

MATTHEW CANCIAN

mcancian@mit.edu

EDUCATION

- | | |
|--|---|
| Massachusetts Institute of Technology | 2016 - 2022 |
| Ph.D in Political Science | Security Studies & Comparative Politics |
| The Fletcher School, Tufts University | 2014 - 2016 |
| Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy | |
| Edmund A. Gullion Prize for Academic Achievement | |
| University of Virginia | 2005 - 2008 |
| B.A. History | |

ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

Articles

- “The Impact of Modern-System Training on Battlefield Participation by Kurdish Soldiers.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*
- “The Motivation to Enlist Among Kurds.” *Armed Forces and Society*
- “Military Officer Aptitude in the All-Volunteer Force.” *Armed Forces and Society* 44, no. 2 (2018): 219-237. With Michael Klein.
- “Informal Institutions and Quantitative Research in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq.” *PS: Political Science and Politics* 52, no. 3 (2019): 485-489. With Kristin Fabbe.
- “The Offensive Mine-laying Campaign Against China”, *Naval War College Review*. Volume 75, Number 1 (2022) Winter 2022.

Book Chapters

- “‘You Don’t Know What You’re Getting Into’: Dealing with Dishonesty in the Field,” in *An Unorthodox Guide to Fieldwork*, ed. Ora Szekely and Peter Krause (Columbia University Press, 2020). With Kristin Fabbe.
- “Christians in Northern Iraq,” in *The Social Science of the Iraq War*, Roger Petersen (unpublished). With Roger Petersen.

Book Reviews

- Review of Bryan R Gibson, *Sold Out? US Foreign Policy, Iraq, the Kurds, and the Cold War* in *Review of Middle Eastern Studies*, 52(1), 2018, 1-3.

Monographs

- “Trained to Win? Evaluating Battlefield Effectiveness and Socio-Political Factors among Partnered Forces”, contracted with Joint Special Operations University (2021)

WORK IN PROGRESS

Think Tank Reports

- Co-Principal Investigator, “The First Battle of the Next War: Wargaming A US-China Conflict Over Taiwan.” *Center for Strategic and International Studies*, through generous support from the Smith Richardson Foundation. With Mark Cancian and Eric Heginbotham.
- Wargaming Consultant, Asia Force Posture Project, *Quincy Institute for Responsible Statecraft*

Article Projects

- “The Desire for Revenge in Intractable Conflicts: Survey Evidence from Soldiers in the War against the Islamic State” (with Kristin Fabbe); presented at the 2018 American Political Science Association conference and the 2019 International Kurdish Studies Conference
- “Does Military Integration Foster Professionalism?” (under review)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- Halsey Bravo, Naval War College (Winter 2021-present)
- Introduction to Conflict Resolution, Teaching Assistant for Dr. Nadim Rouhana, Fletcher School (Spring 2016)
- United States Military Power, Teaching Assistant for Dr. Barry Posen, MIT (Spring 2020)

FELLOWSHIPS AND AWARDS

- MIT Center for International Studies Summer Fellowship (2020)
- Graduate Fellow, MIT Global Diversity Lab (2020-present)
- Non-Resident Fellow, Modern War Institute (2018-2020)
- Student in Special Standing, Emory University (2018-2019)
- Edmund A. Gullion Prize for Academic Achievement, Fletcher School (2016)

INVITED SPEAKING

- Rûdaw Media: “Bultena Bakur” with Hêvîdar Zana
- Washington Kurdish Institute: “Taking a Closer Look at the Peshmerga and the SDF” with Governor Najmaldin Karim, Wladimir van Wilgenburg, and John Holland-McCowan (2020)
- Modern War Institute: “Irregular Warfare Podcast Episode 3: Does Building Partner Military Capacity Work?” with Dr. Stephen Biddle, Shawna Sinnott, and Kyle Atwell (2020)
- Podcast: “Conducting Political Science Field Research”, with Peter Krause, Ora Szekely, Kristin Fabbe, and Kristin Michelitch, Spring 2020
- 1st Security Force Assistance Brigade: “The Effectiveness of Coalition Training on the Peshmerga” (2019)
- DoD Strategic Multilayer Assessment Group: “Trained to Kill: Battlefield Participation in Kurdish Fighters” (2018)
- Marine Detachment, United States Central Command: “Geopolitics of the Peshmerga” (2018)
- United States Consulate, Erbil, Iraq: “The Effectiveness of Coalition Training on the Peshmerga” (2017)
- Bundeswehr Detachment, Kurdistan Training Coordination Center, Erbil, Iraq: “The Effectiveness of Coalition Training on the Peshmerga” (2017)
- Center for a New American Security: “Military Officer Aptitude in the All-Volunteer Force,” part of the ‘AVF 4.0 Study Group: Quality of the Force’ (2016)
- Jesse Brown Veterans’ Affairs Hospital, Chicago, Illinois: “Veteran Experiences on Deployment” (2015)

ACADEMIC SERVICE

- Referee: *Armed Forces and Society*, *Security Studies*

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- Sulaimani Forum, American University of Iraq - Sulaimani (2016)
- International Studies Association Annual Convention (2018)
- Harvard-MIT-Tufts-Yale Conference on Political Violence (2018)
- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting (2018)
- Cato Junior Scholars Symposium (2018)
- International Kurdish Studies Conference (2019)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

- “Killing Qassem,” Modern War Institute (blog), January 7, 2020.
- “Well-Trained Partners Are More Likely to Fight.” *Association of the United States Army Magazine*, May 7, 2019.
- “It Is Long Past Time to Stop Expanding NATO,” with Mark Cancian. *War on the Rocks* (blog), March 1, 2019.
- “Difficult Decisions: Practical Policy for the Air Force’s Pilot Retention Crisis,” with Colonel Jesse Friedel, *War on the Rocks* (blog), September 3, 2018
- “Between Two Caesars: The Christians of Northern Iraq,” with Roger Petersen. *Providence*, Winter 2018
- “What Iraq’s Kurdish Peshmerga Believe: And How It Will Affect the Country’s Post-ISIS Future,” with Dr. Kristin Fabbe. *ForeignAffairs.com* (blog), August 2017
- “Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures of the Islamic State: Lessons for U.S. Forces.” *Military Review*, March/April 2017
- “Culture Wars,” Modern War Institute (blog), January 2017
- “Untangling the Arab-Kurdish Web in Post-ISIL Northern Iraq.” *Small Wars Journal* (blog), 2016.
- “A Visit to the Frontlines of the Battle Against ISIL,” with Mark Cancian. *War on the Rocks* (blog), April 2016
- “Officers are Less Intelligent: What Does It Mean?” *Joint Forces Quarterly*, March 2016.
- “Counterinsurgency as Cargo Cult,” *Marine Corps Gazette*, January 2013.

RELEVANT WORK EXPERIENCE

- Senior Researcher at the Naval War College through Saalex Solutions (2021-present)
- Captain, United States Marine Corps (2009-2013)
 - Forward Observer with 1st Battalion, 5th Marines during Operation Enduring Freedom (2011)
 - Platoon Commander (2011-2012), Fire Direction Officer (2012), Battery Executive Officer (2012-2013)
- Volunteer experience teaching in Uganda (2013) and Haiti (2016)

OTHER QUALIFICATIONS

- Active DoD Top Secret Clearance
- French: Interagency Language Roundtable Writing Level 5 (Functional Native), Oral Level 4 (Full Professional)
- Kurdish (Kurmanji): Intermediate
- German: Intermediate
- Programming: R, \LaTeX , C++
- Purple Belt, Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu