

GU

20
21

ANNUAL REPORT

89

Mortara Center for International Studies



TABLE OF CONTENTS

3

Letter from the Director

5

About the Mortara Center

7

The Year in Review

The Year in Numbers

Mortara Distinguished Professor Madeleine K. Albright

Global Political Economy Project

Mortara Faculty Fellows

Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows

Book Talks

Research Seminars

The Walsh Exchange

Lepgold Book Prize

11

Looking Ahead

DESC

New MURFs

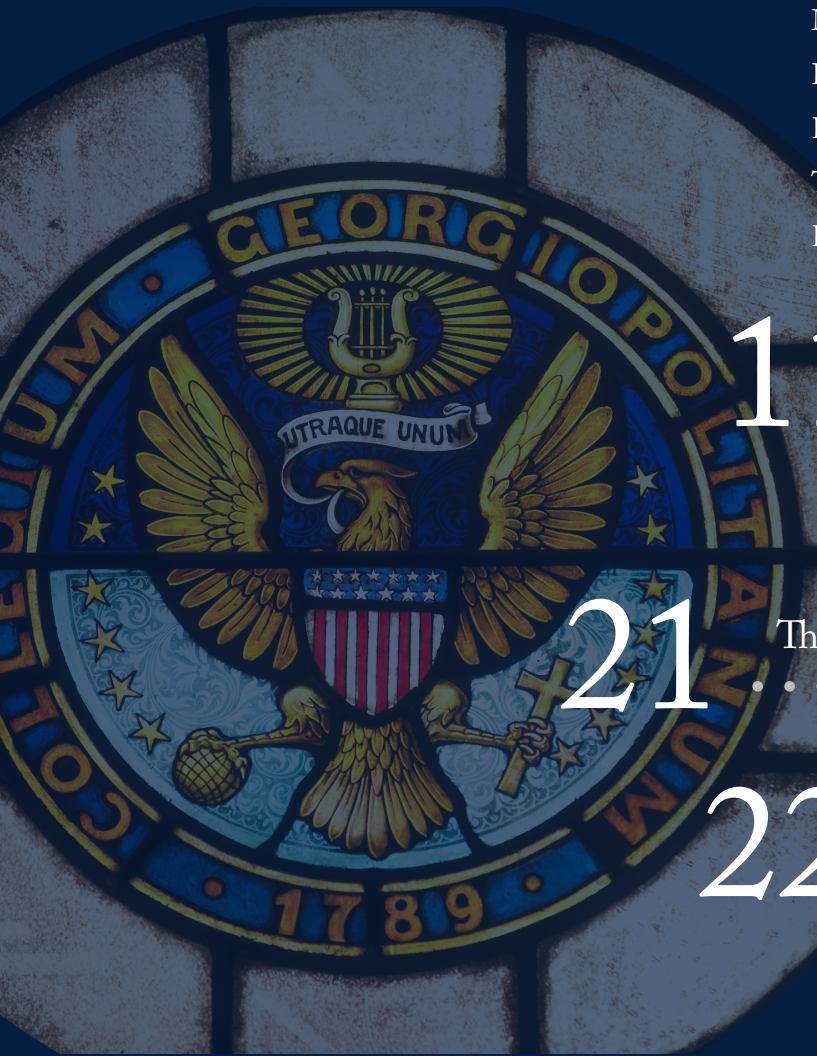
Expanding Mortara's Faculty Community

21

The Mortara Building

22

Faculty and Staff



LETTER FROM THE DIRECTOR

Dear Friends of the Mortara Center,

I hope that everyone in the Mortara community is safe and is doing as well as can be expected given the unprecedented disruptions caused by the Covid-19 pandemic.

Despite moving to a virtual learning environment, the Mortara Center has continued to promote and energize faculty and student research at the School of Foreign Service. Focusing on pressing global problems, the Center convened virtual working groups, organized speaker series, and supported deep student mentorship experiences through the Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellowship (MURFs) program and the Walsh Exchange.

For the 2020-2021 annual report, I would like to draw your attention to an exceptional program, which exemplifies the extraordinary work happening at Mortara and the School of Foreign Service.

