

# NAKISSA PUNEH JAHANBANI

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## EDUCATION

**University at Albany, Rockefeller College**, Albany, NY Aug. 2020  
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Political Science  
Dissertation: "Patrons of Violence: Drivers and Dimensions of State Support for Rebel Groups"  
Major field: International Relations, Minor field: Comparative Politics, Minor field: Quantitative Methods

**College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security, and Cybersecurity**, Albany, NY Dec. 2018  
Certificate in Homeland Security

**American University, School of International Service**, Washington, DC May 2011  
Bachelor of Arts (BA) in International Studies  
Concentrations in International Development and the Middle East

**Westwood High School**, Austin, Texas May 2008  
International Baccalaureate Diploma  
Texas Distinguished Scholars High School Diploma

## RELEVANT EMPLOYMENT

### West Point, United States Military Academy

West Point, NY

*Researcher*, Combating Terrorism Center (June 2019-present)

- Design and execute research plans of teams of two to four research assistants (RAs) to investigate issues related to Iranian Threat Network (ITN) in the Middle East and the African continent and the Islamic State (IS) in Southeast Asia
- Brief USG partners about the research products (e.g., State Department, IC, deploying military units)
- As PI, lead research team of four RAs for a Carnegie Corporation grant that focuses on the application of lessons learned from countering international jihadist terrorism to countering domestic extremism

*Assistant Professor*, Department of Social Sciences (June 2019-present)

- With colleagues, planned and executed for a two-week academic enrichment trip to Israel, United Arab Emirates, Oman, and Jordan for fifteen cadets, faculty, and military personnel to meet with US embassy, private sector, host nation law enforcement, military, and political entities exploring the effects of the Abraham Accords and counterterrorism cooperation on regional security
- For SS465 ("Terrorism: New Challenges", introductory survey course about terrorism), prepare lectures, in-class activities, and assessments (e.g., tests, papers) about terrorism, covering topics such as religious, domestic, left- and right-wing, and state-sponsored terrorism
- Perform coordination duties as lead instructor, including constructing centralized course plan/syllabus and communicating with administration about students' grades

*Project Research Assistant (nonresident)*, Combating Terrorism Center (Aug. 2017-June 2018)

"Evolution of Islamic State Khorasan (ISK)"

- Performed quality control checks of attack-level data of multiple groups in the Afghanistan-Pakistan region related to and/or fighting against ISK
- Coded groups' organizational characteristics and relations with ISK

### University at Albany, State University of New York

Albany, NY

Center for Policy Research

*Research Manager* (EDICT Grant) (January 2019-June 2019)

- Quality controlled data to be included in 2013-2017 update of the Big Allied and Dangerous (BAAD) dataset
- Trained and managed three undergraduate and graduate coders and one professional staff
- For the grant "Enhancing Data Streams to Inform Counter-Terrorism (EDICT) - Updates to the Big, Allied and Dangerous Dataset" was a sub-award under START Center, University of Maryland, College Park on award from DOD

*Project Research Assistant* (Minerva Grant) (May 2018-January 2019)

- Manage three undergraduate coders and quality control of organizational, event, and network data related to international crises and involved states and violent non-state actors
- Train coders both here and partnering institutions in project specifications per dataset codebook
- Liaison with research assistants and professors in other universities on the project

- For Minerva Initiative-funded grant, “Power Projection, Deterrence Strategies, and Escalation Dynamics in an Era of Challenging Near Peers, Rogue States, and Terrorist and Insurgent Organizations”

*Project Research Assistant* (Big Allied And Dangerous Project) (May 2016/2017-Aug. 2016/2017)

- Performed quality control checks of data through independent searches and project specifications through dataset codebook
- Coded information into annual organizational variables and network relational data using Excel sheets

*Senior Research Aide* (Big Allied And Dangerous Project) (May 2015-Aug.2015)

- Researched over 50 international non-state violent organizations using open online sources (e.g. Google Scholar and LexisNexis); coded information into annual organizational variables and network relational data using Excel sheets

#### Department of Political Science

*Instructor*, Comparative Ethnicity (RPOS 361, online) (May 2018-July 2018)

