

Ryan Powers

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Appointments

University of Georgia

2025–Present Associate Professor of International Affairs, School of Public and International Affairs.
Gary K. Bertsch Director, Benson-Bertsch Center for International Trade & Security, School of Public & International Affairs.

2018–2025 Assistant Professor of International Affairs, School of Public & International Affairs.

Center for Strategic & International Studies

2026–Present Adjunct Non-Resident Fellow, Futures Lab, Defense & Security Department.

Yale University

2017–2018 Postdoctoral Associate and Lecturer, Leitner Program, MacMillan Center.

Education

Ph.D. in Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2017.

M.A. in Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2011.

B.A. in Government, College of William & Mary (with Honors), 2008.

Research

Current Projects

“Hawks, Doves, and the Domestic Politics of Arms Control” (with Rachel Whitlark).

“Reputational Elasticities in World Politics” (with Jonathan Renshon).

“AI and Foreign Policy Decision-Making” (with Ben Jensen, Yasir Atalan, and Ian Reynolds).

“Silicon Samples: Using LLMs to Simulate Survey Participants” (with Jason Anastasopoulos and Akshat Lakhiwal; funded by an Institute for AI Seed Grant).

Working Papers

“[Identity and the Social Construction of Reputation in World Politics](#)” (with Jonathan Renshon).

“[Foreign Attacks on Space-Based Assets and Public Support for Retaliation](#)” (with Jackson Tilley).

“[After Betrayal: Accommodation, Reputation, and the Political Economy of Discord](#)” (with Michael Goldfien, Tyler Pratt, and Jonathan Renshon).

Refereed Articles

“[International Relations Scholars, the Media, and the Dilemma of Consensus](#)” (with Irene Entringer García Blanes, Shauna Gillooly, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney). Published online ahead of print in *Perspectives on Politics*.

“[Can Rising Powers Reassure? Shifting Power, Foreign Economic Policy, and Perceptions of Revisionist Intent](#)” (with Austin Strange). *Journal of Peace Research*, 62(7), 2025, pp. 2290–2306.

“[Is Context Pretext? Institutionalized Commitments and the Situational Politics of Foreign Economic Policy](#).” *Review of International Organizations*, 20, 2025, pp. 937–965.

“[Judicialization and Public Support for Compliance with International Commitments](#)” (with Harlan Cohen). *International Studies Quarterly*, 68(3), 2024.

“[Great Expectations: The Democratic Advantage in Trade Attitudes](#)” (with Jon C. W. Pevehouse and Freddy Chen), *World Politics*, 75(2), 2023, pp. 316–352.

“[International Status Concerns and Domestic Support for Political Leaders](#)” (with Jonathan Renshon), *American Journal of Political Science*, 67(3), 2023, pp. 732–747.

“[Trade Politics in the Checkout Lane: Ethnocentrism and Consumer Preferences](#)” (with Alexa Bankert and Geoffrey Sheagley), *Political Science Research and Methods*, 11(3), 2023, 605–612.

“[The Cult of the Relevant: International Relations Scholars and Policy Engagement Beyond the Ivory Tower](#)” (with Cullen Hendrix, Julia Macdonald, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney). *Perspectives on Politics*, 21(4), 2023, pp. 1270–1282.

“[Can Increasing Awareness of Gender Gaps in International Relations Help Close Them? Evidence from a Scholar Ranking Experiment](#)” (with Emily Jackson, Daniel Maliniak, Eric Parajon, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney). *International Studies Perspectives*, 24(4), 2023, pp. 420–440.

“[The Myth of the Eclectic IR Scholar?](#)” (with Helen Milner and Erik Voeten). *International Studies Perspectives*, 24(3), 2023, pp. 308–335.

“[Does Social Science Inform Foreign Policy? Evidence from a Survey of U.S. National Security, Trade, and Development Officials](#)” (with Paul Avey, Michael Desch, Eric Parajon, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *International Studies Quarterly*, 66(1), 2022.

“[Epistemic Communities and Public Support for the Paris Agreement on Climate Change](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak and Eric Parajon), *Political Research Quarterly*, 74(4), 2021, pp. 866–881.

“[Is International Relations a Global Discipline? Hegemony, Insularity, and Diversity in the Field](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Security Studies*, 27(3), 2018, pp. 448–484.