The Center received a major grant from the Open Society Foundations' Program on Economic Justice to spearhead a new effort to rethink our understanding of international political economy and the purpose of global market integration. The Global Political Economy Project (GPEP) seeks to prioritize outcomes over process; human values and prosperity over market liberalization. As part of this effort, the Center held a year-long speaker series addressing race and the international political economy. Speakers examined a wide range of topics from trade to colonialism to foreign direct investment and how race and racism intersects with these topics. Hundreds of participants attended these events and watched recordings of the series. At the same time, the Center hosted three pre-doctoral fellows working on various

aspects of the GPEP mission. A highlight of the year was an academic meeting co-organized by the fellows examining how qualitative methods can be used to improve political economy research. Over the next several years the Center will push forward the GPEP agenda, as it helps to start a national conversation on how best to guarantee that globalization delivers for all Americans.

While we could not meet face-to-face in the conference room, we continued to support student and faculty research. We advanced our work through the Mortara Faculty Fellows. The program builds an interdisciplinary group of six faculty to help each other as they seek to publish work grappling with major world problems. In this multiyear effort, SFS faculty and students are working daily to help our country and the world grapple with these complex problems. The Walsh Exchange convened an amazing seminar, bringing together student researchers from across the globe. Our MURFs helped their faculty mentors to push forward their research programs. More than anything, the Mortara community worked to stay connected and safe during this extremely trying time.

In the coming year, we are thrilled to return to campus and the Mortara Building. We will be hosting a year-long speaker series dedicated to the national security implications of digital technology, welcoming a new cohort of GPEP fellows, and supporting our students and faculty in their research efforts. If you are near the Hilltop, please check out one of the lectures and see all of the amazing work that is happening at Mortara.

Be well,
Abraham Newman
Director, Mortara Center



Founding

Officially opened in January 2003, the Mortara Center for International Studies was founded through the generosity of the late Mr. Michael P. Mortara, his wife, Mrs. Virginia Mortara, and friends and colleagues. The Mortara family envisioned a center of scholarly inquiry at the School of Foreign Service that would embody the mission of the School and its focus on the intersection of theory and practice in international affairs.

Mission

The Mortara Center for International Studies seeks to advance scholarship and inform policy by combining the expertise of scholars and experience of international affairs practitioners to illuminate the fundamental forces - political, economic, and cultural - that shape international relations.

To realize this mission, the Center:

- organizes and co-sponsors lectures, workshops, and conferences
- provides support for research and publications
- generates communities of research

The Research Cycle

The Mortara Center is committed to supporting the entire research life cycle, from preliminary brainstorming, through the presentation of rough drafts, to the unveiling of published books. Such activities help to develop thought communities between faculty and students on campus and promote interaction with scholars, practitioners, and experts outside of Georgetown.

ABOUT THE MORTARA CENTER



6

Book
Talks

29 Mortara
Events

2 Research
Symposia

3 GPEP
Fellows

89

Students in
America's National
Security Toolbox

1 Visiting
Researcher

6

Mortara
Faculty
Fellows

12 GPEP-Q
Workshop
Participants

12
Research
Seminars

24 Mortara Undergraduate
Research Fellows

The Year in Numbers

*Michael and Virginia Mortara
Endowed Distinguished Professor in
the Practice of Diplomacy*

Madeleine K. Albright

This year, Professor Albright taught America's National Security Toolbox to 24 graduate students in the fall semester and 65 undergraduate students in the spring semester.

Students focused on growing tensions over the Grand Ethiopian Renaissance Dam in East Africa. Students were assigned roles in one of three groups: 1) The U.S. Principals Committee; 2) The United Nations Security Council; 3) An Assorted Principals group, including the foreign ministers of Ethiopia, Egypt, Sudan, along with representatives from the Arab League and African Union.



The simulation proved quite entertaining and appropriately challenging. Students successfully negotiated a water-sharing agreement between Ethiopia, Sudan, and Egypt to ease tensions, although the absence of a stringent enforcement mechanism left some to doubt the durability of the agreement.

Outside of the classroom, Professor Albright was active in the media, providing insight and commentary on issues ranging from Covid-19 to elections and voting rights to foreign policy. Her writing was published by a variety of outlets including the New York Times, the Washington Post, and Politico. She also appeared on PBS, MSNBC, CBS Sunday Morning, and NPR.

GLOBAL POLITICAL ECONOMY PROJECT

GPEP Fellows



Aditi Sahasrabudde is a Ph.D. candidate in the Department of Government at Cornell University. Her research specializes in the politics of international finance, central banking, international cooperation, and economic history, with a focus on systemic financial crisis management. Her dissertation asks the questions of why and among whom central bank swaps are most likely to be used for crisis management, over preexisting formal and institutional arrangements.



Nicholas J. Bell is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania. His research interests are in public opinion and international trade, and his dissertation explores the barriers to worker participation in the federal Trade Adjustment Assistance (TAA) program and the consequences for trade liberalization in the United States.



Siyao Li is a Ph.D. candidate in Political Science at the University of Pennsylvania. Her research focuses on international political economy and business-government relations. Her dissertation investigates how multinational corporations investing into weak institutional environments protect their property, and why they use host government institutions to do so.

GPEP-Q

In April and May, GPEP hosted a graduate student workshop on qualitative research in political economy. Over the course of three weeks, doctoral students selected via a competitive application process participated in master classes, break-out sessions, and one-on-one meetings with leading scholars of comparative and international political economy, including Layna Mosley (Princeton University), James Ashley Morrison (LSE), and Jacqueline Best (University of Ottawa). The last event of the workshop, a roundtable on how to publish qualitative work successfully, was held on May 13 and attended by more than 120 members of the broader GPEP community. [Watch the recording.](#)



GPEP-R

Throughout the 2020-2021 academic year, the Mortara Center's Global Political Economy Project (GPEP) hosted the GPEP-R series, an initiative aimed at exploring the many intersections of race and international political economy. The series featured ten guest speakers over the course of eight events and attracted hundreds of viewers from around the world.



Race and Trade Politics

Dr. Alexandra Guisinger, Temple University
October 1, [Watch the recording](#)

Race, Colonialism, and the Global Economy

Dr. Robbie Shilliam, Johns Hopkins University
October 15, [Watch the recording](#)



Race and Global Migration

Dr. Andrew Rosenberg, University of Florida
October 28, [Watch the recording](#)



Race and the Liberal International Order

Dr. Zoltán Búzás, Drexel University
December 3, [Watch the recording](#)



Race and Foreign Aid

Dr. Burcu Bayram, University of Arkansas
Dr. J.P. Singh, George Mason University
February 4, [Watch the recording](#)



Race and Foreign Direct Investment

Dr. Sonal Pandya, University of Virginia
February 18, [Watch the recording](#)



Race and International Development

Dr. Olivia U. Rutazibwa, University of Portsmouth, UK
Dr. Naazneen Barma, University of Denver
March 11, [Watch the recording](#)



Race and Illicit Markets

*Dr. Kojo Koram, Birkbeck School of Law,
University of London, UK*
March 25, [Watch the recording](#)



MORTARA FACULTY FELLOWS

The Mortara Faculty Fellows program focuses on spurring research among Georgetown faculty, while also building their capacity to share their research with the broader policy world. Over the course of three years, the fellows navigate the entire research cycle together, including forging connections, finding shared research topics, and building collaborative research agendas. The fellowship also provides the group with opportunities to engage in skill-building exercises to enhance their ability to bridge the gap between research and policy.



The current cohort of Mortara Faculty Fellows completed their first year of the fellowship this spring. The Fellows met virtually six times throughout the year to collaborate on research projects. Additionally, many of the Fellows contributed to Mortara Center events throughout the year. Over the course of the 2020-2021 academic year, each of the Mortara Faculty Fellows made considerable progress on their various research projects. They published articles and books, received grants and awards, and disseminated research relevant to pressing policy issues.

Jenny Guardado co-authored policy research working papers with the [World Bank](#) and [United Nations University World Institute for Development Economics Research](#) while also working on her book manuscript exploring the effect of imperial bureaucratic policies in the 18th century on the long-run political and economic development of Spanish America.

Shiloh Krupar published *Territories of Exaction: Austerity, Bias, Dross* with co-author C. Greig Crysler (University of California-Berkeley) as part of the *Society and Space* book series edited by Stuart Elden for Sage Publications. The book investigates contemporary municipal bankruptcy and the relationship between financial and environmental disaster.

Jamie Martin published “The Global Crisis of Commodity Glut During the Second World War” in *International History Review* and “Time and the Economics of the Business Cycle in Modern Capitalism” in *Power and Time*, edited by Stefanos Geroulanos, Dan Edelstein, and Natasha Wheatley (University of Chicago Press, 2021).

Ken Opalo’s 2020 book *Legislative Development in Africa: Politics and Postcolonial Legacies* was co-winner of the 2020 Best Book award from the Africa Politics Conference Group, a section of the American Political Science Association. He also received the 2021 Emerging Scholar Award from the Legislative Studies Section of the American Political Science Association.

Jessica Roda published “Home beyond Borders and the Sound of Al-Andalus” in *Religions* and “Representation, Recognition and Institutionalization of a New Community: Reflection on the Mediatization of Former Ultra-Orthodox Jews” in *Off the Derech: Leaving Orthodox Judaism*, co-edited by Ezra Cappell and Jessica Lang. She also received a research grant from the Hadassah-Brandeis Institute.

Elizabeth Saunders worked on her book manuscript “The Insiders’ Game: Elites, Democracy, and War,” including a manuscript workshop co-hosted by the Mortara Center. She also co-authored “Women’s Suffrage and the Democratic Peace,” published in *Foreign Affairs*.

MORTARA UNDERGRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWS

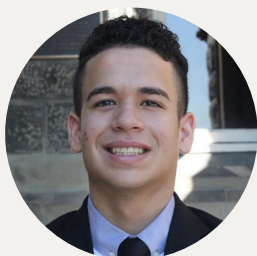
The Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows (MURFs) program is a four-year research apprenticeship for School of Foreign Service (SFS) undergraduate students with the goal of empowering students as generators, not just consumers, of knowledge. Fellows are selected in the spring semester of their first year at Georgetown and paired with a faculty mentor to gain hands-on experience as a research assistant working on advanced research methods and projects. By supporting faculty research initiatives, students gain the necessary skills to carry out their own independent research in their third and fourth year. The program was started in the spring of 2012 as part of the University's commitment to undergraduate research. Funding is provided by the SFS Dean's Leadership Fund.

The 2021 MURF Symposium was held on May 11 and was an impressive display of the sort of innovation, resilience, and adaptability one needs to be a MURF, especially in unusual times. Four seniors (Paul Castaybert, Ricardo Flores, Jonathon Marek, and Nicole Ruggiero) presented their own extensive independent research projects and five sophomores (Anya Wahal, Joyce Yang, Kenan Dogan, Sophia Green, Derek Walkush) provided insights into the skills and interests developed while working with their faculty partners. The event demonstrated the richness and diversity of academic curiosity among our MURFs as well as their unique approach to analyzing and providing solutions to national and international issues. We at Mortara are both proud and inspired by their hard work and commitment.