- Constructed lesson plans for six-week higher level undergraduate course on ethnic theories and conflict
- Wrote and graded students’ weekly discussion board prompts, response essays, and term paper on ethnic conflict

*Teaching Assistant*, Introduction to Comparative and International Politics (RPOS 102) (Aug. 2015 to May 2018)

- Executed weekly lesson plans and exercises emphasizing major concepts and theories of international relations and comparative politics
- Graded quizzes, major papers, and other assignments for more than forty students

*Teaching Assistant*, Introduction to Quantitative Methods (RPOS 517) (Jan. 2016 to May 2016)

- Assisted professor with in-class exercises using R
- Compiled research from academic databases on a variety of subjects related to comparative politics
- Prepared additional “practical advice” handouts on large-N data management for graduate students

#### Global Institute for Health and Human Rights

*Teaching Assistant*, “Health and Human Rights: An Interdisciplinary Approach” (Aug. 2014-Dec. 2014)

- Designed and presented 2-3 case studies to illustrate major public health and human rights concepts from class lectures
- Graded 34 upper undergraduate and graduate student weekly and major assignments and tests prior to professorial review; provided administrative support to professors

*Program and Research Associate* (June 2012-Aug. 2014)

- Served as team leader on grants to national and international funders
- Coordinated communication between four authors and contributed to two book chapters
- Coordinated a week-long conference on women’s empowerment and right titled: “Women in the Middle East”

#### **ICPSR Summer Program, University of Michigan**

**Ann Arbor, MI**

*Teaching Assistant*, Maximum Likelihood Estimation II (July 2018-Aug. 2018)

- Graded and advised graduate students’ weekly homework on fixed and random effects and survival models

#### **Physicians for Human Rights (PHR), Anti-Torture Program (ATP)**

**Washington, DC**

*Consultant* (December 2012-June 2013)

*Intern* (July 2012-Nov. 2012)

- Reviewed government sources from nongovernmental and academic organizations for inclusion in report concerning use of solitary confinement in US national security detentions, titled “Buried Alive: Solitary Confinement in the US Detention System”
- Provided support duties such as assisted in writing of report and preparing scholars for briefings

#### **PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES**

Edward Gonzalez, Anne van Wijk, Shikshya Adhikari, Victor Asal, Adam Barsuhn, Kyle Beardsley, **Nakissa Jahanbani**, Patrick James, Steven E. Lobell, Scott A. Silverstone, Hannah M. Smith, Grace Sorci. “White Paper: Defense Implications for US and NATO Policymakers and their Staffs.” West Point Press.

<https://static1.squarespace.com/static/6239ec5f3f7611307897a1f0/t/641cea6d0aa4817b02848bbd/1679616621517/White+Paper+-+Def+Implications+for+US+and+NATO+Poliymakers.pdf>.

Jadoon, Amira, **Nakissa Jahanbani**, and Emma Fruchtman. 2023. "The Uninvited Guest: Understanding Islamic State’s Alliances and Rivalries in the Afghanistan-Pakistan Region.” *Asian Security*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14799855.2023.2173581>.

Chong Chen, Jordan Roberts, Shikshya Adhikari, Victor Asal, Kyle Beardsley, Edward Gonzales, **Nakissa Jahanbani**, Patrick James, Steven Lobell, Norrin M. Ripsman, Scott Silverstone, and Anne van Wijk. 2022. “Tipping Points: Challenges in Analyzing International Crisis Escalation.” *International Studies Review*. <https://academic.oup.com/isr/article-abstract/24/3/viac024/6648031>.

Asal, Victor, Joseph Young, **Nakissa Jahanbani**, and Suzanne Weedon. 2021. "Tugging on Superman's Cape: Why Some Insurgencies Are Targets of Foreign Militaries." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1057610X.2021.1930863>.

Uzonyi, Gary, Nam Kyu Kim, **Nakissa Jahanbani**, Victor Asal. 2021. "Genocide, Politicide, and the Prospects of Democratization since 1900," *Journal on Conflict Resolution*, <https://doi.org/10.1177/00220027211000445>.

