

# Alexander Thompson

CV–January 2026

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## Positions

Professor of Political Science, Ohio State University, 2020-present  
Senior Faculty Fellow, Mershon Center for International Security Studies, Ohio State University, 2020-2024 (Faculty Affiliate, 2009-2020)  
Research Fellow, Center for Advanced Studies, Ludwig Maximilian University, Munich, 2018-20 (in-residence May-July 2019)  
Associate Editor, *Security Studies*, 2015-2019  
Director of Graduate Studies, Political Science, Ohio State University, 2010-2011  
Associate Professor of Political Science, Ohio State University, 2009-2020  
Assistant Professor of Political Science, Ohio State University, 2001-2009

## Research Interests

International relations; international organizations and law; international security; international political economy; environmental politics; U.S. foreign policy

## Education

Ph.D., University of Chicago, Department of Political Science (2001)  
M.A., University of Chicago, Department of Political Science (1997)  
B.A., Connecticut College, International Relations, *summa cum laude* (1994)

## Book

*Channels of Power: The UN Security Council and U.S. Statecraft in Iraq*. Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2009. (Paperback, 2010)

- winner of the Chadwick F. Alger Prize, International Studies Association
- winner of the J. David Singer Book Award, International Studies Association

## Peer-Reviewed Articles & Chapters

2025. “From Rivals to Partners: The Cooptation of Emerging Powers into the Climate Regime.” *Contemporary Security Policy* 46(1): 126-49.
2024. “Contestation and Resilience in the Liberal International Order: The Case of Climate Change.” *Global Studies Quarterly* 4(2): 1-13.

2022. "Legitimation through Modification: Do States Seek More Regulatory Space in their Investment Agreements?" In *The Legitimacy of Investment Arbitration*, edited by Daniel Behn, Ole Kristian Fauchald & Malcolm Langford, pp. 531-54. Cambridge University Press. (with Tomer Broude and Yoram Z. Haftel)
2020. "Emerging Powers and Differentiation in the Global Climate Regime." *Global Policy* 11(3): 61-72.
2020. "Competence over Control: The Politics of Multilateral Weapons Inspections." In *The Governor's Dilemma: Indirect Governance Beyond Principals and Agents*, edited by Kenneth W. Abbott, Bernhard Zangl, Duncan Snidal and Philipp Genschel, 81-103. Oxford University Press.
2019. "Once Bitten, Twice Shy? Investment Disputes, State Sovereignty and Change in Treaty Design." *International Organization* 73(4): 859-80. (with Broude and Haftel)
2019. "The Power in Opacity: Rethinking Information in International Organizations." In *International Institutions and Power Politics*, edited by T.V. Paul and Anders Wivel, 101-15. Georgetown University Press. (with Austin Carson)
2018. "When Do States Renegotiate Investment Agreements? The Impact of Arbitration." *Review of International Organizations* 13(1): 25-48. (with Haftel)
2018. "Who Cares about Regulatory Space in BITs? A Comparative International Approach." In *Comparative International Law*, edited by Anthea Roberts, Paul Stephan, Pierre-Hugues Verdier & Mila Versteeg, 527-45. Oxford University Press. (with Broude & Haftel)
2017. "The Trans-Pacific Partnership and Regulatory Space: A Comparison of Treaty Texts." *Journal of International Economic Law* 20(2): 391-417. (with Haftel & Broude)
2015. "Efficient Orchestration? The Global Environment Facility in the Governance of Climate Adaptation." In *International Organizations as Orchestrators*, edited by Kenneth W. Abbott, Philipp Genschel, Duncan Snidal & Bernhard Zangl, 114-38. Cambridge University Press. (with Erin R. Graham)
2014. "Multilateralism, Bilateralism, and Regime Design." *International Studies Quarterly* 58(1): 15-28. (with Daniel Verdier)
2013. "Delayed Ratification: The Domestic Fate of Bilateral Investment Treaties." *International Organization* 67(2): 355-87. (with Haftel)
2013. "Coercive Enforcement of International Law." In *Interdisciplinary Perspectives on International Law and International Relations*, edited by Jeffrey L. Dunoff & Mark A. Pollack, 502-23. Cambridge University Press.
2012. "Why Did Bush Bypass the UN in 2003? Unilateralism, Multilateralism and Presidential Leadership." *White House Studies* 11(4): 345-64.

