

**FIONA S. CUNNINGHAM**

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**CURRENT POSITION**

2019            Assistant Professor of Political Science and International Affairs, the George Washington University

**EDUCATION**

2018            Ph.D., Political Science, Massachusetts Institute of Technology

2010            Bachelor of Laws (Honors), University of Sydney

2008            BA (Honors), Politics and International Relations, University of NSW

**GRANTS AND AWARDS**

2019            Lucian Pye Award for best dissertation, MIT Political Science Department

2018-9          CISAC Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University

2018-9          Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Princeton-Harvard China and the World Program (declined)

2018-9          Post-Doctoral Fellowship, Dickey Center, Dartmouth University (declined)

2018            Co-author of “Controlling Confrontation: How Cyber Technologies are Increasing the Risk of Conflict between the United States and China,” Harvard Global Institute Grant, awarded to Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs

2017-8          Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, Cyber Security Project, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

2017-8          Stanton Nuclear Security Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, RAND Corporation (declined)

2016            Smith Richardson Foundation World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship (\$7,500)

2015-16          Confucius China Studies Program Ph.D. Research Fellowship, Renmin University

2013, 2015      MIT Center for International Studies Summer Research Grant (\$3000 each)

2012-17          MIT Political Science Graduate Student Departmental Fellowship

2012-13 Walter A. Rosenblith MIT Presidential Graduate Fellowship  
2010 University of Sydney Undergraduate Academic Merit Prize  
2008 University of New South Wales Honors Year Scholarship  
2007 University of New South Wales Harvard Travel Scholarship  
2007 Chinese Government Scholarship

## **PUBLICATIONS**

### *Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles*

“Dangerous Confidence? Chinese Views on Nuclear Escalation,” *International Security*, forthcoming (with M. Taylor Fravel)

“Assuring Assured Retaliation: China’s Nuclear Posture and U.S.-China Strategic Stability,” *International Security*, Vol. 40 No. 2 (Fall 2015) (with M. Taylor Fravel)

### *Non-Peer Reviewed Publications (Selected)*

“Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications Systems of the People’s Republic of China,” NAPSNet Special Reports, Nautilus Institute for Security and Sustainability, July 18, 2019

“Alliances, Extended Deterrence, and Managing Escalation in East Asia,” in Sharon Stirling (ed.) *Shifting Dynamics: Next Generation Assessments on Asian Security* (Washington, D.C.: German Marshall Fund of the United States, 2016) (with Rupal N. Mehta)

“Why China Won’t Abandon its Nuclear Strategy of Assured Retaliation,” Policy Brief, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, December 2015 (with M. Taylor Fravel)

“Exploiting U.S. Control of the Commons in a U.S.-China Conflict,” *PréCIS*, MIT Center for International Studies Newsletter, Fall 2014

“The Trinity and the Dragon: Reconciling Finance, Human Rights and the Environment in China,” *Journal of Human Rights and the Environment*, Vol. 3 No. 1 (2012) (with David Kinley)

*Disarming Doubt: The Future of Extended Nuclear Deterrence in East Asia* (Sydney: Lowy Institute for International Policy, 2012) (Co-edited with Rory Medcalf)

“The Stellar Status Symbol: True Motives for China’s Space Program,” *China Security*, Vol. 5 No. 3 (2009)

## **WORKING PAPERS**

“Maximizing Leverage: China’s Strategic Force Posture Choices in the Information Age”

“China’s Rejection of Tactical Nuclear Weapons in the Late Cold War”

“The Maritime Rung on the Escalation Ladder: Naval Blockades in a U.S.-China Conflict”

“Preparing the Cyber Battlefield: American and Chinese Perspectives on Cyber Escalation Risks” (with Ben Buchanan)

## **TEACHING**

2019 IAFF6186: Coercion in Peacetime and War, GWU MA seminar (fall)

2019 PSC 2449: International Security Politics, GWU undergraduate lecture class (fall)

2017 Causes and Prevention of War, MIT undergraduate lecture class (TA, spring)

2015 Causes and Prevention of War, MIT undergraduate lecture class, (TA spring)

## **PRESENTATIONS**

“Maximizing Leverage: China’s Strategic Force Posture Choices in the Information Age”

- Naval Postgraduate School, July 2019
- Center for Global Security Research, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, May 2019
- Center for International Security and Cooperation Research Seminar Series, Stanford University, April 2019
- Young Scholars in International Relations Conference, Christopher H. Browne Center for International Politics, University of Pennsylvania, April 2019
- Center for Nonproliferation Studies, Monterey Institute for International Studies, March 2019
- Strategic and Defence Studies Centre, Australian National University, September 2018
- United States Studies Centre, University of Sydney, September 2018

“China’s Rejection of Tactical Nuclear Weapons in the late Cold War”

- American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 2019
- Nuclear Policy Working Group, University of California, Berkeley, April 2019

“The Authoritarian Advantage? Information in Chinese and Russian Strategy”

- American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 2019

“Cyber Competition and the Changing Strategic Environment”

- Strategic Competition in Cyberspace: Challenges and Implications, Center for Global Security Research, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, July 2019

“The Future of Digital Coercion: Cyber Conflict, Authoritarianism, and Emerging Technologies”

- Roundtable, Center for Global Security Research, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, July 2019

