

Michael Masterson
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Academic Appointments

Postdoctoral Fellow in U.S. Foreign Policy and International Security September 2021–June 2022
Dartmouth College

Assistant Professor of Political Science August 2020–Current (Tenure Clock Delayed 1 Year)
Missouri State University

Education

Ph.D., Political Science August 2020
University of Wisconsin–Madison

Master of Arts, Global Studies May 2014
University of Oklahoma

Bachelor of Arts, *Summa cum laude*, Global Studies & Political Science May 2014
Minor: Chinese
University of Oklahoma

Publications

Book

Inventing National Humiliation: Why Elites Tell Narratives of National Humiliation, When Citizens Embrace Them, and How These Narratives Promote International Conflict (2026). Forthcoming at Cornell University Press.

- Best Dissertation in International Relations defended at the University of Wisconsin–Madison in 2020

Journal Articles

“Catching Fire: How National Humiliation Spreads Hostile Foreign Policy Preferences on Chinese Social Media” (June 2024). *International Studies Quarterly* 68.2. <https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqae033>.

“Humiliation and International Conflict Preferences” (2022). *The Journal of Politics* 84.2, pp. 874–888. <https://doi.org/10.1086/715591>.

- 2019 Peace Science/Pacific International Politics Conference Travel Grant Award for best graduate student paper

“Using Word Order in Political Text Classification with Long Short-term Memory Models (with Charles Chang)” (July 2020). *Political Analysis* 28.3, pp. 395–411. https://www.cambridge.org/core/product/identifier/S1047198719000469/type/journal_article.

Book Chapters

“International Conflict and Democratic Breakdown in New Democracies” (2023). *Handbook on Democracy and Security*. Ed. by Nicholas A. Seltzer and Steven Lloyd Wilson. Northampton: Edward Elgar, pp. 65–83.

“Power, Institutions, and Issues as Causes of Conflict (with Jessica Weeks)” (Sept. 2017). *The Oxford Encyclopedia of Empirical International Relations Theories*. Ed. by William R Thompson. New York: Oxford University Press.

Non-Peer Reviewed

“How Emotional Contagion Could Lead to Conflict with China” (Sept. 30, 2024). *Australian Outlook*. Australian Institute of International Affairs. [Link](#).

“Review of The Consequences of Humiliation by Joslyn Barnhart” (July 25, 2022). *H-Diplo ROUNDTABLE XXIII-48*, pp. 9–11. <https://issforum.org/roundtables/PDF/Roundtable-XXIII-48.pdf>.

“How Humiliation Motivates War” (Oct. 2021). *Journal of Politics Blogpost*. url: <https://jop.blogs.uni-hamburg.de/how-humiliation-motivates-war/>.

“The East Asian Challenges for Democracy: Political Meritocracy in Comparative Perspective ed. by Daniel A. Bell, Chenyang Li (review)” (2015). *Philosophy East and West* 65.3, pp. 973–976.

Working Papers

“Putting Your Money Where Your Mouth Is: Expressions of Chinese Nationalist Sentiments Are not Just Cheap Talk (With Charles Chang)” (2025). In Review. [Link](#).

“Regime Comments as Ballot Stuffing: How Astroturfing Can Deter Protest without Persuasion or Distraction” (2025). [Link](#).

Teaching

China in the World (Undergraduate)

International Relations Theory (Undergraduate and Graduate)

International Security (Graduate)

Asian Politics (Both Graduate and Undergraduate)

Comparative Politics (Undergraduate)

American Foreign Policy (Undergraduate)

Fellowships and Funding

Google Cloud for Researchers 2021

Mellon-Wisconsin Fellowship Fall 2019

Two-Year University Fellow at University of Wisconsin–Madison 2014

Language

Mandarin Chinese: Proficient (non-native speaker)

Intensive Language Programs (Nankai University, May–August 2016; Yunnan University, June–July 2013)

Computing

Proficient: R, Python, SQL, Linux, and z-Tree

Conference Presentations

2023–2025, 2020, and 2019 Pacific International Politics Conference

2023–2025, 2021 and 2019 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting

2024 Workshop on Political Psychology in East Asia

2024 and 2022 Association for the Study of Nationalities Annual World Convention

2023, 2020, 2019, and 2018 Peace Science Society International North American Meeting

2023 APSA China Mini-conference

2022 University of Oxford China Centre (invited talk)

2021 Annual Scientific Meeting of the International Society of Political Psychology

2019 and 2015 International Studies Association Annual Convention

2018 China and International Relations Graduate Research Workshop

2017 Conference of the Society for Political Methodology

Article Reviewer

American Political Science Review, American Journal of Politics, Conflict Management and Peace Science, European Journal of International Relations, International Interactions, International Organization, Journal of Chinese Political Science, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Politics, Foreign Policy Analysis, Nationalism and Ethnic Politics, National Identities, Nationalities Papers, Political Analysis, Political Behavior, Political Science Research Quarterly, Security Studies, Social Science Research, and World Politics

Service

Advisor for National Security and Strategic Studies Certificate (May 2023–Present)

Committees:

- Masters of International Affairs Committee. (August 2020–Present)
- Asian Studies Committee. (September 2022–Present)
- Search Committee for Assistant Professor. (October 2023–May 2024)