

Joseph P. A. O'Mahoney

ACADEMIC EMPLOYMENT

University of Reading

Associate Professor of International Relations (2022-)

Lecturer in Politics and International Relations (2018-2022)

Massachusetts Institute of Technology

Research Fellow (2017-2018)

Stanton Nuclear Security Junior Faculty Fellow (2016-2017)

Regis College

Visiting Assistant Professor of the Humanities (2017-2018)

Seton Hall University

Assistant Professor, School of Diplomacy and International Relations (2013-2017)

Brown University

Visiting Professor, Department of Political Science (2012-2013)

EDUCATION

George Washington University

Ph.D., Political Science, 2012 (International Relations, Political Methodology)

Committee: Martha Finnemore, Henry Farrell, Susan Sell, Robert Adcock

University of Kent

M.A. Methods of Social Research, 2006

M.A. Human Rights, Ethics and International Relations, 2004

University College London

B.A. Philosophy, 2003

BOOKS

2018 *Denying the Spoils of War: The Politics of Invasion and Nonrecognition*, Edinburgh University Press.

2018 *British Colonialism and the Criminalization of Homosexuality*, Routledge. With Enze Han.

JOURNAL ARTICLES

2024 "The Ripple Effects of the Illegitimacy of War" *International Studies Quarterly*, 68(3).

2022 "NPT as an Antifragile System: How Contestation improves the Nonproliferation Regime", *Contemporary Security Policy*, 43(1): 24-49. (with Michal Smetana)

2021 "A Practical Introduction to Annotating for Transparent Inquiry in Qualitative Research", *Qualitative and Multi-Method Research*, 19(1): 19-23.

- 2020 “The Smiling Buddha Effect: Canada, the United States, and the NPT after India's 1974 nuclear test”, *The Nonproliferation Review*, 27(1). (Winner of the 2020 McElvany Nonproliferation Award)
- 2017 “Proclaiming Principles: The Logic of the Nonrecognition of the Spoils of War”, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, 2(3): 204-219.
- 2017 “Making the Real: Rhetorical Adduction in the Bangladesh Liberation War”, *International Organization*, 71(2): 317-348.
- 2015 “Why Did They Do That?: The Methodology of Reasons for Action”, *International Theory*, 7(2): 231-262.
- 2014 “Rule Tensions and the Dynamics of Institutional Change: From ‘To the Victor Go the Spoils’ to the Stimson Doctrine”, *European Journal of International Relations*, 20(3): 853-867.
- 2014 “External Kin, Economic Disparity, and Minority Ethnic Group Mobilization,” *Conflict Management & Peace Science*, 31(1): 49-69. (With Enze Han and Christopher Paik)
- 2014 “British Colonialism and the Criminalization of Homosexuality”, *Cambridge Review of International Affairs*, 27(2): 268-88. (With Enze Han)
- 2010 “The Conduct of Inquiry in International Relations: The View From Graduate School, ” *Qualitative & Multi-Method Research* 8 (Spring), (with David E. Banks).

WORK IN PROGRESS

“What Does Not Kill Me Makes Me Stronger: Norm Violation and Change in the Nuclear Nonproliferation Regime” *Revise and Resubmit at International Studies Quarterly*

“The Plutonium Problem: Narratives of Nuclear Insecurity” *Under Review at Journal of International Relations and Development*

The Decay of War: Legitimacy and Change in the International System (book manuscript in progress)

Causal Criteria for International Relations, (with Adam Humphreys)

OTHER WRITING

“The Decay of War: How Legitimacy Shapes the Nature of International Conflict and is Confounding the Quest for Peace in Ukraine”, *Australian Outlook*, 29 October 2024.

“Why the world can't afford to let Russia get away with its land grab: lessons from history”, *The Conversation*, 13 October 2022.

“The Criminalization of Homosexuality in Colonial History”, *Reading Gender History Blog*, 17 June 2021.

“Nuclear powers once shared their technology openly – how Iran’s programme fell on the wrong side of history”, *The Conversation*, 4 October 2019.