Jadoon, Amira, Julia Lodoen, Charmaine Willis, and **Nakissa Jahanbani**. 2020. "Breaking the Glass Ceiling?: Islamic State-Linked Female Militancy in Southeast Asia." *Terrorism and Political Violence*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2020.1838904>.

Asal, Victor, Charmaine Willis, Christopher Linebarger, and **Nakissa Jahanbani**. 2020. "Teaching about Oppression and Rebellion: the 'Peasants are Revolting' Game." *PS: Political Science*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096520001675>.

**Jahanbani, Nakissa** and Charmaine Willis. "The Ballot or the Bomb Belt: The Roots of Female Suicide Terrorism Before and After 9/11." 2019. *Small Wars & Insurgencies*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/09592318.2019.1649817>.

Asal, Victor, **Nakissa Jahanbani**, Donnett Lee, and Jiacheng Ren. 2018. "Mini-Games for Teaching Political Science Methodology." *P.S.: Political Science & Politics*. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096518000902>.

**Nakissa Jahanbani**, Charmaine Willis, and Donnett Lee. 2018. "What We Wish We Knew: Reflections of Brand-New Teaching Assistants." *Journal of Political Science Education*. <https://doi.org/10.1080/15512169.2018.1445533>.

## OTHER PUBLICATIONS

**Jahanbani, Nakissa**, Muhammad Najjar, Benjamin Johnson, Caleb Benjamin, and Muhammad Al-'Ubaydi, "Iranian Drone Proliferation is Scaling Up and Turning More Lethal," War on the Rocks, September 8, 2023, <https://warontherocks.com/2023/09/iranian-drone-proliferation-is-scaling-up-and-turning-more-lethal/>.

McFee, Erin, Jacob Ware, Zak Kallenborn, Gary Ackerman, Herbert Tinsley, Alexis Bradstreet, **Nakissa Jahanbani**, and Sean Morrow, "Chapter 23 – Terrorism and International Order," Proceedings from the International Security Seminar 2023. West Point Press.

**Jahanbani, Nakissa** and Suzanne Weedon Levy, "Iran" in *Routledge Handbook of Proxy Wars*, edited by Assaf Moghadam, Vladimir Rauta and Michel Wyss.

**Nakissa Jahanbani**, Eugene Lee, and Don Ressler. "A View from the CT Foxhole: Air Vice-Marshal Sean Corbett," *CTC Sentinel* 15:10, October 2022. <https://ctc.usma.edu/a-view-from-the-ct-foxhole-air-vice-marshal-sean-corbett/>.

Jadoon, Amira, **Nakissa Jahanbani**, Elina Noor, Marley Carroll, and William Frangia, "Risks, Recruits, and Plots: Understanding and Mitigating the Influence of the Islamic State in Malaysia," Combating Terrorism Center – Report, August 2022. <https://ctc.usma.edu/risks-recruits-and-plots-understanding-and-mitigating-the-influence-of-the-islamic-state-in-malaysia/>.

Kokinos, Anyssia, **Nakissa Jahanbani**, Jon Lewis, and Devorah Margolin. "Hezbollah's Operations and Networks in the United States: Two Decades in Review," Program on Extremism/Combating Terrorism Center – Report, June 2022, [https://extremism.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2191/f/Hezbollah%27s\\_Operations\\_and\\_Networks\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States\\_June30\\_2022.pdf](https://extremism.gwu.edu/sites/g/files/zaxdzs2191/f/Hezbollah%27s_Operations_and_Networks_in_the_United_States_June30_2022.pdf).

**Jahanbani, Nakissa** and Suzanne Weedon Levy. "Iran Entangled: Iran and Hezbollah's Support to Proxies Operating in Syria," Combating Terrorism Center – Report, April 2022. <https://ctc.westpoint.edu/iran-entangled-iran-and-hezbollahs-support-to-proxies-operating-in-syria/>.

