

NICHOLAS BLANCHETTE

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EDUCATION

Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

PhD Candidate in Political Science, Security Studies Program (MIT SSP)

Cambridge, MA

Sep 2019 – May 2025

- Dissertation: “Strategies of Capability Revelation: How States Reveal Information about Advanced Nuclear and Conventional Military Technologies”
- Dissertation Committee: Vipin Narang (Chair), Erik Lin-Greenberg, Mariya Grinberg, Barry Posen
- Examination Fields: Security Studies and International Relations – both exams passed with distinction.

The University of Oxford

MPhil in International Relations, Awarded with Distinction

Oxford, UK

Oct 2015 – July 2017

Colorado College

BA in Political Science, Awarded with Honors

Colorado Springs, CO

Sep 2011 – May 2015

PUBLICATIONS

“A Quiet Place: Assessing SSBN Vulnerability in the Arctic Ocean” in *CSIS On the Horizon: A Collection of Papers from the Next Generation*, Washington, DC: Center for Strategic and International Studies (2022).

“Operation Enduring Freedom: Evaluating the Effectiveness of Air Power Over Afghanistan” in Phil Haun, Colin Jackson, and Tim Schultz (eds.) *Air Power in the Age of Primacy: Air Warfare Since the Cold War*, Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press (2021).

“The United States’ Nuclear and Non-Nuclear Weapons Are Dangerously Entangled,” *Foreign Policy*, November 2019. (With James Acton)

“What’s in the House and Senate Intelligence Authorization Bills for Fiscal 2019?” *Lawfare*, September 2018.

“Arctic (in)Security: The United States and Polar Politics in the Age of Climate Change,” *Journal of Undergraduate International Studies*, (April 2015).

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“Highway from the Danger Zone: New Nuclear Weapon State Strategies on the Path to Securing Second-Strike.”

“A Quiet Place: Modeling the Undersea Nuclear Balance between the United States and Russia in a Changing Arctic Ocean.”

“*Our* Bomber Will Always Get Through: Wartime Learning and the Air Offensives of 1939-1941.” (With Wright Smith)

“Decline, Humiliation, and the Bomb: Explaining the Divergent Nuclear Policy of Britain and France.”

“The Icarus Syndrome: Evaluating Crisis and Wartime Implications of False Optimism and Pessimism through Experimental Wargaming.” (With Benjamin Harris)

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

RAND Corporation <i>Adjunct Policy Analyst, Project Air Force</i>	Cambridge, MA <i>June 2022 – Current</i>
Sandia National Laboratories <i>Graduate Research Intern, Cyber Analysis and Wargaming</i>	Cambridge, MA <i>June 2021 – May 2022</i>
Massachusetts Institute of Technology <i>Research Assistant to Dr. Mariya Grinberg</i>	Cambridge, MA <i>September 2023 – Current</i>
Massachusetts Institute of Technology <i>Research Assistant to Dr. Erik Lin-Greenberg</i>	Cambridge, MA <i>January 2022 – May 2022</i>
Massachusetts Institute of Technology <i>Research Assistant to Dr. Vipin Narang</i>	Cambridge, MA <i>June 2020 – December 2021</i>
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace <i>Research Assistant, Nuclear Policy Program</i>	Washington, DC <i>August 2018 – August 2019</i>

FELLOWSHIPS, HONORS, AND AWARDS

Hans J. Morgenthau Pre-Doctoral Fellowship, University of Notre Dame (\$10,000)	2023-2024
World Politics & Statecraft Fellowship, Smith Richardson Foundation (\$7,500)	2023-2024
International Strategy Forum PhD Research Fellowship, Schmidt Futures Foundation (\$7,400)	2022-2025
The Bridging the Gap Project, New Era Workshop Fellow	2023
Carnegie Junior Fellow, Carnegie International Policy Scholar Consortium and Network	2023-2024
Bobby R. Inman Award Semifinalist, UT Austin Intelligence Studies Project (\$2,500)	2023
MIT Political Science Departmental Fellowship (full tuition and stipend)	2019-2025
Distinction in Security Studies and International Relations Qualifying Exams, MIT	2021
Project on Nuclear Issues Nuclear Scholar, Center for Strategic and International Studies (CSIS)	2021
Presidential Management Fellowship, U.S. Office of Personnel Management (Declined)	2018
Cyril Foster Research Grant, University of Oxford	2017
The Fred Sondermann Award, Colorado College (Excellence in Political Science)	2015
Hochman Prize for Distinguished Research and Writing, Colorado College	2015

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS AND INVITED TALKS

International Studies Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA	2024
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MIT Security Studies Working Group	2020-2023
MIT International Relations Works-In-Progress	2020-2023
IS-ISSS Conference, Colorado Springs, CO	2023
American Political Science Association Conference, Los Angeles, CA	2023
European Initiative for Security Studies, Barcelona, Spain	2023
IS-ISSS Conference, Gainesville, FL	2022
American Political Science Association Conference, Montreal, Canada	2022
United States Strategic Command Deterrence Symposium, Omaha, NE	2022
CSIS Project on Nuclear Issues Capstone Conference, Omaha, NE	2022
International Studies Association Conference (Unable to attend due to illness), Nashville, TN	2022
CSIS Project on Nuclear Issues Winter Conference, Washington, DC	2021
International Studies Association Conference (Virtual due to Covid-19 Pandemic)	2021
U.S. Naval War College Contemporary Air Wars Workshop, Newport, RI	2019
International Studies Association Conference, Baltimore, MD	2017

TEACHING EXPERIENCE AND DEPARTMENT SERVICE

Teaching Assistant, Professor Richard Nielsen	2023
• 17.41 Introduction to International Relations, (Teaching Evaluations: 6.8/7.0)	
Teaching Assistant, Professor Stephen Van Evera	2022
• 17.40 U.S. Foreign Policy: Past, Present, and Future (Teaching Evaluations: 6.8/7.0)	
MIT New Directions Working Group, Student Member	2023 – Current
MIT Kaufman Teaching Certificate Program	2022
MIT Security Studies Working Group, Chair	2021 – 2022
MIT Wargaming Working Group, Student Member	2019 – Current
MIT Graduate Student Mentor	2020 – Current

LANGUAGES AND RESEARCH SKILLS

Technical Skills: R; LATEX; Microsoft Office; Adobe Acrobat
 Language Skills: French (Intermediate)

REFERENCES

Vipin Narang
 Frank Stanton Professor of Nuclear Security and
 Political Science
 MIT
narangv@mit.edu

Erik Lin-Greenberg
 Leo Marx Career Development Assistant Professor of
 the History and Culture of Science & Technology
 MIT
eriklg@mit.edu

Barry Posen
 Ford International professor of Political Science
 MIT
posen@mit.edu

Mariya Grinberg
 Assistant Professor of Political Science
 MIT
mgrin@mit.edu