“What will Taiwan’s same-sex marriages mean in the rest of Asia?”, Monkey Cage at *The Washington Post*, 25 May 2019.

“Is US withdrawal from the INF treaty a good idea? Or is it merely Trumpian pique?”, *Monroe Group Blog*, University of Reading, 17 January 2019.

“How Britain’s colonial legacy still affects LGBT politics around the world”, at *The Conversation*, May 15 2018.

“Making the Real: The Interplay of Reasons, Rhetoric, Evidence, and Action”, *Duck of Minerva*, March 29 2017

“Trump says that spoils belong to the victor. That’s an invitation to more war”, at *the Washington Post’s* Monkey Cage blog, 1 February 2017.

“A Liar in the Oval Office Could Threaten the World’s Order”, *Time*, (with David Banks) 17 November 2016.

“After Brexit, Britain is free but it will never be a global power again”, at *The Independent*, (with David Banks) 22 July 2016.

“The British colonial origin of anti-gay laws”, at the *Washington Post’s* Monkey Cage blog, (With Enze Han) October 30 2014.

“China’s 1989 Choice: The Paradox of Seeking Wealth and Democracy”, *Wilson Quarterly*, Summer 2014, (With Zheng Wang).

“Lost in Limbo”, Op-Ed on Russia’s Crimean annexation, at *TheHill.com*, March 25 2014.

“The real target of international sanctions”, at *ForeignPolicy.com*, March 18, 2013.

Review of Chad J. Mitcham, *China’s Economic Relations with the West and Japan, 1949-79: Grain, Trade and Diplomacy*, Abingdon: Routledge, 2005. in *Japan Forum*, 19:1 2007.

Review of Julia Elyachar, *Markets of Dispossession: NGOs, Economic Development, and the State in Cairo*, Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2005. in *Work, Employment & Society* 21:1 2007.

Review of Linus Hagstrom, *Japan’s China Policy: A Relational Power Analysis*, Abingdon: Routledge, 2005. in *Japan Forum*, 18:2 2006.

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, AWARDS

Leverhulme Research Fellowship, 2024-2025

McElvany Nonproliferation Award Grand Prize, James Martin Center for Nonproliferation Studies, 2020

Open Research Award, University of Reading, 2019

Workshop Grant, University of Reading, 2019

Franklin Grant, American Philosophical Society, 2017

Stanton Nuclear Security Junior Faculty Fellowship, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, 2016-7.

Seton Hall University Research Council Summer Research Grant, 2014

George Washington University Summer 2012 Dissertation Fellowship
Josephine de Karman Predoctoral Fellowship, 2011-2012
Loughran Foundation University of Oxford Dissertation Research Grant, Spring 2011
Selective Excellence Fellowship, George Washington University, 2006-2011

ADDITIONAL TRAINING

Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, 2020
Teachers' Workshop, Phillip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies, Johns Hopkins University, 2015
Teaching Certificate I, Sheridan Center, Brown University, 2012-13
Summer Institute on Conducting Archival Research, George Washington University, 2010
Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy, Cornell University, 2009
Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research, University of Michigan, 2007
Chinese Language Certificate, Fujian Normal University College of Chinese Studies, 2005

TEACHING

Undergraduate

Investigating International Relations, International Security; Politics of Nuclear Weapons;
Introduction to International Relations; US Foreign Policy; Introduction to Comparative Politics;
Introduction to American Politics; American Political Thought; Methods of Social Research;
International Organizations and World Politics; International Law; War and International Society

Graduate

International Relations Theory; Research Methods for Policy Analysis; Qualitative Methods for
International Relations

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

MIT Center for Nuclear Security Policy / Stanton Alumni Conference, Washington, DC,
November 2025
Roundtable on *Causal Inquiry in International Relations*, British International Studies
Association, Belfast, June 2025
“Causal Criteria for International Relations”, British International Studies Association, Virtual,
January 2025
“The Ripple Effects of the Illegitimacy of War”, International Studies Association, San Francisco,
CA, April 2024

“The Plutonium Problem: Narratives of Nuclear Insecurity”, European Workshops on International Studies, University of Amsterdam, July 2023.