MURFs Class of 2021



Paul Castaybert



Ricardo Flores

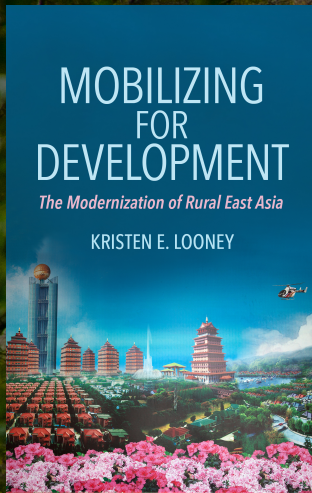


Jonathon Marek



Nicole Ruggiero

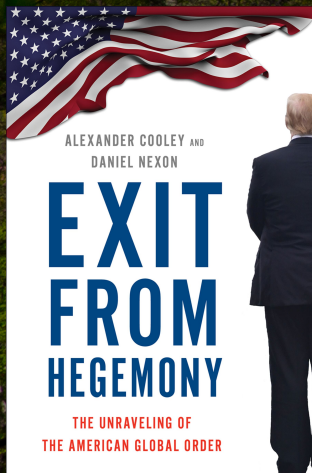
BOOK TALKS



Mobilizing for Development By Kristen E. Looney,

October 8

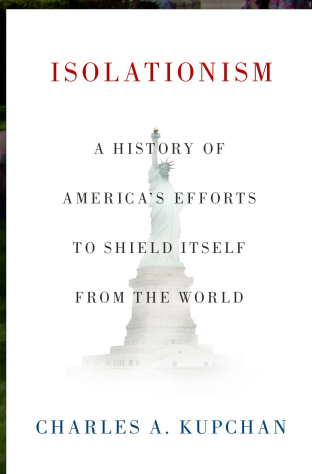
Mobilizing for Development tackles the question of how countries achieve rural development and offers a new way of thinking about East Asia's political economy that challenges the developmental state paradigm. Through a comparison of Taiwan, South Korea, and China, Dr. Looney shows that different types of development outcomes were realized to different degrees, at different times, and in different ways. She argues that rural modernization campaigns, defined as policies demanding high levels of mobilization to effect dramatic change, played a central role in the region and that divergent development outcomes can be attributed to the interplay between campaigns and institutions. Relevant to political science, economic history, rural sociology, and Asian Studies, the book enriches our understanding of state-led development and agrarian change.



Exit from Hegemony By Alexander Cooley and Daniel Nexon,

October 16

In *Exit from Hegemony*, Alexander Cooley and Daniel Nexon develop a new, integrated approach to understanding the rise and decline of hegemonic orders. Their approach identifies three distinct ways in which the liberal international order is undergoing fundamental transformation. These three pathways erode the primacy of the liberal international order from above, laterally, and from below. The Trump administration, with its "America First" doctrine, accelerates all three processes, critically lessening America's position as a world power.



Isolationism By Charles Kupchan,

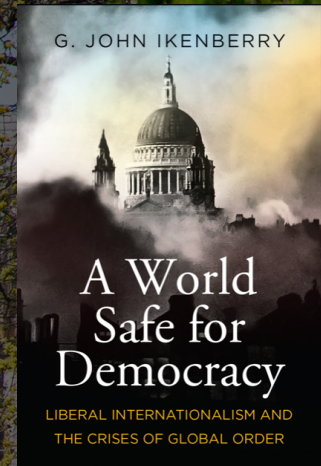
October 22

From the founding era until the Japanese attack on Pearl Harbor, the United States shunned strategic commitments abroad, making only brief detours during the Spanish-American War and World War I. Amid World War II and the Cold War, Americans abandoned isolationism; they tried to run the world rather than run away from it. But isolationism is making a comeback as Americans tire of foreign entanglement. The United States is hardly destined to return to isolationism, yet a strategic pullback is inevitable. Americans now need to find the middle ground between doing too much and doing too little. In this definitive and magisterial analysis—the first book to tell the fascinating story of isolationism across the arc of American history—Charles Kupchan explores the enduring connection between the isolationist impulse and the American experience.

A World Safe for Democracy by G. John Ikenberry,

October 30

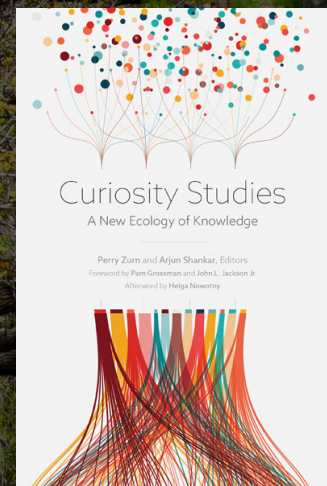
For two hundred years, the grand project of liberal internationalism has been to build a world order that is open, loosely rules-based, and oriented toward progressive ideas. Today this project is in crisis, threatened from the outside by illiberal challengers and from the inside by nationalist-populist movements. This timely book offers the first full account of liberal internationalism's long journey from its nineteenth-century roots to today's fractured political moment. G. John Ikenberry argues that in a twenty-first century marked by rising economic and security interdependence, liberal internationalism—reformed and reimagined—remains the most viable project to protect liberal democracy.