2011. "International Organization: Institutions and Order in World Politics." In *Production of Legal Rules*, edited by Francesco Parisi (*Encyclopedia of Law and Economics*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed.). Edward Elgar Press. (with Duncan Snidal)
2010. "Rational Design in Motion: Uncertainty and Flexibility in the Global Climate Regime." *European Journal of International Relations* 16(2): 269-96.
2010. "The Politics of IO Performance: A Framework." *Review of International Organizations* 5(3): 227-48. (with Tamar Gutner)
2010. "Mitigation through Resource Transfers to Developing Countries: Expanding Greenhouse Gas Offsets." In *Post-Kyoto International Climate Policy*, edited by Robert N. Stavins & Joseph E. Aldy, 439-68. Cambridge University Press. (with Andrew Keeler)
2009. "The Rational Enforcement of International Law: Solving the Sanctioners' Dilemma." *International Theory* 1(2): 307-21.
2006. "Coercion through IOs: The Security Council and the Logic of Information Transmission." *International Organization* 61(1): 1-34.  
-winner of the Robert O. Keohane Award  
-reprinted in Lisa L. Martin, ed., *Global Governance*. Ashgate, 2008, pp. 135-69.
2006. "The Independence of International Organizations: Concept and Applications." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 60(2): 253-75. (with Haftel)
2006. "Screening Power: International Organizations as Informative Agents." In *Delegation and Agency in International Organizations*, edited by Darren G. Hawkins, David A. Lake, Daniel L. Nielson & Michael M. Tierney, 229-54. Cambridge University Press.
2006. "Management under Anarchy: The International Politics of Climate Change." *Climatic Change* 78(1): 7-29.
2006. "Adaptive Management of the Global Climate Problem: Bridging the Gap between Climate Research and Climate Policy." *Climatic Change* 78(1): 217-25. (with 11 co-authors)
2006. "Economy, Politics and Institutions: From Adaptation to Adaptive Management in Climate Change." *Climatic Change* 78(1): 1-5. (with J. Arvai, B. Sohngen, P. Robbins & T. Koontz)
2003. "International Commitments and Domestic Politics: Institutions and Actors at Two Levels." In *Locating the Proper Authorities: The Interaction of Domestic and International Institutions*, edited by Daniel W. Drezner, 197-230. University of Michigan Press. (with Duncan Snidal)
2002. "Applying Rational Choice Theory to International Law: The Promise and Pitfalls." *Journal of Legal Studies* 31(1): S285-S306.
2000. "Canadian Foreign Policy and Straddling Stocks: Sustainability in an Interdependent World." *Policy Studies Journal* 28(1): 219-35.

2000. "International Organization." In *Encyclopedia of Law & Economics, Vol. 5*, edited by Boudewijn Bouckaert & Gerrit De Geest, 692-722. Edward Elgar. (with Snidal)

### **Journal Special Issues**

2010. Co-Editor, *The Politics of IO Performance. Review of International Organizations*, Vol. 5, No. 3. (with Tamar Gutner)

2006. Co-Editor, *Economy, Politics and Institutions: From Adaptation to Adaptive Management in Climate Change. Climatic Change*, Vol. 78, No. 1. (with Arvai, Koontz, Robbins & Sohngen).

### **Other Publications**

"The Future of the Financial Mechanism." In *The Paris Agreement and Beyond: International Climate Change Policy Post-2020*, edited by Robert N. Stavins & Robert C. Stowe. Harvard Project on Climate Agreements, October 2016.

"The Global Regime for Climate Finance: Political and Legal Challenges." In *The Oxford Handbook of International Climate Change Law*, edited by Cinnamon P. Carlarne, Kevin R. Gray & Richard Tarasofsky, 141-64. Oxford University Press, 2016.

"Analyzing the Performance of International Organizations." In *Routledge Handbook on the European Union and International Institutions*, edited by Knud Erik Jørgensen & Katie Verlin Laatikainen, 55-70. Routledge, 2013. (with Tamar Gutner)

"The Politics of Investment Treaty Ratification," UN Conference on Trade and Development, Featured Discussion, December 17, 2013. (with Yoram Z. Haftel)

"Industrialized-Country Mitigation Policy and Resource Transfers to Developing Countries: Improving and Expanding Greenhouse Gas Offsets." Harvard Project on International Climate Agreements Discussion Paper 08-05, September 2008. (with Andrew Keeler)

"Kyoto Protocol." *Encyclopedia of Environment and Society*, edited by Paul Robbins. Sage Publications, 2007.

