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Department of International Studies and Political Science

Virginia Military Institute

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Professional Experience:

All at Virginia Military Institute

Head, Department of International Studies and Political Science (2018-present)

Jackson-Hope Distinguished Professor (2017-present)

Professor (2014-present)

Associate Professor (2010-2014)

Assistant Professor (2004-2010)

Education:

PhD. in Political Science, 2004, Pennsylvania State University

Major Field: International Relations. Adviser: Glenn Palmer

M.A., 2000, Pennsylvania State University.

Major Field: International Relations. Adviser: Erik Gartzke

B.A., 1998, Fairleigh Dickinson University-Florham.

Political Science and History

Refereed Publications:

Dennis M. Foster and Jonathan W. Keller. 2023. "Interactive Leadership Psychology and the Ebb and Flow of Interstate Rivalry." *International Studies Quarterly* 67:squad076.

Dennis M. Foster and Jonathan W. Keller. 2020. "Single-Party Government, Prime Minister Psychology, and the Diversionary Use of Force: Theory and Evidence from the British Case." *International Interactions* 46:227-250.

Jonathan W. Keller, Keith A. Grant, and Dennis M. Foster. 2020. "Presidential Risk Propensity and Intervention in Interstate Conflicts" *Foreign Policy Analysis* 16:272-291.

Dennis M. Foster. 2017. "Inter Arma Silent Leges? Democracy, Domestic Terrorism and Diversion." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 61:1371-1400.

Jonathan W. Keller and Dennis M. Foster. 2016. "Don't Tread on Me: Constraint-Challenging Presidents and Strategic Conflict Avoidance." *Presidential Studies Quarterly* 46:808-827.

Dennis M. Foster and Jonathan W. Keller. 2014. "Leaders' Cognitive Complexity, Distrust, and the Diversionary Use of Force." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 10:205-223.

Dennis M. Foster, Alex Braithwaite, and David Sobek. 2013. "There Can Be No Compromise: Institutional Inclusiveness, Fractionalization, and Domestic Terrorism." *British Journal of Political Science*. 43:541-557

Jonathan W. Keller and Dennis M. Foster. 2012. "Presidential Leadership Style and the Political Use of Force." *Political Psychology* 33:581-598.

David Sobek, Dennis M. Foster, and Samuel Robison. 2012. "Conventional Wisdom: The Effect of Nuclear Proliferation on Armed Conflict, 1945-2000." *International Studies Quarterly* 56:149-162.

Dennis M. Foster and Jonathan W. Keller. 2010. "Rallies and the 'First Image': Leadership Psychology, Scapegoating Proclivity, and the Diversionary Use of Force." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 27:417-441.

Alex Braithwaite, Dennis M. Foster, and David A. Sobek. 2010. "Ballots, Bargains, and Bombs: Terrorist Targeting of Spoiler Opportunities." *International Interactions* 36:294-306.

Dennis M. Foster. 2008. "'Comfort to our Adversaries?' Partisan Ideology, Domestic Vulnerability, and Strategic Targeting." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 4:419-436.

Dennis M. Foster. 2006. "An 'Invitation to Struggle'? The Use of Force against 'Legislatively Vulnerable' American Presidents." *International Studies Quarterly* 50:421-444.

Dennis M. Foster. 2006. "State Power, Linkage Mechanisms, and Diversion against Nonrivals." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 23:1-21

Dennis M. Foster and Glenn Palmer. 2006. "Presidents, Public Opinion, and Diversionary Behavior: The Role of Partisan Support Reconsidered." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 2:269-287.

Book Chapters:

Dennis M. Foster, Benjamin Kleinerman, and Howard Sanborn. Forthcoming. "The Complex Relationship between Terrorism and Democracy." In *Handbook of the Economics of Terrorism*, Atin Basuchoudhary and Guenther Schultze, eds. Cambridge University Press.

David Sobek, Dennis M. Foster, and Samuel Robison. 2016. "Conventional Wisdom: The Effect of Nuclear Proliferation on Armed Conflict." In *Non-Proliferation Policy and Nuclear Postures: Causes and Consequences of the Spread of Nuclear Weapons*, N. Narang, E. Gartzke, and M. Kroenig, eds. New York: Routledge, pp268-294.

Working Papers:

"With Friends Like These, Who Needs Enemies? Unified Government and Congressional Opposition to Presidential Crisis Policy" (Revise and Resubmit at *Journal of Conflict Resolution*).

"Gender in Commons: How Female Representation Shapes Parliamentary Debate during International Crises" (with Douglas M. Gibler, Leah C. Windsor, and Austin M. Schutz).

"Interactive Leadership Traits and U.S.-China Bilateral Interactions" (with Yi Edward Yang and Jonathan Keller).

