

AUSTIN CARSON

Professor of Political Science, University of Chicago
Series Co-editor, Cornell Studies in Security Affairs, Cornell University Press

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2015 - present	University of Chicago	Chicago, IL
2026 - present	Professor, Department of Political Science	
2022 - 2026	Associate Professor, Department of Political Science	
2015 - 2022	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science	
2014 - 2015	Georgia State University	Atlanta, GA
	Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science	
2013 - 2014	Princeton University	Princeton, NJ
	Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance	

EDUCATION

Ph.D., Political Science, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (2013)
M.A., Political Science, Ohio State University, Columbus, OH (2009)
B.A., James Madison College, Michigan State University, East Lansing, MI (2003)

BOOKS

Austin Carson. *To Spy on the World: Geopolitics and the Infrastructure of Intelligence*. Forthcoming, Princeton University Press.

Allison Carnegie and Austin Carson. *Secrets in Global Governance: Disclosure Dilemmas and the Challenge of International Cooperation*. Cambridge Studies in International Relations, Cambridge University Press, 2020.

- Winner, Best Book Award, APSA International Collaboration Section, 2020
- H-Diplo/ISSF Roundtable
- Reviewed in: Perspectives on Politics, Foreign Affairs, Ethics & International Affairs

Austin Carson. *Secret Wars: Covert Conflict in International Politics*. Princeton Studies in International History and Politics, Princeton University Press, 2018.

- Winner, Joseph Lepgold Book Prize, Best Book in International Relations, 2018
- Honorable Mention, Best Book, APSA Conflict Processes Section, 2018/2019
- H-Diplo/ISSF Roundtable
- Reviewed in: Perspectives on Politics, Political Science Quarterly, Foreign Affairs, American Historical Review, Journal of Interdisciplinary History, Naval War College Review, International Social Science Review, Special Operations Journal, Lawfare, War on the Rocks, Small Wars Journal

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES

Joshua Byun and Austin Carson. "Performative Violence and the Spectacular Debut of the Atomic Bomb." *American Political Science Review* Vol 120, Issue 2, 2026: 759-778.

Austin Carson, Rachel Metz, and Paul Poast. "Allies and Access: Implications of an American Turn Away from Alliances." *International Organization* 79.S1 (2025): S103-S116. Part of the special issue "The Future of Global Governance and World Order."

Austin Carson and Adam Saxton. "History, Archeology, and Espionage as Improvised Legibility." *European Journal of International Relations* 31.4 (2025): 993-1019. Part of the special issue "History and Theory in International Relations."

Austin Carson, Eric Min, and Maya Van Nuys. "Racial Tropes in the Foreign Policy Bureaucracy: A Computational Text Analysis." *International Organization*, Vol 78, Issue 2, 2024, pp. 189-223.

Joshua Byun and Austin Carson. "More than a Number: Aging Leaders in International Politics." *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol 67, Issue 1, 2023.

Allison Carnegie and Austin Carson. "Scared to Share: Disease Outbreaks, Secrecy, and the World Health Organization." *Global Perspectives*, Vol 4, Issue 1, 2023.

Austin Carson and Matthew Conklin. "Cooptation at the Creation: Manufacturing an Elite Consensus on US Participation in the United Nations." *Security Studies*, Vol 31, No 4, 2022, pp. 634-666.

Allison Carnegie and Austin Carson. "The Disclosure Dilemma: Nuclear Intelligence and International Organization." *American Journal of Political Science*, Vol 63, No 2, April 2019, pp. 269-285.

Allison Carnegie and Austin Carson. "Reckless Rhetoric? Compliance Pessimism and International Order in the Age of Trump." *Journal of Politics*, Vol 81, No 2, April 2019, pp. 739-746.

Allison Carnegie and Austin Carson. "The Spotlight's Harsh Glare: Rethinking Publicity and International Order," *International Organization*, Vol 72, Iss 03, Summer 2018, pp. 627-657.

- Robert Keohane Award for best article by untenured scholar in *International Organization*, 2018 (Winner). Best Article, International Security Section, American Political Science Association, 2019 (Honorable Mention).

Austin Carson and Keren Yarhi-Milo. "Covert Communication: The Intelligibility and Credibility of Signaling in Secret," *Security Studies*, Vol 26, No 1, 2017, pp. 124-156.

Austin Carson. "Facing Off and Saving Face: Covert Intervention and Escalation Management in the Korean War," *International Organization*, Vol 70, Iss 01, Winter 2016, pp. 103-131.

- Best Security Article Award 2018. ISA's International Security Studies Section (Winner). Outstanding Graduate Student Paper 2013. ISA's International Security Studies Section (Winner)

Bear Braumoeller and Austin Carson. "Political Irrelevance, Democracy, and the Limits of Militarized Conflict." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Volume 55, No. 2, April 2011, 292-320.

BOOK CHAPTERS

Austin Carson. "The Unique Challenges of Covert Missions: How Leaders Assess the 'Quiet Option.'" In *Inside the Situation Room: The Theory and Practice of Crisis Decision-Making*, eds. Hillary Rodham Clinton and Keren Yarhi-Milo. Oxford University Press (2025).

Austin Carson and Alex Thompson. "The Power in Opacity: Rethinking Information in International Organizations." In *International Institutions and Power Politics: Theory and Practice in the Twenty-First Century*, eds. T.V. Paul and Anders Wivel, Georgetown University Press (2019).

FELLOWSHIPS & AWARDS

Awards

- Best Book Award, APSA International Collaboration Section, 2021 (for *Secrets in Global Governance*)
- Honorable Mention, Best Book, APSA Conflict Processes Section, 2020 (for *Secret Wars*)
- Joseph Lepgold Book Prize, Best Book in International Relations, 2018 (for *Secret Wars*)
- Robert Keohane Award, 2018 (for "Spotlight's Harsh Glare")
- Best Security Article Award, International Security Section, ISA, 2018 ("Facing Off and Saving Face")
- Hon. Mention, Best Article, International Security Section, APSA, 2018 ("Spotlight's Harsh Glare")
- Outstanding Graduate Student Paper, International Security Studies Section, ISA, 2013 (for "Facing Off and Saving Face")

Fellowships

- Faculty Fellow, Center for International Social Science Research (CISSR), UChicago, 2024-25
- Faculty Fellow, Center for International Social Science Research (CISSR), UChicago, 2020-21
- Harvard Belfer Center, Stanton Nuclear Security Fellowship, 2018-19 (declined)
- Council on Foreign Relations, Stanton Nuclear Security Fellowship, 2018-19 (declined)
- Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Princeton University, 2013-2014
- Summer Research Scholar, Kennan Institute, Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, Washington D.C., 2013
- Predoctoral Research Fellow, Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, Elliot School of International Affairs, George Washington University, Washington, D.C., 2012-2013

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

Series Co-Editor, Cornell Studies in Security Affairs, Cornell University Press, 2022-present

MPSA 2020 Section Chair, Foreign Policy Section

APSA 2018 Division Co-Chair. Division 18: International Security

Reviewer for: International Organization, American Political Science Review, American Journal of Political Science, International Security, Security Studies, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Politics, Foreign Policy Analysis, International Theory, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Review of International Organization, H-Diplo, European Journal of International Relations, Journal of Global Security Studies, Journal of Strategic Studies, Intelligence & National Security, Texas National Security Review.