"Extreme-Right Discourse and Anti-Immigrant Violence in Europe: Implications of the French Case." Center for German & Europe Studies Working Paper Series, Georgetown University, May 1999.

### **Book Reviews**

Review of *The Performance of International Courts and Tribunals*, edited by Theresa Squatrito, Oran R. Young, Andreas Follesdal, and Geir Ulfstein (Cambridge, 2018). *Perspectives on Politics*, March 2019.

Review of *Coalitions of Convenience: United States Military Interventions after the Cold War*, by Sarah E. Kreps (Oxford, 2011). H-Diplo/ISSF Roundtable, Vol. IV, No. 7 (2012).

Review of *The UN Security Council and the Politics of International Authority*, edited by Bruce Cronin and Ian Hurd (Routledge, 2008), and *The United States and the Security Council*, by Brian Frederking (Routledge, 2007). *Perspectives on Politics*, March 2009.

Review of *Council Unbound: The Growth of UN Decision Making on Conflict and Postconflict Issues after the Cold War*, by Michael J. Matheson (USIP Press, 2006), and *UN Peacekeeping: Myth and Reality*, by Andrzej Sitkowski (Praeger, 2006). *Political Science Quarterly*, Winter 2007-08.

Review of *Democracy from Above: Regional Organizations and Democratization*, by Jon C. Pevehouse (Cambridge, 2005). *Review of International Organizations*, September 2006.

Review of *Governance in a Global Economy: Political Authority in Transition*, edited by Miles Kahler & David A. Lake (Princeton, 2003). *Perspectives on Politics*, December 2004.

### **Invited Talks & Workshops (selected)**

University of Wisconsin, Madison, IR workshop, March 2026

UC San Diego, UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, Jan. 2025

Southern Methodist University, Tower Center for Public Policy and International Affairs, Nov. 2024

Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Princeton University, October 2023

Dickey Center for International Understanding, Dartmouth College, April 2023

Leuphana University, Lüneberg, Germany, February 2023

Leonard Davis Institute, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem, November 2022

UC San Diego, Department of Political Science, November 2021

Academy for Political Education, Tutzing, Germany, October 2021

Carleton University, Norman Patterson School of International Affairs, Nov. 2020

University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, Workshop on Gauging Global Governance, Jan. 2020

University of Zurich, Workshop on International Organization Dissolution, June 2019

Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies, Geneva, May 2019

Technical University of Munich, IR Speaker Series, May 2019

Ludwig Maximilian University, Center for Advanced Studies, Munich, Nov. 2018

European University Institute, Schuman Centre for Advanced Studies, Florence, May 2018

Santa Barbara City College, Global Studies, April 2018

Duke University, Security, Peace and Conflict Workshop, Nov. 2017

Oxford University, Nuffield College, Workshop on the Governor's Dilemma, Sept. 2017

University of Chicago, Compliance in International Security Institutions Workshop, May 2017

International Centre for Settlement of Investment Disputes, Washington, Brown Bag Lunch Workshop, March 2017

European Consortium for Political Research, Keynote Roundtable on International Institutions and Global Power Shifts, Prague, Sept. 2016

Harvard Kennedy School, Workshop on Climate Policy after Paris, July 2016

Hebrew University of Jerusalem, Department of International Relations, May 2016

Freie Universität Berlin, Workshop on Text Analysis and International Institutions, Jan. 2016

University of Copenhagen, Department of Political Science, Nov. 2015

Dartmouth College, Dickey Center, May 2015

German Development Institute, Conference on the Political Economy of Investment Agreements, Bonn, Dec. 2014

