

SANNE CORNELIA J. VERSCHUREN

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

The Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University *2023-Present*
Assistant Professor of International Security

- Graduate Faculty of Political Science, Department of Political Science
- Faculty Affiliate, Center for Innovation in Social Science

Center for International Studies, Sciences Po *2022-2023*
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow

Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University *2021-2022*
Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School *2020-2021*
Predoctoral Fellow in the International Security Program

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science *August 2021*
Brown University

- Dissertation Title: Imagining the Unimaginable: War, Weapons, and Procurement Politics
Winner of the 2022 Kenneth N. Waltz Outstanding Dissertation Award in International Security, American Political Science Association
- Committee: Nina Tannenwald, Mark Blyth, Jeff Colgan, Jordan Branch, and Jonathan Caverley
- Comprehensive Exams: International Relations and Comparative Politics (September 2017)

Master of Arts in Political Science *2015-2017*
Brown University

Master of Science in Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice (Distinction) *2013-2014*
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London

Master of Laws in Law (Magna Cum Laude) *2011-2013*
Ghent University

- Erasmus Exchange, Lund University (January-June 2013)

Bachelor of Laws in Law *2008-2011*
Ghent University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- The development and use of military technology, shifts in military strategy and tactics, and the role of ideas and norms therein
- The politics of deterrence, dual-use, and other key concepts in international security
- The nexus between nuclear and conventional weapon capabilities
- The linkages between national security and climate change

RESEARCH

Book Manuscript

- Imagining the Unimaginable: War, Weapons, and Procurement Politics. (working title)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- “Writing IR after COVID-19: Reassessing Political Possibilities, Good Faith, and Policy Relevance,” with Benoît Pelopidas. *Global Studies Quarterly*, vol. 3, no. 1, (2023). [link]

Edited Volumes & Other Academic Writing

- “Challenges to the Nuclear Order: Between Resilience and Contestation,” in *Routledge Handbook of the Future of Warfare*. Sebastian Kaempf and Artur Gruszczak, eds. Routledge: Oxon, UK, p. 400-410.
- “Inside the Nitty-Gritty of Military Innovation: The Challenges of Missile Defense Cooperation,” in *Texas National Security Review* (forthcoming).

Book Reviews

- “Rachel Elizabeth Whitlark. *All Options on the Table: Leaders, Preventive War, and Nuclear Proliferation*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2021, 276 pp., ISBN 9781501760341” *H-Diplo Roundtable* (Forthcoming).

Works in Progress

- Up in Arms: The Influence of Political Parties on Compliance with the Responsible Arms Transfer Norm. (under review)
- The Eternal Promise of Missile Defense. (working paper)
- Prevailing over the Future: The Role of Imagination and Elite Bargaining in the Construction of Military Technology. (in preparation)
- Missile Defense and the Future of Arms Control. (in preparation)
- What’s in a Name? The Many Faces of Nuclear Deterrence. With Daniel Post. (in preparation)
- Elite Perceptions of Dual-Use Weapons. With Lauren Sukin. (in preparation)

Selected Commentary

- “What COVID Can Teach Us About Climate and Nuclear Policies,” with Benoît Pelopidas. *Inkstick Media*, 3 March 2023. [link]
- “What We Get Wrong About Missile Defense and Nuclear Deterrence,” *Global Dispatches*, 22 August 2022. [link]
- “China’s Hypersonic Weapons Tests Don’t Have to Be a Sputnik Moment,” *War on the Rocks*, 29 October 2021. [link]
- “War Isn’t (Quite) the Right Metaphor for COVID-19,” with Sara Plana. *Political Violence at a Glance*, 20 May 2019. [link]
- “Belgians know little about Nuclear Weapons (but do oppose them),” *De Standaard*, 7 August 2018. [link]
- “Time to Really Ban to Bomb,” *Mo**, 14 May 2015. [link]

Conferences & Workshops

- The European Initiative for Security Studies, Prague (Scheduled for June 2024) - Panel Chair
- QUB/UML.MWC Workshop on narrating war, Boston (Scheduled for May 2024) - Presenter
- International Studies Association, San Francisco (Scheduled for April 2024) - Presenter

