

SANNE CORNELIA J. VERSCHUREN

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- The Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University** *2023-Present*
Assistant Professor of International Security
- Graduate Faculty of Political Science, Department of Political Science
 - Faculty Affiliate, Center for Innovation in Social Science
 - Faculty Affiliate, Center for the Study of Europe
- Center for International Studies, Sciences Po** *2022-2023*
Marie Skłodowska-Curie Postdoctoral Fellow
- Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University** *2021-2022*
Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellow
- Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School** *2020-2021*
Predoctoral Fellow in the International Security Program

EDUCATION

- Doctor of Philosophy in Political Science** *August 2021*
Brown University
- Dissertation Title: *Imagining the Unimaginable: War, Weapons, and Procurement Politics*
Winner of the 2022 Kenneth N. Waltz Outstanding Dissertation Award in International Security, American Political Science Association
 - Committee: Nina Tannenwald, Mark Blyth, Jeff Colgan, Jordan Branch, and Jonathan Caverley
 - Comprehensive Exams: International Relations and Comparative Politics (September 2017)
- Master of Arts in Political Science** *2015-2017*
Brown University
- Master of Science in Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice (Distinction)** *2013-2014*
School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London
- Master of Laws in Law (Magna Cum Laude)** *2011-2013*
Ghent University
- Erasmus Exchange, Lund University (January-June 2013)
- Bachelor of Laws in Law** *2008-2011*
Ghent University

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- The development, operationalization, and use of military technology
- The evolution of key concepts in international security, including deterrence and dual-use
- The nexus between nuclear and conventional weapon capabilities
- The linkages between national security and climate change

RESEARCH

Book Manuscript

- Imagining the Unimaginable: War, Weapons, and Procurement Politics. (working title)

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- “Writing IR after COVID-19: Reassessing Political Possibilities, Good Faith, and Policy Relevance,” with Benoît Pelopidas. *Global Studies Quarterly*, vol. 3, no. 1, (2023). [link]

Edited Volumes & Other Academic Writing

- “Challenges to the Nuclear Order: Between Resilience and Contestation,” in *Routledge Handbook of the Future of Warfare*. Sebastian Kaempf and Artur Gruszczak, eds. Routledge: Oxon, UK, p. 400-410.

Book Reviews

- “Rachel Elizabeth Whitlark. *All Options on the Table: Leaders, Preventive War, and Nuclear Proliferation*. Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2021, 276 pp., ISBN 9781501760341” *H-Diplo Roundtable* (Forthcoming).

Work in Progress

- Prevailing over the Future: The Role of Imagination and Ideational Contestation in the Construction of Military Technology. (working paper)
- The Eternal Promise of Missile Defense: Malleability and Ignorance in Unconstrained Technological Pursuits. (working paper)
- Up in Arms: The Influence of Political Parties on Compliance with the Responsible Arms Transfer Norm. (working paper)
- Why Interstate Arms Collaborations Fail: Examining the Triple Dilemmas in the Missile Defense Realm. (in preparation for special issue of *Journal of Strategic Studies*)
- The French Case: Planting the Seeds for Missile Defense. (in preparation for an edited book on the Strategic Defense Initiative for *Cornell University Press*)
- Missile Defense and the Future of Arms Control. (in preparation)
- What’s in a Name? The Many Faces of Nuclear Deterrence. With Daniel Post. (in preparation)
- Deniability and Uncertainty in an Era of Increasing Nuclear Competition. With Lauren Sukin. (in preparation)
- The American Gaze in the Study of International Relations. With Tyler Jost. (in preparation)

Selected Commentary

- “What COVID Can Teach Us About Climate and Nuclear Policies,” with Benoît Pelopidas. *Inkstick Media*, 3 March 2023. [link]
- “What We Get Wrong About Missile Defense and Nuclear Deterrence,” *Global Dispatches*, 22 August 2022. [link]
- “China’s Hypersonic Weapons Tests Don’t Have to Be a Sputnik Moment,” *War on the Rocks*, 29 October 2021. [link]
- “War Isn’t (Quite) the Right Metaphor for COVID-19,” with Sara Plana. *Political Violence at a Glance*, 20 May 2019. [link]
- “Belgians know little about Nuclear Weapons (but do oppose them),” *De Standaard*, 7 August 2018. [link]
- “Time to Really Ban to Bomb,” *Mo**, 14 May 2015. [link]

