

# COLLEEN LARKIN

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Military strategy, nuclear politics, arms control, U.S. foreign policy, grand strategy, rhetoric and narratives, bureaucratic politics, archival research, text analysis

## EDUCATION

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**Columbia University** 2018 - 2024

Ph.D., Political Science

Fields of Study: International Relations (Major), Comparative Politics (Minor)

Dissertation: “Contested Stories, Uncertain Futures: Upheavals, Narrative Emergence, and Strategic Change”

Committee: Jack Snyder (Chair), Page Fortna, Stacie Goddard, Elizabeth Saunders

M.Phil in Political Science, May 2021

M.A. in Political Science, October 2019

**Wellesley College** 2014 - 2018

B.A. in Political Science, Mathematics

*Summa cum laude, Phi Beta Kappa, Pi Sigma Alpha*

Senior Thesis: “Parity, What is it Good For? Jimmy Carter and the Legitimation of Nuclear Strategy”

## APPOINTMENTS

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**University of California** 2024 -

Postdoctoral Fellow, Technology and International Security

Institute for Global Conflict and Cooperation

**Wellesley College** 2025-

Co-director, Technology and International Order Lab

**Harvard Kennedy School** 2023 - 2024

Predoctoral Fellow, Managing the Atom Project

Robert and Renee Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs

**University of Notre Dame** 2021-2022

Hans J. Morgenthau Fellow in Grand Strategy, Notre Dame International Security Center

## PEER-REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

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Stacie E. Goddard and Colleen Larkin. 2024. “Nuclear shibboleths: The logics and future of nuclear non-use.” *International Organization*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0020818324000341>.

Stacie E. Goddard and Colleen Larkin. 2023. “‘The Most Humane of All Weapons’: discrimination, air-power, and precision doctrine.” *European Journal of International Security*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/eis.2023.21>.

## WORKING PAPERS

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“The Problem is to Find the Fresh Words’: Narratives, the Inner Circle, and Nuclear Strategy Continuity”  
(under review)

“Controlling the Apocalypse: Strategic Narrative Emergence and U.S. Nuclear Strategy”

“Storytelling as the Blueprint: Strategic Narratives and Grand Strategy”

“Nuclear Myths and the Persistence of Nuclear Competition”

“War of Words: Legitimation, Essential Equivalence, and Carter’s Nuclear Strategy”

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

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Colleen Larkin. 2025. “The Rational World of Defense Intellectuals Revisited.” University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation blog (forthcoming).

Colleen Larkin and Stacie Goddard. 2025. “Five Questions on the Logic of Nuclear Nonuse.” University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation Blog.  
<https://ucigcc.org/blog/five-questions-on-the-logic-of-nuclear-nonuse/>.

Colleen Larkin. 2024. Review of *The Uncertainty Doctrine: Narrative Politics and US Hard Power after the Cold War* by Alexandra Homolar (forthcoming at *Political Science Quarterly*).

Colleen Larkin. 2023. Review of *Wordly Shame* by Manu Samnotra. *Political Science Quarterly* 138 (2): 312-314. <https://www.psqonline.org/article.cfm?IDArticle=20451>.

Colleen Larkin. 2019. Roundtable 10-17 on *The Cold War They Made* by Ron Robin. *H-Diplo*. <https://issforum.org/roundtables/10-17-Wholstetter>.

## AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

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2025-2026	Program on Grand Strategy, Albritton Center, Texas A&M University
2021-23	Dissertation Development Grant, Columbia University Political Science Department
2019-22	Teaching Fellowship, Columbia University
2018	Dean’s Fellowship, Columbia University
2017	Katharine Malone Scholar Prize, Wellesley College

## PRESENTATIONS

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2025	IS-ISSS Annual Conference (Scheduled)
2022-2025	International Studies Association Conference
2025	UC-National Labs Conference on Technology and International Security
2025	Robert Jervis Conference, Columbia University
2025, 2024	IGCC Seminar Series, University of California
2024	Grand Strategy Workshop, University of Birmingham
2024	Discourse as Power Conference, University of Pennsylvania
2024	International Security Seminar, Harvard Kennedy School
2023	Journeys in World Politics Conference, University of Wisconsin-Madison
2023	Managing the Atom Seminar, Harvard Kennedy School
2023	American Political Science Association Conference
2023, 2022	Security Studies Working Group, Columbia University
2021, 2020	Midwest Political Science Association Conference

## EXPERIENCE

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2021-2024	Editorial Assistant, <i>Political Science Quarterly</i>
2023	Copy Editor, Oxford Handbook of Political Sociology
2021-22	Head Teaching Assistant, Nationalism and Contemporary World Politics (Prof. Jack Snyder)
2021	Teaching Assistant, The American Congress (Prof. Gregory Wawro)
2020	Head Teaching Assistant, Introduction to International Politics (Prof. Kimberly Marten)
2020	Teaching Assistant, Introduction to International Politics (Prof. Katrin Katz)
2019	Research Assistant (Prof. John Huber)
2019	Research Assistant (Prof. Keren Yarhi-Milo)

## SEMINARS AND TRAINING

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2024	Summer Wargaming Institute, Massachusetts Institute of Technology
2022-23	International Relations Theory Colloquium
2023	Nuclear Policy Opinion Writing Workshop, Truman Center for National Policy
2022	Strategic Force Analysis Boot Camp, Georgetown University
2021	Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Methods Research, Syracuse University
2021-23	Teaching Development Program, Columbia University Center for Teaching and Learning

## SERVICE

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2021-2023	Coordinator, Interdisciplinary Graduate Student Seminar, Columbia University Institute for Social and Economic Research
2021-2024	Coordinator, Women in Security Studies, Columbia University
2019-2021	Student Coordinator, Columbia University International Politics Seminar

## SKILLS

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R, Python, STATA, Atlas.ti, NVivo, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X