“Causal Criteria Checklists: a cross-tradition heuristic tool for international relations”, International Studies Association, Nashville TN, 2022

“English School Workshop on Norms, Institutions, Rules, Practices”, EISA European Workshops in International Studies, Virtual, March 2022.

“Annotating for Transparent Inquiry in Qualitative Research: Making Archival Documents Accessible”, Open Research Forum, University of Reading, March 2022

‘Did the British Empire spread laws criminalizing homosexuality around the world?’ Public Lecture at Common Ground, Uncomfortable Oxford, February 2022.

‘UK Foreign Policy and Post-colonial Decriminalization’, Tufts University, Decolonizing International Relations Conference 2021.

‘British Colonialism and the Criminalization of Homosexuality’, Department for Transport, 2021

‘Constructivism in Action: Norms, Legitimacy, and Empirical Evidence’, Conference organized at the University of Reading, May 2020.

‘India’s 1974 Nuclear Explosion and Ratification of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty’, European Initiative for Security Studies, Paris, 2019

“Annotating for Transparent Inquiry in Qualitative Foreign Policy Decision-Making Research: Making Archival Documents Accessible”, Open in Practice, University of Reading, 2019

‘India’s 1974 Nuclear Explosion and Ratification of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty’, BISA Global Nuclear Order Conference, London, 2018

‘British Colonialism and Criminalization of Homosexuality’, Centre on Conflict, Rights, and Justice, School of Oriental and African Studies, 2018

‘India’s 1974 Nuclear Explosion and Ratification of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty’, American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, 2018

Qualitative Data Repository, Annotation for Transparent Inquiry, New York, February 2018.

‘India’s 1974 Nuclear Explosion and Ratification of the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty’, ISSS-ISAC, Washington DC, 2017

Coercion and Context: The Social Skills of Salami Tactics’ (with David E. Banks), International Studies Association, Atlanta, 2016

‘Denying the Spoils of War: Conquest, Legal Fictions, and Rule Maintenance’, ISSS-ISAC, Springfield, 2015

‘Plus ça change?: Institutional Persistence and Reproduction in International Relations’, International Studies Association, New Orleans, 2015

‘Abandoning the Rule Against War?: An Institutional Analysis of the Italo-Ethiopian Crisis’, International Studies Association, New Orleans, 2015

‘Making the Real: Rhetorical Adduction in the Bangladesh Liberation War.’, American Political Science Association, Washington, DC, 2014, International Studies Association - North East, Providence, 2013.

‘Why Did You Do That?: The Methodology of Motive Attribution in International Relations’, American Political Science Association, Chicago 2013; American Political Science Association, New Orleans, 2012; International Studies Association, Montreal, 2011

‘British Colonialism and the Criminalization of Homosexuality’ (with Enze Han), International Studies Association, San Diego, 2012

‘Denying the Spoils of War: The Politics of the Nonrecognition of Aggressive Gain’, Roundtable, Harvard Government Department, 2012

‘Denying the Spoils of Aggression: Rule Tensions and Institutional Change in the Manchurian Crisis’, International Studies Association - North East, Providence, 2011

‘From Death Penalty to Legal Marriage: LGBT Politics in a Global Perspective’ (with Enze Han), American Political Science Association, Seattle, 2011

‘Proclaiming Principles: The Adoption of Nonrecognition of Aggressive Gain in the Manchurian Crisis’, International Studies Association, Montreal, 2011

‘Keeping Up With the Joneses: The Role of Constructed Economic Interests of Minority Ethnic Groups in Secessionist Claims-Making’, (with Enze Han), International Studies Association, New Orleans, 2010; Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, 2010

‘Changing Ways of Making Peace: From ‘To the Victor Go the Spoils’ to ‘Nonrecognition of Aggressive Gain’, International Studies Association - North East, Baltimore, 2009

JOURNAL REVIEWER

European Journal of International Relations, International Organization, International Security, International Studies Quarterly, International Theory, Journal of Global Security Studies, Philosophy of the Social Sciences, Security Studies, Revista Brasileira de Política Internacional, International Interactions.