Other Publications:

"Would President Trump go to War to Divert Attention from Problems at Home?" *Washington Post: The Monkey Cage* December 19, 2016.

Conference Presentations:

“Alone, Not Lonely: National Culture and the Relative Prevalence of Lone Actor and Group Terrorism” (with London Yerasimides). International Studies Association Annual Convention, Montreal, QC, March 2023.

“Bound by Nothing? Constraint Challenging Leaders and the Democratic Peace” (with Jonathan W. Keller). International Studies Association-Midwest Regional Convention, St. Louis, MO, November 2021.

“Gender in Commons: How Female Representation Shapes Parliamentary Debate during International Crises” (with Douglas M. Gibler, Leah C. Windsor, and Austin M. Schutz). International Studies Association-Midwest Regional Convention (virtual), November 2020.

“Interactive Leadership Traits and U.S.-China Bilateral Interactions” (with Yi Edward Yang and Jonathan Keller). Association of Chinese Political Studies Annual Meeting, Harrisonburg, VA, October 2018; and International Studies Association Convention, Toronto, ON, March 2019

“Prime Ministers’ Conceptual Complexity, Distrust, and the Diversionary Use of Force by Great Britain, 1945-2007” (with Jonathan W. Keller). International Studies Association-Midwest Regional Convention, St. Louis, MO, November 2018.

“Is Anyone Listening? Crisis Signaling by the Opposition in the British Commons, 1918-2004” (with Douglas M. Gibler, et al.). International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA, April 2013; and Western Political Science Association Convention, Las Vegas, NV, April 2015; and International Studies Association Convention, San Francisco, CA, April 2018.

“Interactive Leadership Psychology and the Ebb and Flow of Interstate Rivalry” (with Jonathan Keller). Peace Science Society (International) Conference, Tempe, AZ, November 2017.

“Presidential Risk Propensity and Intervention in Interstate Conflicts” (with Jonathan W. Keller and Keith A. Grant). International Studies Association Convention, Baltimore, MD, February 2016.

“Calling the Dance or Two to Tango? Leaders’ Interactive Psychological Risk Orientations and the US-Soviet Rivalry” (with Jonathan W. Keller). International Studies Association-Midwest Regional Convention, St. Louis, MO, November 2016.

“Legislative Elections, Electoral Rules, and Interstate Conflict Initiation.” International Studies Association Convention, Atlanta, GA, March 2016.

“Don’t Tread on Me: Constraint-Challenging Presidents and Strategic Conflict Avoidance” (with Jonathan W. Keller). International Studies Association Convention, New Orleans, LA, February 2015.

“Subtraction through Addition: Compensatory Proportionalism and Domestic Terrorism in Mixed Democracies.” International Studies Association Convention, Toronto, ON, March 2014.

“Presidential Leadership Style and Strategic Conflict Avoidance” (with Jonathan W. Keller). Peace Science Society (International) Conference, Knoxville, TN, October 2013.

“The Democratic Use of Force Abroad as a Response to Terrorism.” Eurasian Peace Science Conference, Istanbul, Turkey, May 2013

“I’d Complain, but Who’d Listen? The Impetuses and Effects of Congressional Decisions to Criticize Foreign Crisis Policy.” International Studies Association Convention, San Francisco, CA, April 2013.

“Domestic Terrorism, Diversionary Incentives, and Strategic Conflict Avoidance in the American Case.” Peace Science Society (International) Conference, Savannah, GA, 2012.

“Divided We Stand? The Separation of Powers, Democratic Responsibility, and Counterterrorism (with Benjamin A. Kleinerman and Howard Sanborn). Fifth Annual Terrorism and Policy Conference, UT-Dallas, 2012.

“Opposition Criticism in the House of Commons and British Success in Foreign Policy Crises, 1918-2007.” Midwest Political Science Association Convention, Chicago, IL, 2012.

“There Can Be No Compromise: Moderates and Radicals, Institutional Inclusiveness, and Domestic Terrorism” (with David Sobek and Alex Braithwaite). International Studies Association Convention, San Diego, CA, 2011.

“A Matter of Degree: Institutions, Disproportionality, and Domestic Terrorism” (with David Sobek and Alex Braithwaite). International Studies Association Convention, Montreal, QC, 2011.

“Leaders’ Cognitive Complexity, Distrust, and the Diversionary Use of Force” (with Jonathan W. Keller). International Studies Association Convention, Montreal, QC, 2011.

“With Friends Like These, Who Needs Enemies? Unified Government and Congressional Opposition to Presidential Crisis Policy.” American Political Science Association Convention, Washington, DC, 2010.

“Hanging Together or Separately: Co-Partisan Congressional Opposition to International Crisis Policy and Presidential ‘Coattails’.” Peace Science Society (International) Conference, Chapel Hill, NC, 2009.

