

COLLEEN LARKIN

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

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

EDUCATION

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

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

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

“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

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

- 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

- 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

2021-2024 Editorial Assistant, *Political Science Quarterly*
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

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

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

R, Python, STATA, Atlas.ti, NVivo, L^AT_EX