

Benjamin K Tkach

Department of Political Science and
Public Administration
Mississippi State University
105 Bowen Hall
Mississippi State University, MS 39762

Cell: 903.293.7654
b.tkach@msstate.edu
ben.tkach@gmail.com
www.benjaminTkach.com

Academic Positions

Assistant Professor of Political Science, Mississippi State University, 2018-

Assistant Professor of Security and Intelligence, King University, 2015-2018

Assistant Research Scientist, Center on Conflict and Development, 2013-2018
USAID Higher Education Solutions Network, Texas A&M University

Education

Ph.D. Texas A&M University, Political Science, Dec. 2013
B.A., Whitworth University, 2007

Peer Reviewed Publications

Tkach, Benjamin. *nd.* "Private Military and Security Companies, Contract Structure, Market Competition, and Violence in Iraq" *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, forthcoming.

Tkach, Benjamin and Apryl Williams. 2017. "Mobile (In)security? Exploring the Realities of Mobile Phone Use in Conflict Areas" *Information, Communication, and Society* 21(2):1-16

Fuhrmann, Matthew and Benjamin Tkach. 2015. "Almost Nuclear: Introducing the Nuclear Latency Dataset" *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 32(4): 443-461.

Koch, Michael and Benjamin Tkach. 2012. "Deterring or Mobilizing? The Influence of Government Partisanship and Force on the Frequency, Lethality, and Suicide Attacks of Terror Events" *Peace Economics, Peace Science and Public Policy* 18(2): 1-27.

Peer Reviewed Policy Booklets

Tkach, Benjamin. 2017. *Special Operations Contacting: 21st Century Approaches for Service and Technology Acquisition*. MacDill Air Force Base, Joint Special Operations University Press. (ISBN 978-1-941715-17-8)

Kibriya, Shahriar and Benjamin Tkach. 2016. *The Effects of School Related Gender-Based Violence on Academic Performance: Evidence from Botswana, Ghana, and South Africa*. Washington, DC: United States Agency for International Development (with Jeahyun Ahn, Natalia Vadelz Gonzalez, Zhicheng Xu, and Yu Zhang). (ISBN 978-1-4951-7144-4)

Works Under Review and In Progress

“An Additional Dimension?: United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping Operations and Private Military and Security Companies” (with Joe Philips) *under review*

“Old and New Media Combine in Determining Access to Information in the Democratic Republic of Congo” (with Apryl Williams)

“A Spatial Model of Nuclear Technology Diffusion” (with Matthew Fuhrmann and Scott Cook)

“Managerial Capacity in Conflict Environments: The Effects of Managerial Quality on Conflict Outcomes in Iraq”

“Private Military and Security Firms and the Influence of Corporate Structure on Conflict Outcomes”

“When Aid Kills: The Discriminatory Consequences of Foreign Aid on Domestic Terrorism”

Grant Writing Experience

Grant writer: Shahriar Kibriya, Benjamin Tkach, and Edwin Price. (2016) “The Effects of School-Related Gender-Based Violence on Academic Performance.” United States Agency for International Development, \$99,986. Funded

Grant writer: Tkach, Benjamin. (2014) “Special Operations Contracting: 21st Century Approaches for Service and Technology Acquisition” Joint Special Operations University, \$14,158. Funded.

Grant writer: Bessler, David, Michael Findley, Shahriar Kibrya, Benjamin Tkach, and Catherine Weaver. (2014) “Dynamics of Subnational Level Food Security and Violent Conflict: A Micro Level Geo-Coded Approach to Peace Building,” \$2,196,728. Invited for full proposal by U.S. Department of Defense Minerva Program. Not funded.

Additional Training and Research Skills

ICPSR, University of Michigan, *Spatial Econometrics*, 2015

Institute for National Security Studies, Air Force Academy, *Strategic Security Seminar*, 2010

QAUNT, University of Kansas, *Social Network Dynamics*, 2009

ICPSR, University of Michigan, *Accelerated Network Analysis*, 2008

Data Sets

Fuhrmann, Matthew and Benjamin Tkach. *Nuclear Latency*. Provides information on global nuclear latency from 1939-2010.

Research Experience

Research Assistant, Texas A&M University, 2008-2013

Matthew Fuhrmann: Designed, collected and analyzed nuclear facilities data. Coordinated efforts with Pacific Northwest National Lab.

Michael Koch: Collaborated on research papers.

Shuhei Kurizaki: Created and analyzed diplomatic ties using network analysis.

Research Fellow, National Defense University, 2009-2011

Executed quantitative analysis on energy security questions.
Research Consultant, Jane's Information Group, 2008

Developed multiple projects with quantitative market analysis for client presentations.

Research & Teaching Interests

Research Interests

U.S. Foreign Policy
Conflict
Non-state Actors
Quantitative Methods
Terrorism

Teaching Interests

Conflict
Defense and Security Policy
Theories of International Relations
Research Methods
Terrorism

Invited Research Presentations

Texas A&M University, Qatar (2015) "Ethical Challenges in an Automation World: The Role of Ethical Engineering in Weapons Development" Annual Ethics Week, Department of Engineering.

University of Exeter, United Kingdom (2014) "Private Security Firms and The Iraq War." Strategy and Security Institute, College of Social Science and International Studies.

American University Beirut, Lebanon (2013) "Private Security Firms and Conflict Outcomes: Evidence from the Second Iraq–U.S. War." Department of Political Studies.

University of Groningen, Netherlands (2013) "Erosion of State Sovereignty in Conflict: Private Security Companies in Security Operations" Global Studies Program.

American University Sharjah, United Arab Emirates (2013) "Private Security Firms and Providing Desired Outcomes: Evidence from the Second Iraq-US War." Department of International Studies.

Courses Taught

Instructor responsible for the design, instruction, and grading of the courses:

Statistics for Social Science (King University)
World Politics (King University)
The Cold War: Politics and History (King University)
Geopolitics (King University)
International Terrorism (King University & Mississippi State University)
Contemporary Issues in American Foreign Policy (King University & Texas A&M University)
Intelligence and Espionage (King University)
Covert Action (King University)
American National Politics (Texas A&M University, Qatar)
State and Local Politics (Texas A&M University, Qatar)
Introduction to Political Science Research Methods (Texas A&M University)
International Conflict (Texas A&M University)

Teaching Assistant:

Grad. Assistant, Methods Sequence: Bush School of Government and Public Service, 2009-2011

Selected Research Presentations

“An Additional Dimension?: United Nations Multidimensional Peacekeeping Operations and Private Military and Security Companies” (2018) Presented at the Annual International Studies Association Annual Meeting in San Francisco, CA. (with Joe Philips)

“Multidimensional Peacekeeping: United Nations Peacekeeping Operations and Private Military and Security Companies in Weak States” (2017) Presented at the Annual ISSS/ISAC Conference in Washington, D.C.

“Mobile (In)security? Exploring the Realities of Mobile Phone Use in Conflict Areas” (2017) Presented at American Sociological Association Annual Meeting in Montreal, Canada. (with Apryl Williams).

“Spatial Context and Learning Curves: Regional Employment of Private Military and Security Companies” (2017) Presented at the International Studies Association Annual Meeting, Baltimore, MA.

“Methodological Innovations in Study of Politics: Implications for Liberal Arts Education” (2017) Presented at the Liberal Arts International Conference 2017, Doha, Qatar.

“A Spatial Model of Nuclear Technology Diffusion” (2015) Presented at the ISA Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA.

“Managerial Capacity in Conflict Environments: The Effects of Managerial Training on Civilian Casualties in Iraq” (2014) Presented at the ISA ISSS-ISAC Joint Annual Conference, Austin, TX.

“Information as Behavior Check: Firm Transparency and Conflict Outcomes” (2014) Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

“Almost Nuclear: Introducing the Nuclear Latency Dataset” (2014) Presented at the Department of Energy MPACT Annual Meeting, San Diego, CA.

“Private Security Firms and Providing Desired Outcomes in Conflict: Evidence from the Second Iraq-U.S. War” (2013) Presented at the American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

“MBA’s go to War: Competition in the Private Security Market and Conflict Outcomes” (2013) Presented at ISA ISSS-ISAC Joint Annual Conference, Washington, DC.

“Private Security Firms and the Influence of Corporate Structure on Conflict Outcomes” (2013) Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

“Democratic Norms: Conflict Decision Making Following Regime Change in Pakistan’s International Conflict Behavior–1947-2010” (2013) Presented at the Athens Institute for Education and Research

Annual Meeting, Athens Greece. (with Hassan Bashir and Phillip Gray).

“When Aid Kills: The Effect of Foreign Aid on Domestic Terrorism”(2012) Presented at the Peace Science (International) Annual Meeting, Savannah, GA. (with Blake Garcia).

“Private Military Firms and Conflict Success: Victory for Hire” (2012) Presented at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL.

“Presidential Agenda Setting Revisited” (2012) Presented at the Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting, New Orleans, LA. (with B. Dan Wood).

Honors and Awards

Faculty Lecturer—Professor of the Year, King University, 2017

(Campus Wide Student Voted Award)

Dissertation Writing Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University (declined), 2013

Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Texas A&M University Qatar, 2013

Excellence in Teaching, Political Science Department, Texas A&M University, 2012, 2013

Graduate Teaching Academy Fellow, Texas A&M University, 2012

Research Fellow, National Defense University, 2009-2011

Department and Professional Service

Member, Quality Enhancement Plan, SACSCOC reaffirmation Steering Committee, King University 2017-2018

Co-chairman, Center for Teaching Excellence and Learning, King University, 2017-2018
Member, 2016-2018

Faculty Adviser, King Security and Intelligence, King University, 2015-2018

Co-Director, Graduate Teaching Academy, Center for Teaching Excellence, Texas A&M University, 2013-2014

Member, Undergraduate Research Team Leader, Political Science Department, Texas A&M University, 2013

Member, Graduate Student Advisory Committee, Office of the Dean of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University, 2012-2013

Member, Graduate Teaching Academy Steering Committee, Texas A&M University, 2012-2013

Member, Faculty Search Committee (2 IR positions), Texas A&M University, 2010-2011

Reviewer: *American Journal of Political Science*, *American Political Science Review*, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, *International Interactions*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Journal of Politics*, and *Presidential Studies Quarterly*.

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association

International Studies Association

Midwest Political Science Association

References

*available upon request