Graduate Student Conference	2015
Southern Political Science Association Annual Conference	2016, 2017, 2018
Southwestern Political Science Association Annual Conference	2017
United States Institute of Peace – Peace Scholars Conference	2018

Research Areas

Militant Behavior; Civilian Victimization and Human Security; Rebel Recruitment, Motivation, and Violence; Democratization; Coups d'état and Mutinies; Private Military and Security Companies; Terrorism and Counterterrorism; Foreign Policy and Decision-making

Training/Professional Development

USNWC Teaching Squares – Peer-to-Peer Teaching Community, US Naval War College	October 2022 – April 2023
Inclusive Teaching Faculty Learning Community, US Naval War College	April 2022-June 2022
USNWC Senior Student Trip, Washington, DC	April 2022
Faculty Visit, U.S. Central Command, Tampa, FL	April 2022
New Faculty Small Group Teaching - Book Workshop, U.S. Naval War College	September-November 2021
Teaching Online and Hybrid Pedagogy, Summer Training, Centre College	May 2020-July 2020
Peace Research Institute Oslo (PRIO), Norway. Conflict Trends Course.	September 10-12, 2018
Centre on Law and Social Transformation, University of Bergen, Ph.D. Course and Bergen Exchanges Effects of Lawfare: Courts & Law as Battlegrounds for Social Change.	August 15-24, 2018
UCF Department of Political Science 2017-2018 Weekly Colloquium, Presenter.	October 3, 2017
Defense Intelligence Agency (DIA) Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence	June 4-16, 2017

(IC-CAE) Summer Seminar.	
UCF Department of Political Science 2015-2016 Weekly Colloquium, Presenter.	April 19, 2016
UCF Graduate Research Forum, Research Poster Presentation.	April 5, 2016
Graduate Professional Development Workshops at UCF: Authorship, Credit, and Collaborative Scholarship and Research: Ethical Pitfalls to Avoid. Ethical and Legal Issues in Teaching. Intellectual Property Rights. Ethics: Personal Integrity as a Graduate Student.	August 2014-January 2015

Professional Service

CDE Representative/Member, USNWC Research Council, USNWC AY 26-27.
 U.S. Naval War College Representative and Moderator, USNWC Regional Alumni Symposium, Gdynia, Poland, 27 March - 2 April 2026.
 Director, Issues in National Security (INS) Lecture Series, USNWC, AY 25-26.
 Faculty Judge and Chair, Foreign Area Officer Association Award (FAOA) for Excellence in International Affairs Paper Competition, May 2025.
 FAC and CDE Faculty Representative, USNWC Cross-Functional Team (CFT) on Artificial Intelligence (AI), Fall 2024 - present.
 CDE Faculty Search Committee Member, AD-05 Faculty Search, Fall 2024.
 Deputy Director, Issues in National Security (INS) Lecture Series, USNWC, AY 24 – 25.
 Vice Chair, USNWC 140th Anniversary Committee, June – October, 2024.
 Faculty Judge, Asia-Pacific Studies Award for Best Paper on Maritime Security in the Asia-Pacific region, May 2024.
 Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) Pulse, Survey Team Member, Spring 2024.
 Faculty Advisory Council Web Manager, Faculty Advisory Council (FAC) Leadership Team, USNWC, 2023 – 2025.
 - FAC Pulse Coordinator
 - FAC Pay band sub-committee member
 Faculty Advisory Council (FAC), College of Distance Education Representative, USNWC, 2023 – 2025.
 USNWC reaccreditation team for New England Commission of Higher Education (NECHE) reaccreditation process, Academic Year 2023-2024.
 Ethical Reasoning at Scale, USNWC Workshop Attendee at James Madison University, June 11-16, 2023.
 Faculty Judge, Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy Counterterrorism Award for Best Paper in Counterterrorism, May 2023.
 Curriculum Development for AY 23-24, College of Distance Education's Naval Command and Staff (NC&S) Course, Policy Analysis Sessions, Academic Year 2022-2023.
 Curriculum Development for AY 23-24, College of Distance Education's Fleet Seminar Program (FSP) Course, Policy Analysis Sub-Course Revisions and Redesign, Academic Year 2022-2023.
 Faculty Judge, Zimmerman-Gray International Essay Award for Best Paper by an International Student, May 2022.
 Faculty Judge, Lieutenant Michael P. Murphy Counterterrorism Award for Best Paper in Counterterrorism, May 2022.
 U.S. Secretary of the Navy, Naval Education Task Force, U.S. Naval War College Visit Assistant and Representative, 2022.

