

# Kerry Chávez

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Texas Tech University  
Department of Political Science

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS **Institute for Global Affairs**, New York, NY  
Nonresident Research Fellow Jan 2024 –

**Modern War Institute at West Point**, West Point, NY  
Two-time Nonresident Research Fellow Sep 2022 –

**Texas Tech University**, Lubbock, TX  
Instructor, [Department of Political Science](#) Aug 2022 –

Projects Director, [Peace, War, and Social Conflict Lab](#) Aug 2022 –

EDUCATION **Texas Tech University**, Lubbock, TX  
PhD, [Political Science](#), 2022  
» Dissertation: *Militarized Conflict Intervention: Incentives, Constraints and Strategic Behavior*

MA, [Political Science](#), 2017

**University of St. Andrews**, St. Andrews, Scotland  
MLitt, [International Security Studies](#), 2011

**Biola University**, La Mirada, CA  
BA, [Intercultural Studies](#), 2009

PUBLICATIONS 2024 (forthcoming). “US Military Intervention and Presidential Framing.” *Journal of Politics*

2023. “Emulating Underdogs: Tactical Drones in the Russia-Ukraine War.” *Contemporary Security Policy* 44(4): 592-605. (with Ori Swed)

2023. “A Wiki-based Dataset of Military Operations with Novel Strategic Technologies (MONSTR).” *International Interactions*: 639-688. (with J Andrés Gannon)  
» dataset and interactive website [here](#)

2023. “The Empirical Determinants of Violent Nonstate Actor Drone Adoption.” *Armed Forces & Society*: 1-30. (with Ori Swed)

2022. “International Crisis Termination and Presidential Approval.” *Foreign Policy Analysis* 18(3): 1-26. (with James Wright)

2022. “Conflict Contagion Via Weapons Proliferation Out of Collapsed States.” *Small Wars & Insurgencies* 35(2): 191-227. (with Ori Swed)

2021. “The Proliferation of Drones to Violent Nonstate Actors.” *Defence Studies* 21(1): 1-24. (with Ori Swed)

2020. “Off the Shelf: The Violent Nonstate Actor Drone Threat.” *Air & Space Power Journal* 34(3): 29-43. (with Ori Swed)

2020. “Domestic Political Consequences of International Rivalry.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 64(4): 703-728. (with Daehee Bak and Toby Rider)

2020. “Exploring Bias in Student Evaluations: Race, Gender, and Ethnicity.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 53(2): 270-274. (with Kristina Mitchell)

2020. “Are Women More Averse to Corruption Than Men? The Case of South Korea.” *Social Science Quarterly* 101(2): 473-489. (with Aie-Rie Lee)

MONOGRAPHS  
& CHAPTERS

2024 (forthcoming). “Autonomous Weapons.” In *Oxford Handbook on Global Security and Change in Armed Conflict*. Edited by Annette Idler and Kate Tkacova.

2024. “Violent Nonstate Exploitation of Commercial Drones.” In *The De Gruyter Handbook on Drone Warfare*. Edited by James Patton Rogers. (with Ori Swed)

2023. *UAS in Urban Attacks: Red Teaming Exercise Report*. Vienna, AT: weTHINK.

2021. “Between Scylla and Charybdis: The Threat of Democratized Artificial Intelligence.” In *Towards an International Political Economy of Artificial Intelligence*, 177-194. Edited by Tugrul Keskin and Ryan David Kiggins. Switzerland: Springer / Palgrave Macmillan. (with Ori Swed)

POLICY  
COMMENTARY

2023, Nov 22. “Uncovering the Hidden Logic of War: Data and the Meso-level of Armed Conflict.” *Modern War Institute*. (with J Andrés Gannon)

2023, Nov 1. “How Hamas Innovated with Drones to Operate Like an Army.” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. (with Ori Swed)

2023, Aug 28. “Hamstrung: Sources of and Solutions for Political-Military Mismatch.” *Modern War Institute* (MWI) and US Army War College’s *Civil-Military Relations and Modern War Essay Collection* (with J Andrés Gannon)

2023, Jan/Feb. “Learning on the Fly: Drones in the Russian-Ukrainian War.” *Arms Control Today* 53(1): 6-11.