Yon, Richard, Don Ressler, and **Nakissa Jahanbani**. "A View from the CT Foxhole: David Caulfield, Former Chief, Defense Combating Terrorism Center, Defense Intelligence Agency," *CTC Sentinel* 15:3, March 2022. <https://ctc.westpoint.edu/a-view-from-the-ct-foxhole-david-caulfield-former-chief-defense-combating-terrorism-center-defense-intelligence-agency/>.

Jahanbani, Nakissa. Contributor on "H-Diplo Roundtable XXII-27: Teaching Roundtable on Games and Simulations in IR," H-Diplo, February 2021. <https://networks.h-net.org/node/28443/discussions/7300833/h-diplo-roundtable-xxii-27-teaching-roundtable-games-and>; <https://issforum.org/roundtables/PDF/Roundtable-XXII-27.pdf>.

Jadoon, Amira, **Nakissa Jahanbani**, and Charmaine Willis, "Rising in the East: The Evolution of the Islamic States in the Philippines," Combating Terrorism Center - Report, December 2020. <https://ctc.usma.edu/rising-in-the-east-the-evolution-of-the-islamic-state-in-the-philippines/>.

Jadoon, Amira, **Nakissa Jahanbani**, and Charmaine Willis, "Rising in the East: A Regional Overview of the Islamic State's Operations in Southeast Asia," Combating Terrorism Center - Report, July 2020. <https://ctc.usma.edu/rising-in-the-east-a-regional-overview-of-the-islamic-states-operations-in-southeast-asia>.

**Jahanbani, Nakissa.** “Reviewing Iran’s Proxies by Region: A Look Toward the Middle East, South Asia, and Africa,” *CTC Sentinel* 13:5, <https://ctc.usma.edu/reviewing-irans-proxies-by-region-a-look-toward-the-middle-east-south-asia-and-africa/>.

**Jahanbani, Nakissa.** “Beyond Soleimani: Implications for Iran’s Proxy Network in Iraq and Syria,” *Combating Terrorism Center - Perspectives*, January 2020. <https://ctc.usma.edu/beyond-soleimani-implications-irans-proxy-network-iraq-syria/>

Amira Jadoon, **Nakissa Jahanbani**, and Charmaine Willis. April 2018. “Challenging the ISK Brand in Afghanistan-Pakistan: Rivalries and Divided Loyalties”, *CTC Sentinel*, 11:4, <https://ctc.usma.edu/challenging-isk-brand-afghanistan-pakistan-rivalries-divided-loyalties/>.

**Jahanbani, Nakissa.** Iran resurgent: the rise and rise of the Shia state; Iran rising: the survival and future of the Islamic Republic,” *International Affairs*, <https://doi.org/10.1093/ia/iab005>.

**Jahanbani, Nakissa**, Charmaine Willis, and Victor Asal. “A Lethal Metamorphosis: Testing the Causes of Terrorism Before and After 9/11” (*forthcoming in Routledge, ed. Michael Stohl*)

Parakand Mahnaz, Hossein Raeesi, Kamiar Alaei, and **Nakissa Jahanbani.** “Interviewing Victims and Witnesses in Iran”. In Walsh, D., Oxburgh, G. E., Redlich, A. D., & Myklebust, T. (2015). *International Developments and Practices in Investigative Interviewing and Interrogation: Volume 1: Victims and witnesses.* Routledge. <http://www.tandf.net/books/details/9781315769684/>.

## GRANTS

- (2021-2022) PI, “The Domestic-International Connection” – Carnegie Corporation, New York, NY
- (2019-2022) Co-PI, “Power Projection, Deterrence Strategies, and Escalation Dynamics In An Era Of Challenging Near Peers, Rogue States, and Terrorist and Insurgent Organizations” – Minerva Initiative (Department of Defense), Washington, DC
- (2018) American Political Science Association Travel Grant
- (2018) Department of Political Science Grant for PhD Student Travel, University at Albany, Albany, NY
- (2018) Graduate Student Association for PhD Student Travel, University at Albany, Albany, NY
- (2017) Department of Political Science Grant for Summer Training University at Albany, Albany, NY