Organizer and Moderator, US Naval War College Lecture of Opportunity (LOO) Series, “The Islamic State in Africa,” with Dr. Jason Warner and Ryan O’Farrell, (virtual event), May 2022.
 Panel Moderator, National Security Significance of the Changing Climate: Operationalizing Climate Security, US Naval War College, March 2022.
 Faculty Internship Supervisor, Centre College:
 • Spring 2022 – Congressional Staff – Virginia Smith.
 • Spring 2021 - [Be Artsy](#) Internship – Savannah Kingery and LiAnna Steffen.
 Undergraduate Research Committee, Centre College, 2020-2021.
 LGBTQ+ Faculty and Staff Caucus, Centre College, 2021.
 Faculty Liaison, Men’s and Women’s Golf, Centre College, 2020-2021.
 Convocation Organizer, Centre College, “Views on Coups,” February 2020.
 Vice President, UCF Political Science Graduate Student Association, Fall 2018-Spring 2019.
 International Studies Association-South Executive Council – Graduate Student Member, 2016 – 2018.
 Peer Reviewer:
 Allons-Y-Journal of Children, Peace, and Security (2020)
 Armed Forces and Society (2018-2023)
 Children & Society (2022)
 Colombia Internacional (2021)
 Conflict Management and Peace Science (2017, 2018, 2020)
 Conflict Resolution Quarterly (2022)
 Cooperation and Conflict (2022, 2023)
 Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict (2022, 2023)
 European Journal of International Relations (2019)
 European Journal of Political Economy (2022)
 Florida Philosophical Review (2017)
 International Affairs (2023)
 International Interactions (2023)
 International Journal of Human Rights (2020, 2024)
 International Studies Quarterly (2020-2024)
 Journal of Conflict Resolution (2021-2024)
 Journal of Peace Research (2019-2024)
 Journal of Politics (2023)
 Political Research Exchange (2021)
 Security Studies (2021, 2022)
 Terrorism and Political Violence (2018, 2023)
 Third World Quarterly (2019)
 Violence: An International Journal (2021)
 Youth Justice (2021)
 Book Reviewer:
 African Affairs (2020)
 African Studies Quarterly (2018)
 Conference Discussant (D), Chair (C)
 2021 – American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (D/C)
 2020 – Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting (D/C)
 Invited Presenter at UCF’s International Education Week, International Expo, November 2018.
 Founding Member/Treasurer, UCF Political Science Graduate Student Association, Spring 2018.
 UCF Kurdish Studies Program Graduate Student Affiliate, Fall 2016-present.
 Panelist, Innovative Teaching on Law and Social Change, University of Bergen’s Center on Law and Social Transformation, August 2018.

Panel Moderator, International Relations Club, International Relations Forum, April 2018.
Moderator and Interviewer for the Tolerance in Education Symposium hosted by UCF's Prince
Mohammad Bin Fahd Program for Strategic Research and Studies, March 2018.
Panelist, UCF's My Political Science Day, February 2018.
Test bank reviewer/editor for 4LTR Press at Cengage Learning, Fall 2015.
Panel Moderator for the Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence (ICCAE) panel
"Perspectives on Terrorism from the Academy and the Field." July 2015.

Professional Skills

Technical Skills:

STATA, Tableau, LaTeX, SPSS, Qualtrics, Excel, Datawrapper, Python (beginner), R (beginner)

Research Skills:

Hypothesis Testing, Quantitative Methodologies, Econometric Modeling, Qualitative Methodologies, Data Operationalization, Web Development, Data Aggregation and Coding, Database Management, Problem Identification, Research Design and Execution, Survey and Experimental Design.

Team and Leadership Skills:

Direct supervision and advisory experience both in academic and professional settings. Managed teams of researchers and students. Developed and curated research projects including the design and implementation of data collection and analysis.

Communication Skills:

Experienced Teacher/Instructor, Writer, Speaker, and Interviewer.

Language Skills:

English (first language), Spanish (beginner).

Membership in Professional Organizations

American Political Science Association (APSA)
International Studies Association (ISA)—ISSS and ISS subgroups
Peace Science Society (PSS)
Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)
Southern Political Science Association (SPSA)

References

Available upon request.