2022, Jul 12. “[Weak States and Loose Arms: Lessons and Warnings, From Afghanistan to Ukraine.](#)” *War on the Rocks*. (with Ori Swed)

2020, Aug 27. “[An Allegory of the Cave: Innovation and Terrorist Drones.](#)” *US Army War Room*. (with Ori Swed)

WORKING  
PROJECTS

“Fighting in the War Room: Electoral Origins of High-tech Warfighting.” (with J Andrés Gannon) - under review

“An Advocation for Tactical Drones.” (with Ori Swed) - under review

“An Explanation of the US-Iran Proxy War.” (with Amos C. Fox) - under review

“Public Opinion, Emerging Technologies, and Foreign Policy Attitudes.” (with Ryan Shandler)

“The Whole Package: The Tailoring of US Force Employment in Modern Warfare.” (with J Andrés Gannon)

“N Sides to Each Story: Competing Public Narratives of US Military Operations.” (with J Andrés Gannon)

“A Risk-Assessment Model of Violent Nonstate Drone Threats to US Targets.” (with Gary Ackerman)

“Economy of Shells: Attrition in Modern Warfare.” (with Ori Swed)

“Drone Webs: The Diffusion of UAV Innovation via Social Networks.” (with Ori Swed)

INVITED  
TALKS &  
WORKSHOPS

2023 Dec - “[Terrorists are using consumer drones—and it’s getting harder to stop them.](#)” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. Video production by Erik English.

2023 Dec - “Democratization of Emerging Technologies,” guest lecture for Industry Study: Autonomous Systems and Robotics, [Eisenhower School for National Defense and Research Strategy, National Defense University](#)

2023 Dec - “Why podcasts?” guest lecture for Industry Study: Artificial Intelligence, [Eisenhower School for National Defense and Research Strategy, National Defense University](#)

2023 Oct - “[Drones, AI, and the Future of Conflict,](#)” *Revolution in Military Affairs* Podcast hosted by Amos Fox.

2023 Oct - “Opening Keynote Address,” *Second Webinar and Tabletop Exercise*, Global Counterterrorism Forum Initiative to Operationalize the Berlin Memorandum (virtual)

2023 Sep - “Unmanned System Threats Against Critical Infrastructure and Urban Settings,” *weTHINK. UAVs in Near Future Conflict* Mini-conference (virtual)

2023 Aug - “Skillsets Needed in Modern War,” *War Studies Conference: Rethinking Recruitment for Modern War* (MWI at West Point, NY)

2023 Jul - “Unmanned VEO Threats Workshop,” *Combating Terrorism Center* at West Point and Defense Intelligence Agency’s Defense Combating Terrorism Office (virtual)

2023 Jun - “Current and Suggested Future Research Efforts,” *Preventing and Countering Terrorist Use of Unmanned Aircraft Systems*, United Nations (UN) Office of Counter-Terrorism (UN Headquarters, NY)

2023 Apr - “Consultation on UAS Guiding Principles on Threats Posed by Terrorist Misuses,” *United Nations Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate* (UNCTED)

2022 Dec - “Expert Roundtable on Future Use of Terrorist Unmanned Aerial Systems,” *UN Counterterrorism Executive Directorate* x NYU Workshop (NYU Center for Global Affairs)

2022 Nov - “Emerging Technology and International Security: Challenges and Opportunities,” *New Voices in National Security Initiative* (Bridging the Gap, New America)

2021 Oct – “UAV/UGVs and Near Future Conflicts,” *weTHINK*. Working Group Kickoff Roundtable

2021 Jun - “Armed Uninhabited Aerial Vehicles: Today and Tomorrow,” (*International Institute of Strategic Studies - Europe*)

2021 Jun – “The Malign Use of Drones by Nonstate Actors: Vulnerabilities and Future Threats,” *Vulnerabilities of the Drone Age (VDA)* Advanced Research Workshop (Center for War Studies Denmark, Center for Security Studies Zurich, NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme)

MEDIA CONTRIBUTIONS 2023, Nov 23. “What do Boston Dynamics’ Robots (Really) Play.” *Usbek & Rica*. By Pablo Maillé.