Curiosity Studies By Perry Zurn and Arjun Shankar,

November 5

The first English-language collection to establish curiosity studies as a unique field, *Curiosity Studies* marshals scholars from more than a dozen fields not only to define curiosity but also to grapple with its ethics as well as its role in technological advancement and global citizenship. While intriguing research on curiosity has occurred in numerous disciplines for decades, no rigorously cross-disciplinary study has existed—until now.



Great Power Rivalry By Matthew Kroenig,

February 5

Drawing on an extraordinary range of historical evidence and the works of figures like Herodotus, Machiavelli, and Montesquieu and combining it with cutting-edge social science research, Matthew Kroenig advances the argument that democracies tend to excel in great power rivalries. He contends that democracies actually have unique economic, diplomatic, and military advantages in long-run geopolitical competitions. By advancing a "hard-power" argument for democracy, Kroenig demonstrates that despite its many problems, the U.S. is better positioned to maintain a global leadership role than either Russia or China.



SEMINARS

During the 2020-2021 academic year, the Mortara Center supported the CRITICS, GUITARS, and Political Economy research seminars. Directly addressing the Center's core mission, these working groups foster intellectual exchange and scholarly research in some of the key academic disciplines of the School of Foreign Service and unite faculty and students in communities of research.

CRITICS

Under the leadership of co-chairs Marko Klasjna and Diana Kim, the Current Research on Issues and Topics in Comparative Scholarship (CRITICS) series met two times this year. The CRITICS series is co-sponsored by the Department of Government and the Mortara Center for International Studies.

GUITARS

Co-chaired by Professor Elizabeth Saunders and Mortara Center Director Abraham Newman, the Georgetown University International Theory and Research Seminar (GUITARS) series gathered three times this year to discuss in-progress international politics research of Georgetown faculty and visiting scholars. The GUITARS series is co-sponsored by the Department of Government and the Mortara Center for International Studies.

PE

The Political Economy Workshop brings together Georgetown faculty from various disciplines to discuss political economy research in informal sessions over lunch. Hosted by Professor Irfan Nooruddin, the group met eight times over the course of the year.

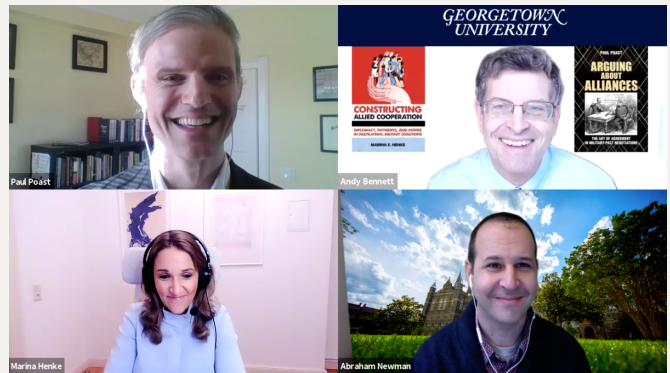
WALSH EXCHANGE



The Walsh Exchange is Georgetown's undergraduate research conference in international relations. This year, six students presented their original research on topics such as Chinese economic statecraft and refugee labor force participation. The conference provided student researchers with valuable feedback on their work and exposed attendees to some of the research being done at the frontier of international relations.

LEPGOLD

On November 17, 2020, the Mortara Center presented the 2019 Lepgold Book Prize to joint winners Dr. Marina Henke and Dr. Paul Poast for their books *Constructing Allied Cooperation* and *Arguing About Alliances*. The prize winners each received a medal and an honorarium in recognition of their contribution to scholarship in their field. At the event, the two authors each spoke about how their research is relevant for alliance politics in the wake of the 2020 U.S. elections.