“Presidential Leadership Style and the Political Use of Force” (with Jonathan Keller). International Studies Association Convention, San Francisco, CA, 2008.

“Presidential Leadership Style and the Diversionary Use of Force” (with Jonathan Keller). Peace Science Society (International) Conference, Columbia, SC, 2007.

“Conventional Wisdom? The Effect of Nuclear Proliferation on Armed Conflict, 1945-2001” (with David Sobek and Sam Robison). Midwest Political Science Association Convention, Chicago, IL, 2007.

“Ideology, Domestic Political Conditions, and the Strategic Militarized Targeting of the United States.” Midwest Political Science Association Convention, Chicago, IL, 2007.

“The ‘Balancing Act’: Counterterrorism and Domestic Overreaction in Democratic States.” International Studies Association Convention, Chicago, IL, 2007.

“The Value of Silence: Partisan Opposition, International Conflict Success, and Congressional Seat Change.” International Studies Association Convention, San Diego, CA, 2006.

“Elections, Government Ideology, and Terrorism in Western Europe” (with David Sobek and Alex Braithwaite). Peace Science Society (International) Conference, Iowa City, IA, 2005.

“State Power, Linkage Mechanisms, and Diversion against Non-Rivals.” Midwest Political Science Association Convention, Chicago, IL, 2005.

“An ‘Invitation to Struggle’? The Use of Force against ‘Legislatively Vulnerable’ Democratic Leaders.” International Studies Association Convention, Honolulu, HI, 2005.

“Terrorist Violence and Israeli National Elections” (with David Sobek and Alex Braithwaite). International Studies Association Convention, Honolulu, HI, 2005.

“Congress and the American Use of Force: Partisanship, Support, and the Actions of Individual Legislators.” Midwest Political Science Association Convention, Chicago, IL, 2004.

“The Difference between Hearing and Listening: The Presidential Use of Force in Response to Foreign Policy Opposition.” International Studies Association Convention, Montreal, QC, 2004.

“Old Problem, Old Solution: The Directed-Dyadic Study of the Use of Force.” Peace Science Society (International) Conference, Ann Arbor, MI, 2003.

“International Conflict, Political Orientation, and Waning Support: Our Boy’s Done Something Rash” (with Glenn Palmer). International Studies Association Convention, Portland, OR, 2003.

“The ‘Deterrence Advantage’, the Non-Proliferation Regime, and the Nuclear Taboo” (with David Sobek). International Studies Association Convention, New Orleans, LA, 2002.

“Parsimony versus Explanatory Power: State-Specific Characteristics and the Study of Extended-Immediate Deterrence.” Peace Science Society (International) Conference, Atlanta, GA, 2001.

“Do As I Say and Not As I Do: Rational Self-Interest and the Propagation of the Nuclear Taboo” (with David Sobek). Western Political Science Association Conference, Las Vegas, NV, 2001.

“To Punish or Deny: Threat Credibility in Situations of Extended-Immediate Deterrence.” ISA-Northeast Political Science Association Conference, Albany, NY, 2000.

Professional Memberships:

American Political Science Association
International Studies Association
Midwest Political Science Association
Peace Science Society (International)
Western Political Science Association

Professional Awards:

- 2021: Jackson-Hope Prize for Excellence in Academic Advancement (one award given annually to a VMI faculty/staff member whose efforts bring renown to the Institute and its programs)
- 2021: Wilbur S. Hinman, Jr., Research Award, Virginia Military Institute (awarded for excellence in stimulating, encouraging, and conducting research with VMI cadets)
- 2020: Wachtmeister Faculty Development Leave, Virginia Military Institute
- 2018: Wilbur S. Hinman, Jr., Research Award, Virginia Military Institute
- 2018: Nominee, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia Outstanding Faculty Award
- 2017: Margaret Hermann Award, Best Use of Text Analysis for Leadership Studies in a Paper, 2016 ISA-Midwest Conference (with Jonathan Keller)

