

SEAN P. BRANIFF
University of Notre Dame
Department of Political Science
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EDUCATION

University of Notre Dame

Ph.D., Political Science, expected 2018

International Relations (first field), Comparative Politics (second field)

Dissertation: "Territorial Gains and Losses: The Political Psychology of Issue Indivisibility"

Committee: Sebastian Rosato (Chair), Michael Desch, Gary Goertz

University of Notre Dame

M.A., Political Science, 2015

Georgetown University

Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service

M.A., Arab Studies, 2009

Brigham Young University – Idaho

B.A., History, with honors, 2007

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Assistant Professor, Defense Language Institute Foreign Language Center, Monterey, CA, 2010-2013 (Department chair, 2011-2013)

Research Associate, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, National Defense University, Washington, DC, 2009-2010

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Predocctoral Fellow, Notre Dame International Security Center, University of Notre Dame, 2016-2017

Graduate Affiliate, Kellogg Institute for International Studies, University of Notre Dame, 2015-2017

Political Science Department Professional Development Award (\$2,200), University of Notre Dame, 2016

Kellogg Institute Professional Development Grant (\$1,500), University of Notre Dame, 2016

Notebaert Professional Development Grant (\$2,880), Institute for Scholarship in the Liberal Arts, University of Notre Dame, 2016

Notre Dame International Security Center Professional Development Award (\$2,250), 2016
Graduate Student Union Conference Presentation Grant, University of Notre Dame, 2015
Political Science Department Conference Presentation Grant, University of Notre Dame, 2015, 2016
Graduate Fellowship, Center for Contemporary Arab Studies, Georgetown University, 2008-2009
Foreign Language and Area Studies (FLAS) Fellowship, U.S. Department of Education, 2007-2009 (Declined)

PRESENTATIONS

“Preference Formation and Prospect Theory: The Sources of Loss Aversion,” International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, 2017
“Loss Aversion and Territorial Indivisibility: The Case of the Falkland Islands,” International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, Baltimore, MD, 2017
“Accounting for Tastes: Preference Change and the Origins of Maximalist Territorial Claims,” University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign, 2016
“Regional Patterns of Interstate Conflict,” Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2016
“Territorial Gains and Losses: Issue Indivisibility as an Irrational Explanation for War,” American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA, 2015
“Online Learning of Languages and Cultures,” Inaugural African and Southeast Asian Languages Education and Resource Network (LEARN) Workshop, Madison, WI, 2012
“‘When Sorrows Come...’ A Regional Approach to Yemen’s Diverse Challenges,” The Gulf and the Globe (II), hosted jointly by the Corbett Centre for Maritime Policy Studies (King’s College London) and the US Naval Academy, UK Joint Services Command and Staff College, Shrivenham, England, 2010

WORKING PAPERS

“Preference Formation and Prospect Theory: Sources of Territorial Indivisibility”
“Loss Frames and Bargaining Dynamics: An Experimental Approach”
“Rationality and Foreign Policy in Declining States: The Case of Argentina (1976-1983)”
Coauthored with Luis Schenoni
“Discounting Democracy: American Perceptions of Interstate Relations”
“Regional Patterns of Interstate Conflict”
“Interstate Trade and Relative Loss: An Analysis of Great Power Behavior”

OPINION AND COMMENTARY

“Trump’s new national security adviser disagrees a lot with... Trump”, *Monkey Cage / Washington Post*, [February 22, 2017](#)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record
War and Peace in the Middle East, Spring 2016
Department of Political Science, University of Notre Dame

Teaching Assistant (with 2 discussion sections)
Europe at War: 1900-1945, Fall 2015
Professors: Sebastian Rosato and John Deak, University of Notre Dame

Teaching Assistant (with 2 discussion sections)
Introduction to International Relations, Fall 2014
Professor: Sebastian Rosato, University of Notre Dame

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Research Assistant, Summer 2015, Summer 2016
Professor: Gary Goertz
Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame

Research Assistant, Spring 2015
Professor: Michael Desch
University of Notre Dame

Research Assistant, Spring, Summer 2014
Professor: Daniel Philpott
Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, University of Notre Dame

Research Assistant, 2007-2009
Professor: Yvonne Haddad
Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal Center for Muslim-Christian Understanding, Georgetown University

SPECIALIZED TRAINING

Summer Institute in Political Psychology (SIPP), 2016
Stanford University

Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), 2016
Syracuse University

HONORS AND AWARDS

Striving for Excellence in Teaching Certificate, Kaneb Center for Teaching and Learning, University of Notre Dame, 2017

Commander's Coin of Excellence for "Exceptional Performance and Dedication to Duty" in curriculum development and teaching, presented by Commandant, Defense Language Institute, 2013

Certificate of Meritorious Assistance for "outstanding research support," presented by Director, Near East South Asia Center for Strategic Studies, 2010

Commander's Coin of Excellence for services rendered in curriculum review, presented by Commandant, Fouad Shehab Command and Staff College, Lebanese Armed Forces, 2010

DEPARTMENT / UNIVERSITY SERVICE

Member, International Political Economy Faculty Search Committee, 2015
University of Notre Dame

IR Field Representative, Political Science Graduate Student Organization, 2015-2016
University of Notre Dame

Chair, Faculty Search Committee, 2013
Defense Language Institute

ADDITIONAL QUALIFICATIONS

Languages: Modern Standard Arabic (advanced knowledge), Egyptian colloquial Arabic (basic knowledge), German (intermediate knowledge)

Software: STATA, R, Latex

Professional memberships: American Political Science Association (APSA), International Studies Association (ISA), Middle East Studies Association (MESA), International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP)