

# 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: 330 Commons  
Email: [brett.benson@vanderbilt.edu](mailto:brett.benson@vanderbilt.edu)  
Homepage: <https://my.vanderbilt.edu/brettbenson/>

## 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

## Education

Ph.D. Political Science, Duke University, 2006

M.A. Economics, Duke University, 2006

B.S. Philosophy, Mandarin Chinese, Brigham Young University, 1998

## Publications

### *Peer-Reviewed Books*

1. 2012. *Constructing International Security: Alliances, Deterrence, and Moral Hazard*, Cambridge University Press.

### *Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles*

2. 2022. "Commitment Problems in Alliance Formation" (with Bradley C. Smith), *American Journal of Political Science*.
3. 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.
4. 2016. "Assessing the Variation of Formal Military Alliances" (with Joshua D. Clinton), *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 60(5): 866-898.
5. 2014. "Inducing Deterrence Through Moral Hazard in Alliance Contracts" (with Adam Meirowitz and Kris Ramsay), *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 58, 2: 307-335.
6. 2013. "Ally Provocateur: Why Allies Do Not Always Behave" (with Patrick Bentley and Jim Ray), *Journal of Peace Research*, 50, 1: 47-58.
7. 2011. "Unpacking Alliances: Deterrent and Compellent Alliances and Their Relationship with Conflict, 1816-2000," *Journal of Politics* 73, 4: 1111-1127.
8. 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.

9. 2007. "Economic Interdependence and Peace: A Game-Theoretic Analysis" (with Emerson M.S. Niou), *Journal of East Asian Studies* 7, 1: 35-59.
10. 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*

11. 2012. "Alliances: ATOP Data and Deterrence," *What Do We Know About Interstate War*, 2nd edition, ed. by John Vasquez. Rowman and Littlefield: 111-137.
12. 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

1. "Provocative Cooperation: Military Assistance, Power Shifts, and War" working book manuscript (with Bradley C. Smith) .
2. "Taiwan and the Politics of Buying Time," working book manuscript.
3. "Transmission of Violence through Arms Trade Networks," typescript (with Kristopher W. Ramsay).
4. "Economic Wars," typescript (with Haonan Dong and Bradley C. Smith).
5. "Deep Alliances and the Risk of War," typescript.

#### 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.

Postdoctoral Fellowship, Quantitative and Analytical Political Science Program, Department of Political Science, Princeton University, in residence 2010-11.

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

Maxwell Air Force Base (2022); University of South Carolina (2021); Rand Corporation (2021); National Sun Yat-sen University, Kaohsiung, Taiwan (2021); National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan (2021); Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan (2021); Tamkang University, Taipei, Taiwan (2020); University of South Carolina (2020); Taipei Forum, Taipei, Taiwan (2019); Chinese Culture University, Taipei, Taiwan (2019); Brigham Young University (2019); Kennesaw State University (2018); National Taiwan University, Taipei, Taiwan (2018); National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan (2018); Fudan University, Shanghai, China (2018); Beijing Normal University, Beijing, China (2018); University of Texas, Austin (2018); Yale University (2018); Brigham Young University (2018); Taiwan and the World in Transition: Opportunities and Challenges, Kennesaw State University (2018); Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan (2017); Illinois State (2017); Sun Yat-sen University, Guangzhou, China; (2017); Wake Forest University (2016); Economics of War and Peace Workshop, Venice, Italy (2016); Central China Normal University, Wuhan, China (2016); National Chengchi University, Taipei, Taiwan (2016); Academia Sinica, Taipei, Taiwan (2016); University of Texas, Austin (2015); College of William and Mary, Washington, DC Office (2014); University of South Carolina (2014, 2012); Beijing University, Beijing, China (2013); Princeton University (2013, 2010); Duke University (2013, 2012); University of California, Washington Center (2011); Rutgers University (2011); University of California, San Diego (2011); Kellogg School of Business Northwestern University (2011); University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign (2010); East-West Center, Honolulu, HI (2010).

## Teaching

Introduction to International Politics (U) Undergraduate (U), Graduate (G)  
 Strategy and International Politics (U)  
 International Relations of East Asia (U)  
 Chinese Political System (U)  
 Political Economy of Conflict (G)  
 Formal Theory in International Relations (G)  
 Introduction to Formal Theory and Modeling (G)  
 Formal Theory and Modeling (G)  
 East Asian Political Economy and Security (G)  
 Math Camp (G)

## Media

“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 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.

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