- 2017: Jackson-Hope Distinguished Professorship, Virginia Military Institute (re-awarded 2021)
- 2016: Jackson-Hope Prize for Excellence in Published Scholarly Work in the Social Sciences, Arts, and Humanities, Virginia Military Institute
- 2016: Grant-in-Aid of Research, Virginia Military Institute
- 2014: Inducted into Phi Kappa Phi (Academic Honors Society)
- 2013: Matthew Fontaine Maury Research Award, Virginia Military Institute.
- 2013: Grant-in-Aid of Research, Virginia Military Institute
- 2012: Inducted into Omicron Delta Kappa (National Leadership Honors Society)
- 2011: Award for Distinguished Teaching, Virginia Military Institute (awarded annually for superior achievement in teaching)
- 2011: Wilbur S. Hinman, Jr., Research Award, Virginia Military Institute.
- 2010: Grant-in-Aid of Research, Virginia Military Institute
- 2008: Jackson-Hope Faculty Development Leave Grant, Virginia Military Institute.
- 2008: Nominee, State Council of Higher Education for Virginia "Rising Star" Faculty Award
- 2007: Thomas Jefferson Teaching Award, Virginia Military Institute (one award given annually for excellence in teaching by a junior faculty member)
- 2004: Pennsylvania State University Graduate Teaching Award (university-wide award for excellence in teaching by a graduate student)
- 2003: Robert S. Freidman Award for Outstanding Teaching in the Department of Political Science, The Pennsylvania State University (one award given annually for outstanding cumulative teaching record)
- 2000: Outstanding Master's Essay Award, Department of Political Science, The Pennsylvania State University
- 1998: Annual Award for Outstanding Scholarship in the Field of History, Fairleigh Dickinson University-Florham
- 1998: Inducted into Pi Sigma Alpha (National Political Science Honors Society)

Selected Professional Activities/Service

Discipline:

- Secretary/Treasurer, Foreign Policy Section, American Political Science Association, 2015-17.
- Member, Editorial Board, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, 2010-2016, 2018-present.
- Invited Participant, Disruptive Technologies (Swarm) Workshop, Marine Corps University and Office of Naval Research, December, 2018.
- Book Review Editor, *Journal of Conflict Studies* (University of New Brunswick), 2007-2012.
- Manuscript/Proposal Referee for *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *Journal of Politics*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Security*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *Public Opinion Quarterly*, *Defence and Peace Economics*, *International Relations*, *Political Behavior*, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *Public Choice*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *International Interactions*, *Presidential Studies Quarterly*, *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *International Studies Review*, *International Studies Perspectives*, *African Security*, *French Politics*, *Journal of Conflict Studies*, *Politics and Policy*, *Social Science Journal*, *Virginia Social Sciences Review*, the National Science Foundation, the UK Economic Social Research Council, Cambridge University Press, Palgrave-MacMillan, and Rowman and Littlefield Press.
- Guest Editor, Special Issue on "New Directions in the Study of Diversionary Conflict," *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, November 2010.
- External Reviewer, Tenure and Promotion (Kansas State University, Ursinus College, University of South Carolina-Union).
- Dissertation Committee Member, Matthew Millard (University of Alabama).
- Invited Speaker, Colloquium on War, James Madison University, 2015.

- Invited Speaker, Political Science Departmental Colloquium, University of Alabama, 2015.
- Invited Speaker, Summer Workshop on Teaching about Terrorism (SWOTT), Morehouse College and University of Oklahoma, 2007-8.
- Participant, Summer Conference on Teaching about Terrorism (SWOTT), College of William and Mary, Summer 2006.

Institution:

- Head, VMI Department of International Studies and Political Science, 2010 (acting), 2018-present.
- Member, Board of Directors, John A. Adams '71 Center for Military History and Strategic Analysis, VMI (2018-present)
- Chair of VMI Academic Policy Committee (Academic Board committee tasked with the development and implementation of VMI's academic policies), 2019-present.
- Department Faculty Search Committee Chair/Co-Chair, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2012, 2018-19, 2021.
- Invited Speaker and Event Coordinator, Joint VMI-Heritage Foundation Marshall Fellowship Yalta Conference Simulation, 2016-present.
- VMI Faculty Advisory Council Development (Chair), Curriculum and Instruction, Alumni Faculty Recruitment (Chair), Honors, Scheduling, Research, Institute Scholarship (Chair), Jackson-Hope Awards, and NCAA Compliance Committees.
- Faculty Lead, VMI Scott Shipp Hall Renovation Committee, 2017-2018.
- Panelist, "Give Me Liberty or Give Me Death?: The US Constitution and the Post-9/11 World," Virginia Military Institute, 2006.
- Speaker, Symposium on *Longitudes and Attitudes: Exploring the World after September 11* by Thomas Freidman, Schreyer Honors College, The Pennsylvania State University, 2003.

Community:

- Guest Speaker, *With Good Reason*, Virginia Public Radio
 - October 2020. Segment Title: "Psychological Personality Framework" (with Jonathan Keller)
 - October 2007. Segment Title: "Walking the Tightrope: Democracy and Counterterrorist Response."
- Political and International Terrorism Analyst, WCHV 1260 AM (Charlottesville), WTOX 1480 AM (Richmond), WSLS10 TV (Roanoke, NBC), and WDBJ7 TV (Roanoke, CBS)
- Panelist, "Lincoln for the Ages," Washington and Lee University, 2009.
- Speaker, Lexington (VA) Foreign Affairs Club, December 2004. Lecture Title: "The Bush Doctrine, Preemption, and the War on Terror."
- Mentor, Rockbridge County High School Honors Program.

References available upon request.

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