“[The Gender Citation Gap in International Relations](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak and Barbara F. Walter), *International Organization*, 67(4), 2013, pp. 889–922.

“[More Dollars than Sense: Refining our Knowledge of Development Finance Using AidData](#)” (with Michael J. Tierney, Daniel L. Nelson, Darren G. Hawkins, J. Timmons Roberts, Michael G. Findley, Bradley Parks, Sven E. Wilson, and Robert L. Hicks), *World Development*, 39(11), 2011, pp. 1891–1906.

Edited Volume

[Bridging The Theory–Practice Divide in International Relations](#) (co-edited with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney). 2020. Georgetown University Press.

Book Chapter

“International Finance” (with Mark S. Copelovitch). Forthcoming in *Oxford Handbook of International Institutions* edited by Michael Barnett and Duncan Snidal.

Public-Facing Scholarship

[“Disapproval for Iran War Among Experts Is Sky-High”](#) (with Irene Entringer García Blanes, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, March 6, 2026.

[“IR Scholars Worry About U.S. Conflict With Iran”](#) (with Irene Entringer García Blanes, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, June 23, 2025.

[“IR Experts Give Trump’s Second Term Very Low Marks”](#) (with Irene Entringer García Blanes, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, June 11, 2025.

[“IR Experts See Glaring Differences Between Harris and Trump”](#) (with Irene Entringer García Blanes, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, October 31, 2024.

[“Poll: Experts Oppose No-Fly Zone Over Ukraine”](#) (with Irene Entringer García Blanes, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, March 16, 2022.

[“Poll: Will Russia Invade Ukraine?”](#) (with Irene Entringer García Blanes, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, January 31, 2022.

[“Poll: Biden Gets High Marks for Foreign Policy”](#) (with Irene Entringer García Blanes, Alexandra Murphy, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, May 14, 2021.

[“Poll: How Biden and Trump Differ on Foreign Policy”](#) (with Irene Entringer García Blanes, Alexandra Murphy, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, October 22, 2020.

[“Trump, COVID-19, and the Future of International Order”](#) (with Helen Milner, Susan Peterson, Michael J. Tierney, and Erik Voeten), *Foreign Policy*, October 8, 2020.

[“Beyond IR’s Ivory Tower”](#) (with Cullen Hendrix, Julia MacDonald, Michael J. Tierney, and Susan Peterson), *Foreign Policy*, September 28, 2020.

[“Snap Poll: What Foreign-Policy Experts Make of Trump’s Coronavirus Response”](#) (with Emily Jackson, Michael J. Tierney, Susan Peterson, and Eric Parajon), *Foreign Policy*, May 8, 2020.

[“Has Trump Abused His Presidential Powers, as the House Charges? Foreign Policy Scholars Think So.”](#) (with Emily Jackson, Michael J. Tierney, Susan Peterson, and Eric Parajon), *Monkey Cage*, January 25, 2020.

[“There Really is an Expert Consensus: Multilateralism Still Matters”](#) (with Michael J. Tierney, Susan Peterson, and Eric Parajon), *Lawfare*, December 7, 2018. Reprinted in the Lawfare eBook, *The Troubled U.S.–NATO Relationship*.

[“Snap Poll: What Experts Make of Trump’s Foreign Policy”](#) (with Michael J. Tierney, Susan Peterson, and Eric Parajon), *Foreign Policy*, December 7, 2018.

[“Experts Don’t Like Trump’s Withdrawal from the Iran Deal — or his Foreign Policy in General”](#) (with Michael J. Tierney

and Susan Peterson), The Monkey Cage blog at *The Washington Post*, May 16, 2018.

“[A Reply to ‘Reducing Political Bias in Political Science Estimates,’](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak and Barbara Walter), *PS: Political Science & Politics*, 50(1), January 2017, pp. 182–185.

“[Snap Poll: Who Will Make the Best Foreign Policy President?](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, February 19, 2016.

“[Snap Poll: Will China, Iran, and Russia Cooperate With the United States?](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, October 9, 2015.

“[Do Americans think strategically when they think about trade?](#)” (with Jon C. W. Pevehouse), The Monkey Cage blog at *The Washington Post*, July 15, 2015.

“[Snap Poll: Is a Soccer Scandal More Scandalous If It Involves Putin?](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, June 22, 2015.

“[Snap Poll: Is the Iran Deal Good for Your Country’s National Security?](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, March 18, 2015.