- States, Societies, and Security in the 21st Century, West Point (Scheduled for February 2024) - Presenter
- Peace Science Society, St. Louis (November 2023) - Presenter and Workshop Participant
- ISA Event on Oppenheimer, Virtual (September 2023) - Presenter
- Age of Reagan Conference, Los Angeles (August 2023) - Presenter
- First meeting of the SDI Working Group, Los Angeles (August 2023) - Participant
- The European Initiative for Security Studies, Barcelona (June 2023) - Presenter
- International Studies Association, Montreal (March 2023) - Presenter and Roundtable Participant
- Event on the Cuban Missile Crisis, Sciences Po (November 2022) - Presenter
- New Voices Workshop, Bridging the Gap (November 2022) - Presenter
- Side Event on Nuclear Education, Carnegie Nuclear Policy Conference (Nov 2022) - Presenter
- After Ideas Workshop, Brown University (October 2022) - Presenter
- American Political Science Association, Montreal (September 2022) - Presenter and Discussant
- AI and Autonomy Workshop, UC Berkeley and UNIDIR (June 2022) - Participant
- International Studies Association, Nashville (March 2022) - Presenter and Discussant
- Social Science Reading Group, CISAC-Stanford (February 2022) - Presenter
- Nuclear Reading Group, CISAC-Stanford (February 2022) - Presenter
- Roundtable on Non-Nuclear Strategic Weapons, IISS (February 2022) - Participant
- Revisiting Nuclear Ethics, Stanford (February 2022) - Discussant
- Stanton Nuclear Security Conference, Virtual (October 2021) - Presenter
- American Political Science Association, Virtual (September 2021) - Presenter
- International Studies Association, Virtual (April 2021) - Presenter and Discussant
- American Political Science Association, Virtual (September 2020) - Presenter
- Future Strategy Forum, Virtual (June 2020) - Participant
- New England Political Science Association, Mystic (cancelled due to COVID-19) - Presenter
- International Studies Association, Honolulu (cancelled due to COVID-19) - Presenter
- International Security Studies Section of ISA, Denver (October 2019) - Presenter and Discussant
- Breaking the Mold 2.0 Workshop at U.S. Naval War College, Newport (October 2018) - Participant
- International Studies Association North East, Providence (November 2017) - Presenter
- Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago (April 2017) - Presenter and Discussant

Invited Talks

- Seminar, Princeton Program on Science and Global Security (Scheduled for April 2024)
- Security Studies Workshop, GWU's Institute for Security and Conflict Studies (Scheduled for April 2024)
- ISP Seminar, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs (Scheduled for March 2024)
- Wednesday Seminar Series, MIT Security Studies Program (Scheduled for February 2024)
- The Strategic Defense Initiative in Retrospect, George Washington University (April 2023)
- Center for Security Studies Kolloquium, ETH Zurich (November 2022)
- Strategic and Operational Research Department, U.S. Naval War College (October 2022)
- Ruger Project on Failed Innovation, U.S. Naval War College (June 2022)
- Arms Control Workshop, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (May 2022)
- Workshop on Emerging Technologies, American University (April 2022)
- Center for Global Security Research, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (April 2022)
- Research Seminar, Center for International Security and Cooperation (March 2022)
- CISAC Research Visit, Los Alamos National Laboratory (March 2022)
- War Studies Conference, Modern War Institute, West Point (November 2021)
- Interdisciplinary Workshop on Environmental Research, Sciences Po (June 2021)
- Future Strategy Forum, Center for Strategic and International Studies and Kissinger Center, Johns Hopkins University SAIS (May 2021)
- Arms Control Workshop, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (November 2020)

- International Security Program Seminar, Belfer Center for Science and Intl Affairs (October 2020)
- Political Economy Workshop, Joint Forum with Boston University (October 2020)
- Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University (cancelled due to COVID-19)
- Workshop of Nuclear Knowledges, Center for International Studies, Sciences Po (June 2019)
- Foundation Biermans-Lapôtre, Paris (May 2019)
- Political Economy of National Security Workshop, Boston University (December 2017)

Research Assistance

- Professor Linda Cook (Winter 2016-2017)
- Professor Mark Blyth (Winter 2015-2016)
- Professor Leslie Vinjamuri (Spring and Summer 2014)

Additional Training

- International Policy Summer Institute, Bridging the Gap (June 2022)
- New Era Workshop, Bridging the Gap (October 2021)
- IR Theory Colloquium, Cornell-Yale-Notre Dame (September 2020-June 2021)
- Summer Seminar in History and Statecraft, Clements Center (cancelled due to COVID-19)
- Summer Workshop on Analysis of Military Operations and Security (SWAMOS), Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University (July 2018)
- The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Center for Qualitative and Multi-Method Inquiry, Syracuse University (June 2018)
- Prospectus Development Workshop, Tobin Project (June 2017)
- International Summer School on Chinese Politics, Renmin University of China (July 2012)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

External

- Kenneth N. Waltz Outstanding Dissertation Award - American Political Science Association (2022)
- Marie Skłodowska-Curie Fellowship, Award Number 101027421 - European Commission (2021)
- Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, Award Number 1849585 - Science, Technology and Society Program, National Science Foundation (2019)
- Harold D. Lasswell Award - Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy (2019)
- Research Fellowship - Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia (2019)
- Prospectus Development Fellowship - The Tobin Project (2017)
- Cabeaux-Jacobs Fellowship - Belgian American Education Foundation (2015)
- Scholarship for Internship at United Nations - Flanders Trainee Programme (2014)
- Young Woman in Public Affairs Award - Zonta Belgium (2008)

Internal

- Dissertation Fellowship - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2020-2021)
- Conference Travel Grant - Graduate School, Brown University (2020, 2019, 2017)
- Global Mobility Research Fellowship - Graduate School, Brown University (2019)
- Doctoral Research Travel Fund - Graduate School, Brown University (2019)
- International Travel Fund Award - Graduate School, Brown University (2019, 2016)
- Joukowsky Summer Research Award - Graduate School, Brown University (2019, 2018, 2016)
- Internal Dissertation Fellowship - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2018-2019)
- P. Terrence Hopmann Award for Excellence in Teaching - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2018)
- Research Funding - Social Science Research Institute, Brown University (2018)
- Methods Training Award - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2018)

- Travel Funding - Graduate Student Council, Brown University (2018)
- Teaching Consultant Award - Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University (2018)
- Workshop Mentor Award - Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University (2017)
- Five-Year Funding Guarantee - Graduate School, Brown University (2015-2020)

TEACHING

Instructor

- Technology & War (Boston University, Spring 2024)
- Introduction to Security Studies (Boston University, Fall 2023 and Spring 2024)
- The Making and Unmaking of International Nuclear Policies (Sciences Po, Spring 2023) - Co-Instructor

Teaching Assistant

- The International Law and Politics of Human Rights, Professor Nina Tannenwald (Brown University, Spring 2018) - Head Teaching Assistant
- Introduction to International Relations, Professor Jordan Branch (Brown University, Fall 2017) - Head Teaching Assistant
- Ethnic Politics and Conflict, Professor Linda Cook (Brown University, Spring 2017)
- The Intl. Law and Politics of Human Rights, Professor Nina Tannenwald (Brown Uni., Fall 2016)

Guest Lectures

- Missile Defense, Hamburg University (scheduled for January 2024)
- Emerging Technologies, Brandeis University (November 2023)
- Research Design, Boston University (October 2023)
- Norms & Ideas, London School of Economics and Political Science (February 2022)
- Qualitative Research Methods, Lehigh University (November 2022)
- Hypersonics & Missile Defense, Air Force Academy (May 2022)
- The Politics of Weapons Development, Georgia Institute of Technology (October 2021)
- The Responsibility to Protect, Brown University (November 2019)
- The Plight of the Rohingya, Brown University (April 2017)

Mentoring

- MA Thesis Advisor, Abdulrazaq Altammar (2023-2024)
- Second Reader, Senior Honors Thesis of Anna Victoria Sasaki (Spring 2016)

Pedagogical Training

- Teaching Consultant Program - Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning (2017-2018)
- Course Design Seminar - Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning (2017)
- Seminar on Reflective Teaching - Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning (2016)

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute
Guest Researcher

May-June 2016

- Analysis of arms export legislation and practices in Germany, Sweden, and United Kingdom

Flemish Peace Institute*April-June 2015*

Research Intern

- Analysis of the implementation of the ICT Directive in France and United Kingdom
- Research on Transfer without Transshipment and Discovery of Dual-Use in 1925 Geneva Protocol

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs*July-December 2014*

Political Affairs Intern

- Created daily summaries of the disarmament news and wrote a speech for the High Representative
- Research for a report on UAVs, the UN Disarmament Yearbook, and other UNODA publications
- Wrote a trend analysis of UNODA's donor relations for the High Representative

Centre for the International Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice*January-August 2014*

Research Intern

- Research about the work of the International Criminal Court
- Worked on the Centre's social media presence and organized events

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & SKILLS

Professional Service

- Member of the Awards Committee - Boston University (2023-present)
- Member of the Academic Affairs Committee - Boston University (2023-present)
- Co-organizer of the Workshop for Emerging Scholars on Emerging Technologies (2021-present)
- Committee Member of 2023 Kenneth N. Waltz Dissertation Award - APSA (2023)
- Organizer of the Nuclear Knowledges Work-in-Progress Seminar - CERI, Sciences Po (2022-2023)
- Mentor in the Mentorship Program, Center for International Security and Cooperation (2022)
- Co-convener of Nuclear Reading Group - Center for International Security and Cooperation (2022)
- Co-convener of Speaker Series on International Security from a South Asian Perspective - Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University (2019-2020)
- Coordinator of Graduate Peer Mentorship Program - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2019-2020)
- Graduate Representative - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2018-2019)
- Convener of Graduate Workshop for IR and CP - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2015-2017)
- Co-organizer of Graduate Women in PoliSci Workshop - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2016-2017)

Professional Affiliations

- Member - Strategic Defense Initiative Working Group (2023-Present)
- Affiliate - Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University (2022-Present)
- Member - Bridging the Gap Network (2021-Present)
- Member - Women in Conflict Studies (2020-Present)
- Member - American Political Science Association (2020-Present)
- Member - International Studies Association (2018-Present)
- Visiting Researcher - Center for International Studies, Sciences Po (April-July 2019)
- Visiting Researcher - Department of War Studies, King's College London (January-March 2019)

Reviewer

- International Security, Security Studies, International Affairs, Global Studies Quarterly, Conflict Management and Peace Science

Languages

- Dutch (Mother Tongue), English (Fluent), French (Fluent), German (Basic Knowledge)

Skills

- R, Stata, HLM, LaTeX, Microsoft Office

Fieldwork

- Various Locations, United States (Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, and Spring & Summer 2022)
- London, United Kingdom (January-March 2019, February 2023, worked with Professor Susan Martin)
- Paris, France (April-July 2019, April-June 2023, worked with Professor Benoît Pelopidas)
- New Delhi, India (rescheduled for Summer 2024 due to COVID-19)