2023, Nov 17. “Drones as Weapons: Africa Needs Better Data to Anticipate Risks.” *Institute for Security Studies*. By Karen Allen.

2023, Sep 28. “[Drones on the Frontlines.](#)” *IRPI Media*. By Raffaele Angius, Lorenzo Bagnoli, and Riccardo Coluccini.

2022, Oct 13. “[The Race to Stop Weaponized Robots.](#)” *Vox*. By Rebecca Heilweil.

contributor on [DW News](#) (2023 May, Jul, Aug, Sep)

CONFERENCES     **2024** - International Studies Association (ISA), American Political Science Association (APSA), APSA virtual, Southern Political Science Association (SPSA)

**2023** - Journeys in World Politics, ISA, SPSA, Peace Science Society International (PSSI)

**2022** – ISA, *International Organization* Editorial Café, SPSA

**2021** – APSA, ISA, SPSA, Texas Tech University (TTU) Grad School Arts and Humanities (A&H) Conference

**2020** – ISA (canceled), TTU Grad School A&H Conference

**2019** – International Conference on Education, Humanities and Social Sciences, ISSS-IS Joint Conference, APSA, ISA, Midwest Political Science Association, Texas Triangle, TTU Grad School A&H Conference

**2018** – ISA, Texas Triangle, TTU Grad School A&H Conference

TEACHING        2024 Spring – US Foreign Policy, Political Science in Science Fiction

2023 Fall – Game Theory, Political Science in Science Fiction

2023 Spring – Politics of International Military Force, International Politics, Political Analysis

2022 Fall – US Foreign Policy, International Politics, Political Analysis

2021 Spring, 2021 Fall – Introduction to Political Analysis

2020 Fall – Politics of International Military Force

2020 Spring, 2019 Fall – International Politics

**2015 Fall to 2019 Spring** – teaching assistant for International Politics; Political Analysis; Game Theory; Conflict in the Middle East; Political Leadership and International Conflict; International Organization; Trade, Conflict, and Economic Statecraft

PROFICIENCIES **Methods** – regression analysis, time series analysis, game theoretic models, social network analysis, quantitative text analysis, Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

**Software** – Stata, R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, ArcGIS Pro 2.7, Gephi

AWARDS &  
HONORS

R. Guy Carter Scholarship (2021)  
William A. Jackson Scholarship (2021)  
Gordon Treadaway Scholarship (2021)  
William E. Oden Endowed Scholarship (2019, 2021)  
Outstanding TTU Graduate Research Paper (2021, 2022)  
Kent Presson Scholarship (2018, 2020)  
Professing Excellence Award nominee (2020)  
Peace, War, and Social Conflict research grant (2020)  
AT&T Scholarship Foundation fellow (2015 – 2019)

SERVICE

reviewer for multiple journals

Discussant / Chair – SPSA (2021, 2022, 2023, 2024), ISA (2023), PSSI (2023)

Organizer – Texas Triangle Conference (2019, co-organized with Toby Rider), ISA panel on the “Complexities of Modern Warfare” (2023), PSSI Workshop on “New Avenues in Research on Future Force Planning” (2023, co-organized with J Andrés Gannon and Andrew Reddie)

Thesis Advisor - Jaycee Tyler (undergraduate)

Faculty Advisor – TTU chapter of [Network of Enlightened Women](#)

Founding Member - [Lubbock Women for Good](#)

REFERENCES

[Daehee Bak](#)  
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[daehee.bak@ttu.edu](mailto:daehee.bak@ttu.edu)

[Toby Rider](#)  
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[David Lektzian](#)  
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