

# Kerry Chávez

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U.S. Air Force Academy  
kerry.chavez@afacademy.af.edu

[www.kerrychavez.us](http://www.kerrychavez.us)  
[www.linkedin.com/in/kerrychavez/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/kerrychavez/)

- ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS **U.S. Air Force Academy**, Colorado Springs, CO  
Assistant Professor, [Department of Military & Strategic Studies](#) Jun 2024–
- 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–May 2024  
Projects Director, [Peace, War, and Social Conflict Lab](#) Aug 2022–May 2024
- 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. “US Military Intervention and Presidential Framing.” *Journal of Politics* 86(4): forthcoming.
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

2024, Aug 15. “Small Drones for Big Militaries: The Way Ahead.” *War Room*. (with Ori Swed)

2024, Jun 28. “A Case Study on Integrating Tactical Drones: Israel.” *Modern War Institute*. (with Ori Swed)

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 U.S. 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.](#)” *War Room*. (with Ori Swed)

WORKING  
PROJECTS

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

“[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

“[UAVs: State and Non-state Developments;](#)” Full Spectrum Drone Warfare 2050: Developments in Drone Deployment Across All Domains closed advanced research workshop; sponsored by [NATO Science for Peace and Security Programme](#), [ETH Zurich Center for Security Studies](#), and [Cornell Brooks Tech Policy Institute](#) (Ithaca, NY).

2024 Jul - “[Two Sides of the Same Coin: Exploring Benefits and Risks of \(Mis\)Use of Uncrewed Systems,](#)” with [Abby Zeith](#) and [Wim Zwijnenburg](#), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research and Office for Disarmament Affairs, moderated by [Barbara Morais Figueiredo](#).

2024 Jun - “Drones are Here to Stay: The Proliferation of UAS Across the Spectrum of War,” with COL (ret) Bill Edwards, Irregular Warfare Initiative podcast hosted by Nathan Kaczynski and Laura Jones.

2024 Mar - “Drone Proliferation to Terrorist Proxies,” with LTG (ret) Kenneth Tovo and Behnam Ben Taleblu, Social Science of War podcast hosted by Dr. Nakissa Jahanbani.

2024 Spring - Junior Scholars in International Security, etc. workshop

2023 Dec - “Terrorists are using consumer drones—and it’s getting harder to stop them,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*. Video 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.

CONFERENCES

**2024** - APSA virtual, Southern Political Science Association (SPSA)

**2023** - Journeys in World Politics, ISA, SPSA

**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 Fall – International Security Studies

2019 Fall to 2024 Spring – International Politics, Politics of International Military Force, Introduction to Political Analysis, U.S. Foreign Policy, Game Theory, Political Science in Science Fiction

2015 Fall to 2019 Spring – teaching assistant for multiple courses

PROFICIENCIES regression analysis, time series analysis, game theoretic models, quantitative text analysis, Geographic Information Systems (GIS)

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)

Advisor – Project Airpower at the [Irregular Warfare Initiative](#)

Thesis Advisor - Jaycee Tyler (undergraduate)

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

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