Northwestern University, Department of Political Science, Oct. 2014

Princeton University, Niehaus Center, May 2014  
 University of Pennsylvania, Browne Center, April 2014  
 Clark University, George Perkins Marsh Institute, April 2014  
 University of Maryland, Department of Government and Politics, Nov. 2013  
 Ohio Wesleyan University, Sagan National Colloquium, Oct. 2013  
 University of St. Gallen, Switzerland, Workshop on Global Climate Cooperation, July 2013  
 Berlin Social Science Center (WZB), May 2013  
 Mercator Research Institute and Harvard Project on Climate Agreements, Berlin, Workshop on Identifying Options for a New International Climate Regime, May 2013  
 Ludwig-Maximilians-Universität, Munich, IOs as Orchestrators conference, May 2012  
 Case Western Reserve University, Briskin Global Currents Lecture Series, March 2012  
 Temple University, Beasley School of Law, International Law and International Relations conference, May 2011  
 Yale University, Leitner Program, International Environmental Policymaking and Agreements conference, April 2011  
 George Washington University, Institute for Global and International Studies, Feb. 2011  
 University of Illinois, Department of Political Science, Nov. 2010  
 Hofstra University, Kalikow Center, Presidential Leadership at the UN symposium, Oct. 2010  
 International Center for Climate Governance and Harvard Project on International Climate Agreements, Workshop on Institutions for Climate Governance, Venice, May 2010  
 University of Chicago, PIPES Workshop, April 2010  
 Yale University, IR Workshop, March 2010  
 Connecticut College, Department of Government, March 2010  
 Harvard Law School, IR-IL Workshop, Feb. 2010  
 University of Pittsburgh, Department of Political Science, Oct. 2009  
 Peace Research Institute Frankfurt, Sept. 2009  
 Columbia University International Politics Seminar, Oct. 2008  
 Northwestern University, IR Theory Colloquium, May 2008  
 University of Wisconsin, Madison, Department of Political Science, April 2008  
 University of Texas, Austin, Department of Political Science, April 2008  
 McGill University, Research Group in International Security, Nov. 2007  
 University of Chicago, Program on Political Institutions, Oct. 2007  
 University of Chicago, PIPES Workshop, Oct. 2004  
 Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, Feb. 2004  
 Georgetown University, Workshop on Intervention, Oct. 2003  
 UC San Diego, Workshop on Delegation to International Organizations, Sept. 2003  
 Graduate Institute of International Studies (HEI), Geneva, May 2003  
 Harvard University, Weatherhead Center for International Affairs, April 2003  
 Boston College, Department of Political Science, Nov. 2001  
 University of Notre Dame, Department of Government and International Affairs, Oct. 2001  
 Indiana University, Workshop in Political Theory and Policy Analysis, Nov. 1998

## **Awards and Grants**

- 2025-present Mershon Center Faculty Research Grant, “Water Diplomacy in the Age of Climate Change: Transboundary Indus Basin Water Conflict between Pakistan and India” (with N. Breyfogle, M. Dutta, F. Haq and B. Mark)
- 2023-present Joan N Huber Faculty Fellowship
- 2020 International Studies Association, Research Workshop Grant, “The Performance of Global Governance Institutions” (co-PI with J. Tallberg and O. Westerwinter)

- 2018-20 Research Fellowship, Center for Advanced Studies, LMU Munich
- 2018-19 Mershon Center Faculty Research Grant, "Interests, Power and the Evolution Global Climate Institutions"
- 2018-19 Casper Fellowship, Department of Political Science, Ohio State University
- 2014 Mershon Center Faculty Research Grant, "The Politics of Climate Finance: Bridging the North-South Divide"
- 2011 J. David Singer Book Award, International Studies Association
- 2011 Outstanding Teaching Award, Department of Political Science, Ohio State
- 2010 Chadwick F. Alger Prize for best book on international organization and multilateralism, International Studies Association
- 2008 Mershon Center Faculty Research Grant, "The Performance of International Organizations"
- 2007 Robert O. Keohane Award for best article by an untenured scholar in *International Organization* during the previous year
- 2007 International Studies Association, Venture Research Workshop Grant (co-PI with Tamar Gutner)
- 2004-05 Mershon Center Faculty Research Grant, "IO Legitimation and the Use of Force"
- 2005 Finalist, College of Arts and Sciences Outstanding Teaching Award, Ohio State
- 2002-03 Mershon Center Faculty Research Grant, "Channeling Statecraft: Economic Coercion through International Organizations"
- 2002-03 Faculty Seed Grant, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, Ohio State
- 2002-03 Mershon Center Faculty Research Grant, for conference on "Human Elements of Global Warming in the International Context"
- 2000-2001 Mellon Foundation Final-Year Dissertation Fellowship
- 2000 Grodzins Prize Lectureship, University of Chicago (declined)
- 1999-2000 MacArthur Foundation Fellowship, for dissertation research
- 1999 Program on International Security Policy research grant, University of Chicago
- 1998 Summer Research Grant, Center for Advanced Studies in Peace and International Cooperation, University of Chicago
- 1994 Phi Beta Kappa
- 1990-1994 American Foreign Service Association Academic Scholarship

## Professional Service

*Security Studies*, Editorial Board 2019-present, Associate Editor 2015-19

Referee (selected): *American Political Science Review*, *International Organization*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *World Politics*, *International Security*, *American J. of Political Science*, *J. of Politics*, *European J. of International Relations*, *Security Studies*, *British J. of Political Science*, *Review of International Political Economy*, *J. of European Public Policy*, *J. of Peace Research*, *Review of International Organizations*, *The World Economy*, *Global Governance*, *International Theory*, *International Environmental Agreements*, *Perspectives on Politics*, *International Studies Review*, *J. of International Relations and Development*, *International Interactions*, *Global Policy*, *Environmental Science & Policy*, *Climatic Change*, *Journal of International Organizations Studies*, National Science Foundation, Swiss National Science Foundation, Cornell University Press, Oxford University Press, Cambridge University Press, University of Pennsylvania Press, Westview Press, W.W. Norton

### Department Committees (selected)

Procedures Oversight Designee (2020-present); Diversity Committee (2019-2020); Admissions and Recruitment (2022-23; 2019-20; 2011-12); Faculty Search Committee (2025-26; 2019-20, 2002-04, 2006-07, 2015-16); Graduate Studies (2018-20, 2001-03, 2010-12, Chair/DGS, 2010-11); Speaker Series Committee, Chair (2017-18); Graduate Program Committee (2017-18); Chair's Executive Committee (2010-17); IR Field Head (2011-16); Undergraduate Studies (2006-10, 2013-18, 2020-23); Annual Review Committee (2014-15); Political Economy Field Head (2011-2013); Financial Aid (2004-06); IR Search Committee, University of Chicago (1998)

### University Service (selected)

2021-present Faculty Affiliate, Modeling Emergent Social Order (MESO) Lab  
2023-present Mershon Center Oversight Committee  
2012-present Faculty Advisor, Collegiate Council on World Affairs (student organization)  
2011-present International Studies Program Oversight Committee  
2020-22 Co-Leader, Security & Governance Cluster, Mershon Center  
2007-19 Co-Director, Workshop on Globalization, Mershon Center  
2016-19 Faculty Advisory Council, College of Arts & Sciences  
2012-16 Mershon Center Internal Advisory Committee  
2012-14 Division of Social & Behavior Sciences, Student Recruitment Panel  
2012-15 Hayes Chair Search and Speaker Committee, Mershon Center  
2005-10 Environmental Citizenship Minor Committee  
2008-09 Faculty Advisor, International Studies Student Advisory Committee

### Other Professional Activities (selected)

Co-Host (with Nicholas Breyfogle, Bryan Mark, Fazlul Haq and Madhumita Dutta), Workshop on Climate Change and the Indus River Basin, Bangkok (2025)  
Co-Host (with Bear Braumoeller), Conference on International Order, Governance, and Networks of Cooperation, Mershon Center, Ohio State University (2022)  
Co-Organizer, ECPR Joint Sessions Workshop on Global Governance Performance (2021)  
Co-Host, International Political Economy Society Annual Conference (2020)  
Member, ISA award committee, IPE Distinguished Scholar (2018-19)  
Member, ISA award committee, Chadwick Alger Prize (2010-13)  
Expert Reviewer, Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, WG III (2011-12)  
Advisory Board, Explaining the Performance of Transnational Public-Private Governance Initiatives, University of St. Gallen (Switzerland) (2018-present)  
Advisory Board, Delegation of Power to International Organizations (DELPOWIO) Project, European Research Council (2016-19)  
Coordinator, Program on International Politics, Economics and Security (PIPES), University of Chicago (1998-1999)

### Teaching and Advising

Undergraduate courses: Global Politics, The UN System, International Environmental Politics  
Graduate courses: Theories of IR, International Organization, International Political Economy  
Advising: Dissertation committee member for 40+ students (Chair for 12); undergraduate thesis advisor for 16 students