“[The Best International Relations Schools in the World,](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, February 3, 2015.

“[Snap Poll: How Likely Is War With Russia in the Next 10 Years?](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, January 28, 2015.

“[Is the Public Really Learning to Love Globalization?](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak), The Monkey Cage blog at *The Washington Post*, June 11, 2014.

“[Snap Poll: Does Obama Need to Put Troops in Ukraine to Prove America Is Tough?](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, June 2, 2014.

“[Snap Poll: The View from the Ivory Tower](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney), *Foreign Policy*, March 7, 2014.

“[Are There Neoconservative Wolves in the Realist Flock?](#)” (with Daniel Maliniak and Michael J. Tierney), guest post on Daniel Drezner’s blog at *Foreign Policy*, January 25, 2012.

Fellowships, Grants, and Honors

External

Under review: “Information Operations and Deterrence Credibility: A Framework for Confronting the ‘Firehose of Falsehood’” (\$415,000), NATO Science for Peace and Security (with Jeff Berejikian, Samuel Brazys, and Alex Dukalskis), 2026.

“AI and Existential Risk in World Politics” (\$2,700), Institute for Humane Studies (with Marcus Holmes and Jeff Kaplow), 2026.

“Reputational Inferences at Home and Abroad” (\$17,839), Institute for Humane Studies, 2025.

“Institutionalizing Policy Relevant Research at William and Mary’s Global Research Institute II,” Carnegie Corporation of New York (sub-award to UGA from Global Research Institute at William and Mary: \$58,359). 2024.

“Institutionalizing Policy Relevant Research at William and Mary’s Global Research Institute” (\$1,000,000), Carnegie Corporation of New York (sub-award to UGA from Global Research Institute at William and Mary: \$79,975). 2022.

“The Role of Leaders in Nuclear Politics” (\$150,000), Stanton Foundation (with Molly Berkemeier; sub-award to UGA from Rachel Whitlark at Georgia Tech: \$88,563), 2021.

“Nonproliferation Strategy to Practice: Assessing the State of Global Trade Control Implementation” (\$95,977), Stanton Foundation (with Justin Conrad and Jeff Berejikian), 2020.

“Strengthening the Links Between Scholars and Practitioners of International Relations” (\$550,000), Carnegie Corporation of New York (with Susan Peterson and Michael J. Tierney), 2019. UGA portion: \$71,199.

“Ethical Approaches to Policy Engagement” (\$62,241), Carnegie Corporation of New York (sub-award from University of Denver) (with Susan Peterson and Michael J. Tierney), 2019. UGA portion: \$10,216.

“Strengthening the Links Between Scholars and Practitioners of International Relations” (\$548,000), Carnegie Corporation of New York (with Susan Peterson and Michael J. Tierney), 2018. UGA portion: \$23,836.

“Knowledge Diffusion in International Relations Research” (\$80,000), sub-award from Free University of Berlin, 2016 (with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney).

“Using Data to Bridge the Theory-Practice Divide” (\$115,000), MacArthur Foundation, 2015 (with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney).

“Strengthening the Links Between Scholars and Practitioners of International Relations” (\$501,400), Carnegie Corporation of New York, 2015 (with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney).

“Junior Policymaker Decision Making” (\$22,893), Carnegie Corporation of New York (sub-award from University of Notre Dame), 2015 (with Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney).

“Wisconsin International Policy and Public Opinion” (\$50,000), Carnegie Corporation of New York, 2015 (with Jon C. W. Pevehouse).

Dissertation Improvement Grant, National Science Foundation, 2014.

Graduate Research Fellowship, National Science Foundation, 2011–2014.

Internal

Seed Grant. Institute for Artificial Intelligence, University of Georgia, 2025 (with Jason Anastasopoulos and Akshat Lakhiwal).

Nominated for CURO Research Mentor Award, 2025.

School of Public and International Affairs Teaching Award, 2024.

Nominated for the University of Georgia Early Career Scholar Award by the School of Public and International Affairs, 2023.

School of Public and International Affairs Research Award, 2023.

Seed Grant. School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia (with Geoff Sheagley), 2023.

Department of International Affairs Award for Teaching Excellence, University of Georgia, 2022.

Lilly Teaching Fellow. Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Georgia, 2020–2022.

Seed Grant. Center for International Trade and Security, University of Georgia (with Harlan Cohen), 2020.

