

Brett V. Benson

Department of Political Science
Vanderbilt University
PMB 505, 230 Appleton Place
Nashville, TN 37203-5721

Phone: (615) 322-2702
Fax: (615) 343-6003
Office: 341 Commons
Email: brett.benson@vanderbilt.edu
Homepage: <https://www.brettvbenson.com/>

Academic Positions

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University, 2013 - present
Faculty Associate, Asian Studies Program, Vanderbilt University, 2006 - present
Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University, 2006 - 2013
Postdoctoral Research Associate, Quantitative and Analytical Political Science Program, Department of Political Science, Princeton University, in residence 2010-11

Education

Ph.D. Political Science, Duke University, 2006
M.A. Economics, Duke University, 2006
B.S. Philosophy, Mandarin Chinese, Brigham Young University, 1998

Publications

Books

2025 (forthcoming). “The Window Before: The Politics of Alliance Implementation” (with Bradley C. Smith). Oxford University Press.
2012. *Constructing International Security: Alliances, Deterrence, and Moral Hazard*. Cambridge University Press.

Journal Articles

2022. “Commitment Problems in Alliance Formation” (with Bradley C. Smith), *American Journal of Political Science*.
2016. “Changing Capabilities, Uncertainty, and the Risk of War in Crisis Bargaining” (with Adam Meirowitz and Kristopher W. Ramsay), *Research and Politics*, 3(3): 1-6.
2016. “Assessing the Variation of Formal Military Alliances” (with Joshua D. Clinton), *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 60(5): 866-898.
2014. “Inducing Deterrence Through Moral Hazard in Alliance Contracts” (with Adam Meirowitz and Kris Ramsay), *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 58, 2: 307-335.
2013. “Ally Provocateur: Why Allies Do Not Always Behave” (with Patrick Bentley and Jim Ray), *Journal of Peace Research*, 50, 1: 47-58.

2011. "Unpacking Alliances: Deterrent and Compellent Alliances and Their Relationship with Conflict, 1816-2000," *Journal of Politics* 73, 4: 1111-1127.

2011. "Two Steps Forward, One Step Back? Bias in 2008 Presidential Election" (with John G. Geer and Jennifer Merolla), *Electoral Studies* 30, 4: 607-620.

2007. "Economic Interdependence and Peace: A Game-Theoretic Analysis" (with Emerson M.S. Niou), *Journal of East Asian Studies* 7, 1: 35-59.

2005. "Public Opinion, Foreign Policy, and the Security Balance in the Taiwan Strait" (with Emerson M.S. Niou), *Security Studies*, 14, 2: 274-289.

Book Chapters in Edited Volumes

2012. "Alliances: ATOP Data and Deterrence," *What Do We Know About Interstate War*, 2nd edition, ed. by John Vasquez. Rowman and Littlefield: 111-137.

2011. "A Bargaining Model of Nuclear Weapons Development and Disarmament" (with Quan Wen), *Causes and Consequences of Nuclear Proliferation: A Quantitative-Analysis Approach*. Rauchhaus, Robert, Matthew Kroenig and Erik Gartzke. Taylor and Francis: 45-62.

Working Projects

"Taiwan and the Politics of Buying Time," working book manuscript.

"Inducing Bargaining Delay with Alliances"

"Transmission of Violence through Arms Trade Networks," typescript (with Kristopher W. Ramsay).

"Economic Dependence, Derisking, and Decoupling" typescript (with Haonan Dong and Bradley C. Smith).

"Deep Alliances and the Risk of War," typescript.

"Alliances and Relationships," work in progress (with Chris Li and Adam Meirowitz)

Grants, Fellowships, & Awards

Foreign Policy Research Grant, Charles Koch Foundation, 2020-23.

Visiting Research Fellowship, Taiwan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, in residence at Academia Sinica, Sungshan, Taiwan, 2020 - 2021.

POSCO Fellowship, East-West Center, Honolulu, HI, in residence summer 2010.

Center for Americas Work Group Grant, Vanderbilt University, 2008.

Center for Americas Incubator Grant, Vanderbilt University, 2007.

Vanderbilt University, Venture Grant, 2007.

Alumni Research Donation on Chinese and East Asian Politics, 2007.

Program for Advanced Research in the Social Sciences Fellow, Social Science Research Institute, Duke University, 2003-04.

Invited Presentations, Workshops, and Conferences

2023: Yale University; Academia Sinica, Nangang, Taiwan; National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan

2022: Maxwell Air Force Base; University of South Carolina

2021: Rand Corporation; National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan; National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan; Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

2020: Tamkang University, Taipei, Taiwan; University of South Carolina

2019: Taipei Forum, Taipei, Taiwan; Chinese Culture University, Taipei, Taiwan; Brigham Young University

2018: Kennesaw State University; National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan; National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan; Fudan University, Shanghai, China; Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China; University of Texas, Austin; Yale University; Brigham Young University; Taiwan and the World in Transition: Opportunities and Challenges, Kennesaw State University

2017: Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan; Illinois State; Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China

2016: Wake Forest University; Economics of War and Peace Workshop, Venice, Italy; Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China; National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan; Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan

2015: University of Texas, Austin

2014: College of William and Mary, Washington, DC Office; University of South Carolina; Beijing University, Beijing, China

2013: Princeton University; Duke University

2012: University of South Carolina; Duke University

2011: University of California, Washington Center; Rutgers University; University of California, San Diego; Kellogg School of Business Northwestern University

2010: Princeton University; University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign; East-West Center, Honolulu, HI

Teaching

Introduction to International Politics (U)

Undergraduate (U), Graduate (G)

Strategy and International Politics (U)

International Politics of East Asia (U)

Chinese Political System (U)

Political Economy of Conflict (G)

Media

Panel Organizer and Chair, “Global Competition, China, and Security in East Asia,” Vanderbilt Summit on Modern Conflict and Emerging Threats, May 3-4, 2023.

“Why it makes sense for the U.S. to not commit to defending Taiwan,” *Washington Post*, May 25, 2022.

Fireside Chat with former President of Estonia Kersti Kaljulaid, Vanderbilt Summit on Modern Conflict and Emerging Threats, Vanderbilt University, May 5, 2022.

“NATO’s membership rules invite conflict — and benefit Putin,” (with Bradley C. Smith) *Washington Post*, February 22, 2022.

“An Insurrection and a New President Make the US Vulnerable to Foreign Policy Crises” (with Emily Hencken Ritter), *Political Violence at a Glance*, February 17, 2021.

Panel Discussion Chair with Madeleine Albright and Colin Powell, Vanderbilt University, November 16, 2020

“Rise of the Rest: What is the Future of American Foreign Policy?” Panel discussion moderator with General Wesley Clark and former Ambassador to China Jon Huntsman. Vanderbilt University, Impact Symposium, March 20, 2012.

“For GOP, dislike for Obama trumps all” (with Jennifer Merolla and John Geer), *Politico*, January 2012.

“Beijing Has Been Unwilling to Halt the Violence,” *Tennessean*, March 21, 2008.

“China Needs Products Tennessee Can Offer,” *Tennessean*, November 17, 2007.

MorningLine, News Channel 5, Nashville, TN, Dec 4, 2006. Guest appearance on Iraq War segment.

Research cited in *The New York Times*, *Washington Post*, *Newsweek*, *U.S. News & World Report*, *Los Angeles Times*, *New York Post*, *Politico*, *Chronicle of Higher Education*, *The Tennessean* and *Boston Herald*.

Last updated: October 1, 2024