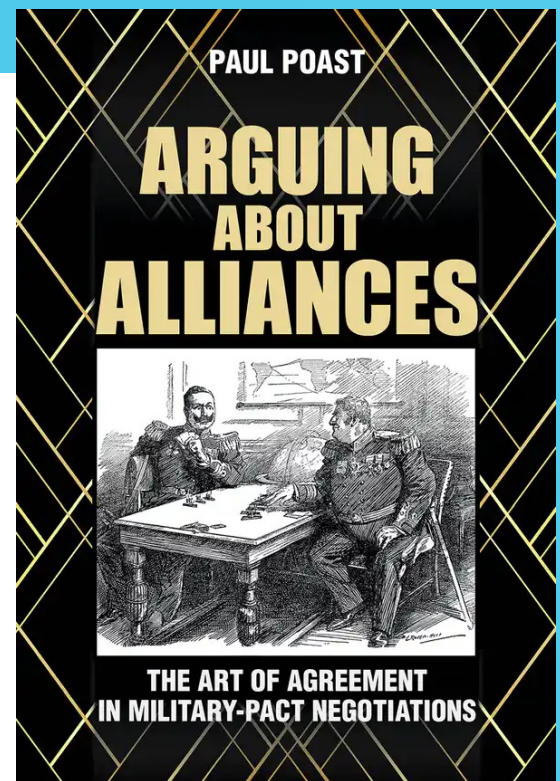


The Georgetown University Lepgold Book Prize honors Joseph S. Lepgold, a Georgetown University Government and School of Foreign Service professor who died in a tragic hotel fire in Paris in December 2001. The prize honors exceptional contributions to the study of international relations, with particular emphasis on the resolution of critical policy challenges, published each calendar year.

LEPGOLD PRIZE WINNERS

In *Arguing about Alliances*, Paul Poast sheds new light on the purpose of alliance treaties by recognizing that such treaties come from negotiations, and that negotiations can end in failure. In a book that bridges Stephen Walt's *Origins of Alliance* and Glenn Snyder's *Alliance Politics*, two classic works on alliances, Poast identifies two conditions that result in non-agreement: major incompatibilities in the internal war plans of the participants, and attractive alternatives to a negotiated agreement for various parties to the negotiations. As a result, *Arguing about Alliances* focuses on a group of states largely ignored by scholars: states that have attempted to form alliance treaties but failed. Poast suggests that to explain the outcomes of negotiations, specifically how they can end without agreement, we must pay particular attention to the wartime planning and coordinating functions of alliance treaties. Through his exploration of the outcomes of negotiations from European alliance negotiations between 1815 and 1945, Poast offers a typology of alliance treaty negotiations and establishes what conditions are most likely to stymie the attempt to formalize recognition of common national interests.

Paul Poast is an associate professor in the Department of Political Science at the University of Chicago. Paul is also the Director of Graduate Studies in the Department of Political Science and Faculty Director of the Summer Institute for Social Research Methods.



ARGUING ABOUT ALLIANCES



CONSTRUCTING ALLIED COOPERATION

**DIPLOMACY, PAYMENTS, AND POWER
IN MULTILATERAL MILITARY COALITIONS**

MARINA E. HENKE

How do states overcome problems of collective action in the face of human atrocities, terrorism and the threat of weapons of mass destruction? How does international burden-sharing in this context look like: between the rich and the poor; the big and the small? These are the questions Marina E. Henke addresses in her new book *Constructing Allied Cooperation*. Through qualitative and quantitative analysis of 80 multilateral military coalitions, Henke demonstrates that coalitions do not emerge naturally. Rather, pivotal states deliberately build them. They develop operational plans and bargain suitable third parties into the coalition, purposefully using their bilateral and multilateral diplomatic connections—what Henke terms diplomatic embeddedness—as a resource. As *Constructing Allied Cooperation* shows, these ties constitute an invaluable state capability to engage others in collective action: they are tools to construct cooperation.

Marina E. Henke is Professor of international relations at the Hertie School in Berlin and Northwestern University. She also directs the Hertie Centre for International Security.