Small Research Grant. Department of International Affairs, School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia (with Alexa Bankert and Geoff Sheagley), 2020.

Small Research Grant. Department of International Affairs, School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia (with Mollie Cohen), 2020.

Seed Grant. School of Public and International Affairs, University of Georgia (with Alexa Bankert and Geoff Sheagley), 2019.

Teaching Academy Fellow. Teaching Academy, University of Georgia, 2019–2020.

Award for Best Dissertation in International Relations. Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2017.

Conference Presentation Funds. Student Research Grants Competition, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2017.

Summer Initiative Grant. Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2014 (with Benjamin Toff), 2015, and 2016.

Conference Travel Grant. Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin–Madison, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013, 2014, and 2016.

University Fellowship. University of Wisconsin–Madison, a two-year graduate fellowship used Fall 2010–Spring 2011 and Fall 2013–Spring 2014.

W. Warner Moss Prize for Outstanding Honors Thesis. Government Department. College of William & Mary, 2008.

Conferences, Talks, and Workshops

I regularly present and/or organize panels at major disciplinary conferences (APSA, ISA, MPSA). In addition, I participate in smaller conferences: International Political Economy Society (2017, 2019, and 2021), Political Economy of International Organizations (2023), Political Economy of Aid (2023, 2026), and Peace Science (2023).

“Reputational Elasticities in World Politics,” workshop on Registered Reports in Global Public Policy organized by Mirko Heinzl and Daniel Nielson, June 2026.

Invited Discussant for Hankin Conference on Media and Information Manipulations in Democracies and Autocracies, Emory University, May 2026.

Invited to workshop on international law organized by Princeton’s Program in Law and Public Policy, April 2025.

“Burning Reputations,” invited talk to Renard Sexton’s Conflict Lab at Emory University, March 2025.

“Burning Reputations,” workshop on “How Domestic and International Actors Respond to Non-Cooperation” organized by Lisa Dellmuth and Stefanie Walter in Zurich, Switzerland, December 2024.

“Infrastructure for Foreign Policy Elite Experiments,” Experimental Politics Workshop, University of Wisconsin–Madison, February 2024.

“Identity and the Social Construction of Reputations in World Politics,” International Relations Workshop at Emory University, February 2024.

“Identity and Reputations in World Politics,” Weatherhead International Security Cluster Conference, Harvard University, September 2022.

Invited instructor, “Responsible Engagement Institute,” University of Denver, Sié Chéou-Kang Center, May 2021.

Book Talk, “Bridging the Theory-Practice Divide in International Relations,” Bridging the Gap Project, October 2020.

“Great Expectations: The Democratic Advantage in Trade Attitudes,” Grinnell College, October 2019.

“Responsible Engagement Institute Planning Workshop,” University of Denver, Sié Chéou-Kang Center, May 2019.

“Public Opinion, International Commitments, and the Supply Side of Trade Protection,” Perry World House Workshop in International Law, Organization, and Politics at University of Pennsylvania, March 2018.

“The Gender Citation Gap in International Relations,” Princeton University, Department of Politics, International Relations Colloquium, April 2013.

“Are Mass Preferences for Aid Like Mass Preferences for Trade?” College of William & Mary, Institute for the Theory and Practice of International Relations, July 2013.

Teaching Experience

University of Georgia

Undergraduate

Emerging Technology and International Relations (Fall 2026)

Experiments in International Affairs (Spring 2025)

Introduction to International Relations (Fall: 2018, 2019, 2021; Spring: 2021, 2023, 2025, 2026)

International Political Economy (Spring: 2019, 2020, 2022, 2025)

Graduate

Research Methods for International Policy (Fall 2026)

China and World Order (TBD)

Experiments in International Relations (Spring 2023, Fall 2024)

International Relations Field Seminar (Fall: 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021, 2022, 2024; Spring: 2020, 2023)

International Political Economy (Spring: 2022, 2024)

Yale University

Domestic Politics and International Relations (Spring 2018)

University of Wisconsin–Madison

Teaching Assistant, Problems in American Foreign Policy (Summer: 2016, 2017)

Teaching Assistant, Nuclear Weapons and World Politics (Spring 2017)

Teaching Assistant, International Political Economy (Summer: 2012, 2013, 2015)

Service

Reviewer: *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *International Organization*, *International Security*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Politics*, *Journal of Experimental Political Science*, *World Politics*.