## AWARDS

- (2023) Performance Award, Combating Terrorism Center, United States Military Academy
- (2021) William F. Murdy Award for Teaching Excellence, Department of Social Sciences, United States Military Academy
- (2021) Distinguished Doctoral Dissertation Award, Department of Political Science, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany
- (2020) Performance Award, Combating Terrorism Center, United States Military Academy
- (2017) Clifford C. Clogg Scholarship, Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR), University of Michigan
- (2017) Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, Department of Political Science, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany
- (2016) Outstanding Graduate Student Service Award, Department of Political Science, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs and Policy, University at Albany

## INVITED TALKS

- (2023) Presenter, “Iran and Hybrid Tactics,” George C. Marshall European Center for Security Studies, Garmisch, Germany
- (2023) Presenter, Academic Panel for Special Operations Forces, Fort Bragg, NC
- (2022) Speaker, 22nd World Summit on Counter-Terrorism, The International Institute for Counter-Terrorism (ICT) Reichman University, IDC Herzliya, Israel
- (2021) Presenter, “The Future of Iran’s Militant Client Networks Part 2: Implications for U.S. Policy,” Department of State, Online
- (2021) Presenter, “Iran’s Long Game in Syria,” Washington Institute, Online
- (2021) Presenter, Academic Panel for Special Operations Forces, West Point, NY
- (2020) Speaker, “Iran’s Proxies After Soleimani,” Defense Threat Reduction Agency, McLean, VA
- (2020) Speaker, “Understanding US-Iran Tensions,” Modern War Institute, West Point, NY
- (2018) Presenter, Spatial Mixed Methods Workshop, University at Albany, Albany, NY

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS (\*presenter)

- (2020) American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting – Online

- (2019) American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting – Washington, DC
- (2019) International Studies Association, Annual Convention – Toronto, Canada
- (2018) American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting – Boston, MA
- (2017) ISSS-ISAC Annual Conference – Washington, DC
- (2017) American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting – San Francisco, CA
- (2016) International Studies Association, Annual Convention – Atlanta, GA

#### **SELECT GUEST LECTURES**

- (2020) “The Iranian Islamic Revolutionary Guards Corps Quds Force,” Beginner’s Persian, U.S. Military Academy – Department of Foreign Languages
- (2020) “State Sponsorship as Political Violence,” Comparative Politics, University at Albany – Department of Political Science
- (2019) “Shia Militias’ Media: A Discussion & A Research Project,” Intermediate Persian, U.S. Military Academy – Department of Foreign Languages
- (2019) “The Kurds And Nation-Building,” RPOS 362, Nationalism and Nation-Building, University at Albany – Department of Political Science
- (2017-2018) Computing workshops on data reproducibility and transparency in Stata, R, Python, Collaborator and Assistant, University at Albany – Department of Political Science

#### **SERVICE**

- (2023-present) Board Member, Transatlantic Circle of Trust (TACT)
- (2017-2018) Co-Chair, APSA Committee on the Status of the Graduate Student
- (2016-2017) Member, American Political Science Association (APSA) Committee on the Status of the Graduate Student
- (2016-2017; 2015-2016) Vice Chair, University at Albany Graduate Association of Political Science
- (2017-2018) Co-Chair, University at Albany Institutions and Societies Conference Planning Committee
- (2016-2017) Chair, University at Albany Graduate Association of Political Science
- (2016-2017) Member, University at Albany Resource Allocations and Planning Sub-Committee of University Planning and Policy Council
- (2016-2017) Member, University at Albany Institutions and Societies Conference Planning Committee
- (2015-2016) Lead Senator, University at Albany Graduate Student Association
- (2015-2016) Member, University at Albany University Planning and Policy Council

#### **ORGANIZATION AFFILIATIONS**

- International Studies Association (ISA)
- Delta Phi Epsilon (Professional Foreign Service Fraternity)
- Alpha Phi Omega (Professional Community Service Fraternity)

#### **RELEVANT SKILLS**

- **Languages:** Reading and Speaking Fluency in Persian; Working Proficiency in Spanish; Beginner’s Proficiency in Arabic
- **Software:** Fluency in R and Stata; Microsoft Office; Proficiency in ArcGIS, UCINET