
PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RAND | Director, Taiwan Policy Initiative & Senior Political Scientist Washington, DC | 2021-present

- Inaugural director of Taiwan Policy Initiative, raising \$3.5 million and briefing more than 200 officials at the Pentagon, INDOPACOM, PACAF, and USARPAC. Thought leader on Asian security and economics with extensive media experience and deep in-region decision-maker network. Frequent travel to Taiwan, Vietnam, and South Korea to perform research and cultivate relationships.
- Principal Investigator on four projects, leading 40 research staff. Hosted and organized RAND's leading annual conference on the Chinese military. Pitched and led projects on Chinese gray zone coercion, Taiwanese civil defense, U.S.-China investment competition, and Middle East political and economic development.
- Conducted homeland threat analysis and developed future Marine Corps helicopter mission requirements. Stood up two federal agencies, designing their organizational structure and strategy. Tracked opioid supply chain for the U.S. Congress.

Midwest International Policy Institute | Executive Director Minneapolis, MN | 2018-2020

- Created think tank developing state-level trade, investment, agriculture, and immigration strategies and policies.
- Conducted local needs assessment, mapped and obtained support from MN NGO and business community, drafted organization and program proposal, developed five-year strategic plan and budget, and initiated fundraising.

Fordham University & University at Albany, SUNY | Assistant Professor of Political Science 2014-2018

- Served as Chair in International Security for new Master of International Affairs program. Designed new Master of International Organizations program. Served on two hiring committees.
- Managed six research assistants and taught more than 700 students. Designed original courses on Statecraft and Negotiations, Global Security, and Political Violence in Movies and TV. Received multiple teaching awards.

National Democratic Institute | Program Officer Washington, DC | 2005-2008

- Served in an in-house think tank creating strategies for over 50 political party development programs in Asia, Africa, and the Middle East. Secured USAID, UNDP, and DFID grants totaling \$30 million.
- Developed best practices and drafted handbooks on surveys, focus groups, organizational strategy and development, and communications. Conducted on-site needs assessment in Indonesia. Led international team rescuing \$5 million program in DR Congo from midstream termination.
- Developed new evaluation standards for 12 programs. Managed one employee and six interns.

Other Past Positions and Consultancies

- International Center for Transitional Justice (2008)
- Natural Resource Governance Institute (2008)
- Council for International Exchange of Scholars (2005)
- The United Nations (2004-2005)
- Democratic Progressive Party (2001-2003)
- Taipei Times (2001-2003)

EDUCATION

Princeton University Princeton, NJ | 2008-2014
Ph.D., M.A. in Politics

London School of Economics London, UK | 2003-2004
M.Sc., International Relations with Merit

Wesleyan University Middletown, CT | 1997-2001
B.A., College of Social Studies (politics, economics, and history), summa cum laude

RESEARCH

BOOKS

- [Following the Leader: International Order, Alliance Strategies, and Emulation](#). Stanford University Press, 2021.
- [Contests of Initiative: Confronting China's Gray Zone Maritime Strategy](#). George Mason University-Westphalia Press, 2021.

RAND REPORTS

- Taiwanese Civilian Support to Defensive Military Operations. Principal Investigator. U.S. Army G-2. Forthcoming.
- The Day After...Taiwan. Deputy Principal Investigator. U.S. Pacific Air Force. Forthcoming.
- [Understanding Escalation](#). Author. U.S. Army-Pacific. 2025.
- Leadership, Command, and Readiness in the People's Liberation Army. Author. OSD-Policy. 2025.
- [Advancing Transparency in the Department of Homeland Security](#). Task Lead. Office of Homeland Security Statistics. 2024.
- Chinese Military Academic Views of the Indo-Pacific Military Balance. Task Lead. Office of Net Assessment. 2023.
- Researcher Career Tracks at the Academy of Military Sciences. Task Lead. Office of Net Assessment. 2023.
- Chinese Arms Transfers to Sub-Saharan Africa. Task Lead. Department of State. 2023.
- [Development as a Tool of Economic Statecraft](#). Author. RAND National Security Research Division. 2023.
- [Simulating Chinese Gray Zone Coercion of Taiwan](#). Principal Investigator. Defense Threat Reduction Agency. 2023.
- [Can the United States Deter Threats from Uncertain Origins?](#) Author. RAND National Security Research Division. 2023.
- [Leveraging Diversity for Military Effectiveness](#). Author. RAND-Europe. 2022.
- United States Marine Corps Vertical Takeoff and Landing Aircraft Gap Analysis. Author. U.S. Marine Corps. 2022.

SCHOLARLY ARTICLES

- Kuo and Jennifer Spindel. (2023). "[The Unintended Consequences of Arms Embargoes](#)." *Foreign Policy Analysis*. 19:1.
- Kuo and Brian Blankenship. (2022). "[Deterrence and Restraint: Do Joint Military Exercises Escalate Conflict?](#)" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 66:1.
- Kuo. (2020). "[Secrecy among Friends: Covert Military Alliances and Portfolio Consistency](#)." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 64:1.
- Kuo. (2019). "[Communal Violence and Economic Migration in Pakistan](#)." *International Migration*. 57:5.
- Kuo. (2014). "[Evolution and Territorial Conflict](#)." *International Security*. 39:3.
- Kuo. (2008). "[Occupation and the Just War](#)." *International Relations*. 22:3.
- Kuo and Liza Steele. (2007). "[Terrorism in Xinjiang?](#)" *Ethnopolitics*. 6:1.

POLICY WRITING

- "[Taiwan's Will to Fight Isn't the Problem](#)." *War on the Rocks*, Sept. 5, 2025.
- "[Taiwan's Risky No-Holds-Barred Politics](#)." *Journal of Democracy*, July 2025.
- "[When Will Washington Get Serious about Taiwan?](#)" *Foreign Policy*, May 20, 2024.
- "[Scared Strait](#)." *Foreign Affairs*, Feb. 22, 2024.
- "[Why Taiwan's Voters Defied Beijing—Again](#)." *Journal of Democracy*, Jan. 2024.
- "[Strategic Ambiguity Has the U.S. and Taiwan Trapped](#)." *Foreign Policy*, Jan. 18, 2023.
- "[Should Ukraine Settle with Russia?](#)" *RealClear Defense*, June 20, 2022.
- "[The Counter-Intuitive Sensibility of Taiwan's New Defense Strategy](#)." *War on the Rocks*, Dec. 6, 2021.
- "[Can Trumpian Triangular Diplomacy Work?](#)" *The Diplomat*, Jan. 6, 2017.
- "[Will Trump, like Reagan and Bush, Walk Back His Approach to Taiwan?](#)" *The National Interest*, Dec. 6, 2016.

ADDITIONAL SKILLS

<i>Language</i>	Advanced Chinese (中文), intermediate Modern Standard Arabic (اللغة العربية الفصحى), advanced French (<i>le français</i> – reading)
<i>Methods</i>	Elite Interviewing; Historical and Archival Analysis; Survey Experiments; Machine Learning; Spatial Econometrics; Social Network Analysis; Hierarchical Modeling; Bayesian Statistics; Computer-Assisted Text Analysis; Agent-Based Modeling; Data Visualization; Webscraping; Synthetic Controls
<i>Technical</i>	R, Python, SQL, Stata, LaTeX, HTML, MS Office Applications, Tableau
<i>Clearance</i>	Active DOD TS/SCI and DHS Top Secret Fitness