“Coping with Goldilocks: Deterring without Escalating in Europe and Asia”

- International Studies Association Annual Convention, Toronto, March 2019

“Preparing the Cyber Battlefield: American and Chinese Perspectives on Cyber Escalation Risks” (with Ben Buchanan)

- International Studies Association Annual Convention, Toronto, March 2019

“Great Power Escalation”

- Nuclear Weapons and International Security, Theory and Practice of Security Conference, Center for Security Studies, Georgetown University, March 2019

“Understanding Progress in Developing Blue Theories of Victory”

- “Compete, Deter, and Win” in a Trans-Regional Perspective: On Meeting the New Challenges of Extended Deterrence, Center for Global Security Research, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, February 2019

“Nuclear Command, Control, and Communications of the People’s Republic of China,”

- NC3 Systems and Strategic Stability: A Global Overview, Stanford University, January 2019

“A U.S. Blockade of Chinese Merchant Shipping in Southeast Asian SLOCs”

- Bridging the Straits: A Research Agenda for a New Maritime Competition, Naval War College, December 2018

“Cyber Attacks as a Strategic Weapon: A View from China”

- American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 2018

“A Theory of Strategic Substitution: China’s Strategic Force Posture Choices for Limited Wars”

- Emerging Scholars in Grand Strategy Conference, Notre Dame International Security Center, May 2018

“Chinese Views on Nuclear Escalation”

- Public event on U.S. Nuclear Policy Toward China, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University, April 2018 (with M. Taylor Fravel)
- International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, April 2018 (with M. Taylor Fravel, panel organizer)

- Authors' workshop, U.S. Strategic Nuclear Policy Toward China, Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, The George Washington University, September 2017 (with M. Taylor Fravel)

“U.S., Chinese and North Korean Perspectives on Cyber Power”

- Cyber Security Project, Belfer Center, Harvard Kennedy School, October 2017

“Cross-Domain Deterrence in China: The Sources of Integrated Strategic Force Posture”

- American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 2017

“Combined Strategic Arms: China's Nuclear, Outer Space, and Cyberspace Military Force Postures”

- Project on Nuclear Issues Summer Conference, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, June 2017

“Seizing the Initiative or Controlling Escalation? China's Changing Approach to Cyber Deterrence”

- Cyber Security Project Seminar Series, Belfer Center, Harvard, April 2017
- International Studies Association Annual Convention, Baltimore, February 2017

“China's Changing Approach to Military Cyber Force Posture”

- Workshop on the Implications of Treating the Electromagnetic Spectrum as a Domain, Center for Strategic and Budgetary Assessments, April 2017

“China-U.S. Strategic Stability in a Cross-Domain Environment”

- 15th PIIC Beijing Seminar on International Security, China, November 2016

“Chinese Views of Cyber Conflict and Escalation”

- American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 2016

“Deterrence and Ambiguity: U.S. Views of Chinese Nuclear Strategy”

- China-U.S. Young Scholars Dialogue, China Institute of International Studies, Qingdao, China, October 2015

“Assuring Assured Retaliation: Chinese Nuclear Strategy and U.S.-China Strategic Stability”

- Public event on U.S. Strategic Nuclear Policy Toward China, Elliott School of International Affairs, The George Washington University, September 2015
- American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 2015
- Nuclear Scholars' Research Initiative, Arlie House, April 2015
- Authors' workshop, U.S. Strategic Nuclear Policy Toward China, Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, The George Washington University, December 2014 (with M. Taylor Fravel)

“Paper Tiger, Paper Ally? The Sino-Soviet Treaty and China's Nuclear Weapons Program”

- American Political Science Association Annual Conference, September 2016
- ISAC-ISSS Joint Annual Conference, November 2014

## **MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS**

Affiliate, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University  
Carnegie International Policy Scholars Consortium and Network (2017-2019)  
German Marshall Fund Young Strategists Forum (2016)  
CSIS Pacific Forum Young Leaders Program (2015-)  
International Studies Association  
American Political Science Association  
Futures Council, National Security College, Australian National University  
Solicitor of the Supreme Court of the Australian Capital Territory (admitted 2012)

## **OTHER EXPERIENCE**

2010-11      Research Assistant to David Kinley, Faculty of Law, University of Sydney  
2009-12      Research Associate, Lowy Institute for International Policy, Sydney  
2009-10      Law Clerk, Mallesons Stephen Jaques (now King & Wood Mallesons, Dec-Feb)  
2009          Research Intern, International Crisis Group Beijing Office (Jan-Feb)

## **SERVICE**

Manuscript Reviewer, *American Journal of Political Science*, *China Quarterly*, *Contemporary Security Policy*, *International Security*, *Security Studies*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*

2018          Student Member, Search Committee, Security Studies, MIT  
2015, 2016-7      Co-chair, Women in International Politics and Security Group, Boston Area  
2014-5          Co-ordinator, Working Group on the Strategic Use of Force, MIT  
2014-5          Co-ordinator, Nuclear Weapons Working Group, MIT  
2010          Vice-President (Education), Sydney University Law Society  
2009-10          Vice-President (Education), Australian Law Students' Association  
2008          Executive Editor, *UNSW Law Journal*

## **LANGUAGES**

Mandarin Chinese, French