CONSTRUCTING ALLIED COOPERATION

LOOKING AHEAD

Digital Economy & Security Collaborative (DESC)

With support from Georgetown's Board of Regents' Global Engagement Committee, the Mortara Center's Global Political Economy Project is launching a new initiative on technology, global economy, and national security. The Digital Economy & Security Collaborative (DESC) will convene faculty and students to explore practical problems at the intersection of digital technology, security competition, and the global economy. The goal of DESC is to build the necessary intellectual infrastructure to grapple with these pressing global problems by promoting new research, training the next generation of practitioners, and disseminating findings through publications and speakers series.

Expanding Our Faculty Community

The Mortara Center is pleased to welcome new faculty members to our collaborative research community. When we return to campus in the fall, professors Erik Voeten, Diana Kim, Bob Galucci, Nita Rudra, Jamie Martin, Marko Klasnja, Joel Simmons, Tariq Ali, and Lise Howard will join us in their new offices in the Mortara Center building. These scholars, along with Mortara Center core faculty Abraham Newman, Kathleen McNamara, Daniel Nexon, and Marc Busch, will work to transform the Mortara Center into a vibrant interdisciplinary research hub.

NEW MURFs

Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows



Andres Alfonso first became interested in research after hearing his Grandmother retell the history of his family in El Salvador. As a MURF, Andres is thrilled to be working with Professor Jenny Guardado on the intersection between international politics and culture.



Margaret Tilmes is intrigued by the links between environmental science, migration studies, and human rights, especially as they relate to climate migration.



Neval Mulaomerovic developed an early interest in human rights and foreign policy growing up in the California Bay Area, where she was involved in immigrant and refugee rights advocacy. She is excited to work with Professor Lise Howard to study conflict resolution and peacekeeping.



Rachel Klein is passionate about the structure of the international economy and the distributional effects of global capitalism. As a MURF, she is eager to assist Dr. Ding's research regarding international trade and developing economies.



Sofia Doroshenko enjoys learning about the world around her through the cultural lens of the humanities. As a MURF, she will be assisting Professor Jessica Roda with her research on the ethnography of Orthodox Jewish female artistic life in North America.



Tundaa Dorjnamjim is interested in international development, human rights, and global security in the East Asian region. As a MURF, she is excited to work with Dr. Katharine Donato on her research on migration in Bangladesh.

About the Mortara Building

Home to the Mortara Center for International Studies, as well as the Center for Security Studies, the Mortara Building features a beautiful and high tech conference room, small group meeting space, and faculty and staff offices. It serves as one of the main event spaces on campus, hosting hundreds of events each academic year. A highly valuable resource, the conference room space in the Mortara Building brings Mortara's vision to fruition by convening academics and policy makers for meetings, interactive workshops, and distinguished events from across the university.

About Michael P. Mortara

A 1971 graduate of Georgetown's School of Foreign Service, Michael Mortara was a dedicated volunteer leader, as evidenced by his many commitments to the School's Board of Visitors, the Third Century Campaign Steering Committee, and the board of the Wall Street Alliance, of which he was a founding member. Just months before his tragic death, Michael Mortara began his service on the University's Board of Directors.



Staff

Jenna Zabarrah, Assistant Director

Professor Albright's Teaching Assistants:

Devon Harris, Thomas Hanley, Noah

Reichblum

Graduate Student Assistants: Amanda von

Trapp, Qi Zhang

Undergraduate Student Assistants: Jessica

Duhon, Olivia Chuang

Fellows

Mortara Faculty Fellows: Elizabeth

Saunders, Ken Ochieng' Opalo, Jessica

Roda, Jamie Martin, Jenny Guardado,

Shiloh Krupar

Mortara Undergraduate Research Fellows:

Paul Castaybert, Harsh Dubey, Ricardo

Flores, Jonathon Marek, Nicole Ruggiero,

Adam Shaham, Ray McCormick, Sabrina

Hernandez, Jack Resnick, Noor Takkar,

Khai Nguyen, Anya Wahal, Derek Walkush,

Jacob Cohen, Joyce Yang, Kenan Dogan,

Noah Thurm, Sophia Green, Andres

Alfonso, Margaret Tilmes, Neval

Mulaomerovic, Rachel Klein, Sofia

Doroshenko, Tundaa Dorjnamjim