

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
benjamintkach.org

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, 2013
B.A., Whitworth University, 2007

Peer Reviewed Publications

* graduate student author

Mahoney, Charles, Benjamin Tkach, *Craig Rethmeyer. 2022. "Defense Contractors, Private Equity Firms, and United States National Security" *Journal of Global Security Studies* 7(4): ogac018

Tkach, Benjamin. 2022. "The Potential of the United Nations as a Regulatory Regime Creator: The Case of Unmanned Aerial Systems in Ongoing Operations" *Journal of International Organization Studies* 10(2) 54-67.

Williams, Apryl and Benjamin Tkach. 2022. "Access and Dissemination of Information and Emerging Media Convergence in the Democratic Republic of Congo" *Information, Communication, and Society* 25(10): 1383-1399.

Tkach, Benjamin. 2020 "Managerial Capacity in Conflict Environments: Management Effects of Private Military and Security Firms in Iraq" *Public Administration* 98(3): 785-800.

Tkach, Benjamin. 2020. "Private Military and Security Companies, Corporate Structure, and Levels of Violence in Iraq" *International Interactions* 46(4):499-525.

Tkach, Benjamin and Joe Phillips. 2020. "UN Organizational and Financial Incentives to Employ Private Military and Security Companies in Peacekeeping Operations" *International*

Peacekeeping 27(1): 102-123.

Tkach, Benjamin. 2019. "Private Military and Security Companies, Contract Structure, Market Competition, and Violence in Iraq" *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 36(3): 291-311.

Tkach, Benjamin and *Apyrl Williams. 2018. "Mobile (In)security? Exploring the Realities of Mobile Phone Use in Conflict Areas" *Information, Communication, and Society* 21(2): 1639-1654.

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. 2023. *Disruptive Technology in SOF-Peculiar Environments: Promises and Challenges in Development, Management, and Acquisition & Procurement*. MacDill Air Force Base, Joint Special Operations University

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).

Invited Publications

Navicky, Michael and Benjamin Tkach. 2023. "Cross Domain Cyber Incidents and Responses." in *Integrated Deterrence and Cyberspace*, pp. 23-54, National Defense University, Fort McNair, Washington.

Public Scholarship

Banerjee, Vasabjit and Benjamin Tkach. 2023, March 16. "Munitions Return To A Place of Prominence in National Security" *War on the Rocks*.

- Interviewed by China-Russia Report. 2023, March 28. "Catalyzing international investment in Western defense industrial supply chains: A conversation with Dr. Vasabjit Banerjee and Dr. Benjamin Tkach" *The China-Russia Report*
- Cited with excerpts: Mathis, Joel. 2023, March 29. "Is The U.S. running out of ammunition? Why war with Ukraine may leave American unprepared for a China conflict?" *The Week*.
- Interviewed by Voice of America-Mandarin. 2023, April 4. "U.S. military generals warn that "ammunition consumption may explode" if a war with China and Russia begins. How can the

U.S. revive the ammunition industry?”

Banerjee, Vasabjit and Benjamin Tkach. 2022, October 11. “The Coming Chinese Weapons Boom: Beijing is Poised to Dominate the Low End of the Arms Market” *Foreign Affairs*.

- Highlighted by Senator Wicker at the Helsinki Commission Hearing on Crowdsourcing Victory for Ukraine, Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe, U.S. Senate, December 7, 2022–13:35 mark.
- Interviewed by Voice of America Mandarin. 2022. “China’s weapon self-sufficiency rate dominates the Indo-Pacific, but can it compete with the United States?”
- Interviewed by Atlantico. 2022.

Banerjee, Vasabjit and Benjamin Tkach. 2022, August 8. “Amid Russia-Ukraine War, China Could Dominate the Value Arms Market” *The Diplomat*.

Banerjee, Vasabjit and Benjamin Tkach. 2022, May 20. “Helping India Replace Russia in the Value Arms Market” *War on the Rocks*.

Banerjee, Vasabjit and Benjamin Tkach. 2022, April 12. “After Ukraine, Where Does India Buy Its Weapons?” *War on the Rocks*.

Banerjee, Vasabjit and Benjamin Tkach. 2022, March 5. “India’s preference for arms acquisition.” *Observer Research Foundation*

Book Reviews

Tkach, Benjamin. 2022. *Private Militaries and The Security Industry in Civil Wars: Competition x and Market Accountability* by Seden Akcinaroglu and Elizabeth Radziszewski, Oxford University Press 2020 in *International Peacekeeping* (forthcoming).

Works Under Review and in Progress

“Extinguish the Spark: The Effect of Government Violence during Protests on Journalist Killings” (with *Ryan Jarrett)

“Leveraging National Security: Private Equity and Bankruptcy in the U.S. Defense Industry” (with Mahoney, Charles and Craig Rethmeyer)

“How Secret is Secret?: Discovery of Clandestine Nuclear Facilities” (with Yao-Yuan Yen)

“Regime Type and Employment of Mercenaries and Private Security and Military Companies” (with Yao-Yuan Yen)

“Hired Guns: Rebel Employment of Mercenaries (with *Margaret Eduonoo)

“Public Opinion, Private Military and Security Companies, and Support for US Foreign Policy” (with Yao-Yuan Yen)

“Terrorism Tactics: Vehicular Attacks in Israel” (with *Garrett Smith and Ashton Porter)

“The Effects of Security Privatization on Communities of Color in the United States” (with Apryl Williams)

Grant Writing Experience

Principle Investigator (PI) \$53,558; Total \$153,483

Tkach, Benjamin (Co-PI) and Vasabjit Banerjee (Co-PI). 2022. “Military Supply Chains and Global Stability in the Context of Global Competition.” Strategic Research Initiative (SRI) Faculty Seed Funding (FSF) Program, Mississippi State University, College of Arts and Sciences \$10,000.

Tkach, Benjamin (Co-PI) and Apryl Williams (Co-PI). 2020. “The Effects of Security Privatization on Communities of Color.” ORED/OIDI Research to Advance Inclusion, Diversity, Equity, and Access, Mississippi State University, \$10,200.

Tkach, Benjamin (PI). 2020. “Disruptive Technology in SOF-Peculiar Environments: Promises and Challenges in Development, Management, and Acquisition & Procurement.” Joint Special Operations University, \$15,000. (Not listed in Banner with permission)

Tkach, Benjamin (PI). A&S Academic Excellence (Acadex) traveling funding, College of Arts and Sciences, Mississippi State University, \$500 in 2019, 2021, and 2022, Total: \$1,500

Tkach, Benjamin (PI). 2019. Stennis Summer Research Award, Department of Political Science and Public Administration, Mississippi State University, \$1,500.

Shahriar Kibriya, Benjamin Tkach, and Edwin Price (Co-PIs). 2016. “The Effects of School-Related Gender-Based Violence on Academic Performance.” United States Agency for International Development, \$99,925.

Tkach, Benjamin (PI). 2016. Liberal Arts International Conference, Texas A&M University, Qatar. \$1,200.

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

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.” Invited for full proposal by U.S. Department of Defense Minerva Program. \$2,196,728. 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 with assistance from Benjamin Tkach and Molly Berkemeier. *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 data using network analysis.

Research Assistant, 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.

Invited Research Presentations and Professional Talks

Center for Strategic and International Studies (2023) "Russia's Arms Sale Following Sanctions and Export Controls" Virtual Forum, Europe, Russia, and Eurasia (ERE) Program, Washington, D.C.

U.S. Cyber Command and the College of Information and Cyberspace (2022) "Building Enduring Advantages in Cyberspace Operations" National Defense University, Fort Leslie J. McNair, Cyber Symposium on Integrated Deterrence.

Mississippi State University (2022) "Diplomacy and Soft Power: How Universities Affect U.S. Soft Power" Mississippi National Guard Professional Development, Instruments of National Power, IHL Lecture Series.

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.

Research & Teaching Interests

Research Interests

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

Teaching Interests

Conflict
 Defense and Security Policy
 Research Methods
 Terrorism

Courses Taught

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

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

Teaching Assistant:

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

Selected Research Presentations

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2013, 2019, 2022
 International Studies Association Annual Meeting: 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020 (ISA-Midwest),
 2021 (ISA-Midwest), 2022
 Southern Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2012, 2019
 American Sociological Association, Washington DC.: 2020
 Annual ISSS/ISAC Conference, Washington, D.C.: 2014, 2019
 Order, Counter-Order, Disorder? Regional and Global Security Orders in the Shadow of
 Sino-American Competition, West Point, NY.: 2023

Honors and Awards

Teaching Award in Social & Behavioral Sciences, College of Arts & Sciences,
 Mississippi State University, 2023
Outstanding Undergraduate Professor, Department of Political Science and Public Administration,
 Mississippi State University, 2022
Faculty Lecturer—Professor of the Year, King University, 2018
Dissertation Writing Fellowship, College of Liberal Arts, Texas A&M University (declined), 2013

Dissertation Writing Fellowship, Texas A&M University Qatar, 2013
Undergraduate Research Team Lead, Political Science Department, Texas A&M University, 2013
Excellence in Teaching, Political Science Department, Texas A&M University, 2012, 2013
Graduate Teaching Academy Fellow, Texas A&M University, 2012
Political Science Department Fellowship, Texas A&M University, 2008-2012
President's Cup, Whitworth University, 2007

Mississippi State University Service

Member, International Programs Committee, 2023-
 Chairperson, Comparative Politics Faculty Search Committee (2 positions), 2023
 Faculty Advisor, Phi Sigma Alpha (National Honor Society), 2022-
 Member, Undergraduate Committee, 2019-2020, 2022-
 Member, Department Scholars Advisor, 2019-

Graduate Student Committee Member

Allen Baxter, MA Political Science, 2018
 Margaret Eduonoo, (Chair) MA Political Science, 2021—PhD Student University of Florida

Undergraduate Thesis

Garret Smith, 2021 (chair)
 Ryan Jarrett, 2022 (chair)
 Lauren Arceneaux, 2023 (member)

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*; *Information, Communication, and Society*; *International Interactions*; *International Journal*; *International Studies Quarterly*; *Lynn Rienner Publishers*; *Journal of Conflict Resolution*; *Journal of Global Security Studies*; *Journal of Peace Research*; *Journal of Politics*; *National Science Foundation, Policy Sciences*; *Presidential Studies Quarterly*; *Perspectives on Politics*; and *Security Studies*.

Professional Affiliations

American Political Science Association

International Studies Association

Midwest Political Science Association