Invited Talks

- Foreign Policy Speaker Series, Political Science Department, Boston College (scheduled for November 2024)
- Center for Global Governance Studies, KU Leuven (July 2024)
- Seminar, Center for Advanced Studies, Ludwig Maximilian University of Munich (July 2024)
- Seminar on Nuclear Research, Nuclear Threat Initiative (June 2024)
- Security Studies Workshop, Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, George Washington University (April 2024)
- Seminar, Program on Science and Global Security, Princeton University (April 2024)
- Pardee Research Seminar, Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University (March 2024)
- International Security Program Seminar, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University (March 2024)
- Wednesday Seminar Series, Security Studies Program, MIT (February 2024)
- Center for Security Studies Kolloquium, ETH Zurich (November 2022)
- Strategic and Operational Research Department, U.S. Naval War College (October 2022)
- Arms Control Workshop, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (May 2022)
- Center for Global Security Research, Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (April 2022)
- Research Seminar, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford Uni. (March 2022)
- Interdisciplinary Workshop on Environmental Research, Sciences Po (June 2021)
- Arms Control Workshop, Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy (November 2020)
- International Security Program Seminar, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University (October 2020)
- Political Economy Workshop, Joint Forum with Boston University (October 2020)
- Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University (cancelled due to COVID-19)
- Workshop of Nuclear Knowledges, Center for International Studies, Sciences Po (June 2019)
- Foundation Biermans-Lapôte, Paris (May 2019)
- Political Economy of National Security Workshop, Boston University (December 2017)

Workshops and Events

- No one Likes U.S. Missile Defense Policy; What's the Alternative, Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference, Washington D.C. (scheduled for April 2025)
- Ruger Project on Failed Innovation, U.S. Naval War College (October 2024) - Presenter
- America's Election and its Global Impact, Pardee School (September 2024) - Panelist
- CIPI Summer Workshop on Defense Technology Cooperation, U.S. Naval War College (May 2024) - Presenter
- QUB/UML/MWC Workshop on Narrating War, UMass Lowell (May 2024) - Presenter
- Inspection and Inference Conference on Nuclear Arms Control Verification, ETH Zurich (May 2024) - Presenter
- States, Societies, and Security in the 21st Century, West Point (February 2024) - Presenter
- Event on Oppenheimer, International Studies Association, Virtual (September 2023) - Panelist
- Age of Reagan Conference, Reagan Presidential Library (August 2023) - Presenter
- First meeting of the SDI Working Group, Reagan Presidential Library (August 2023) - Participant
- Strategic Defense Initiative in Retrospect, George Washington University (April 2023) - Presenter
- The Cuban Missile Crisis, Paris School of International Affairs, Sciences Po (November 2022) - Presenter
- New Voices Workshop, Bridging the Gap, Washington D.C. (November 2022) - Presenter
- Side Event on Nuclear Education, Carnegie International Nuclear Policy Conference, Virtual (November 2022) - Presenter
- After Ideas Workshop, Brown University (October 2022) - Presenter
- AI and Autonomy Workshop, UC Berkeley and UNIDIR, Berkeley (June 2022) - Participant
- Ruger Project on Failed Innovation, U.S. Naval War College (June 2022) - Presenter

- Emerging Scholars on Emerging Technologies, American University (April 2022) - Presenter
- CISAC Research Visit, Los Alamos National Laboratory (March 2022) - Presenter
- Social Science Reading Group, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University (February 2022) - Presenter
- Nuclear Reading Group, Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University (February 2022) - Presenter
- War Studies Conference, Modern War Institute at West Point, Virtual (November 2021) - Panelist
- Roundtable on Non-Nuclear Strategic Weapons, International Institute for Strategic Studies, Virtual (February 2022) - Participant
- Revisiting Nuclear Ethics, Stanford University (February 2022) - Discussant
- Stanton Nuclear Security Conference, Virtual (October 2021) - Presenter
- Future Strategy Forum, Center for Strategic and International Studies and Kissinger Center, Johns Hopkins University SAIS, Virtual (May 2021) - Panelist
- Future Strategy Forum, Virtual (June 2020) - Participant
- Breaking the Mold 2.0 Workshop at U.S. Naval War College, Newport (October 2018) - Participant

Academic Conferences

- International Studies Association, Chicago (scheduled for March 2025) - Presenter, Panel Chair, and Discussant
- The European Initiative for Security Studies, Prague (June 2024) - Panel Chair and Presenter
- International Studies Association, San Francisco (April 2024) - Presenter and Roundtable Panelist
- Peace Science Society, St. Louis (November 2023) - Presenter and Workshop Participant
- The European Initiative for Security Studies, Barcelona (June 2023) - Presenter
- International Studies Association, Montreal (March 2023) - Presenter and Roundtable Panelist
- American Political Science Association, Montreal (September 2022) - Presenter and Discussant
- International Studies Association, Nashville (March 2022) - Presenter and Discussant
- American Political Science Association, Virtual (September 2021) - Presenter
- International Studies Association, Virtual (April 2021) - Presenter and Discussant
- American Political Science Association, Virtual (September 2020) - Presenter
- New England Political Science Association, Mystic (cancelled due to COVID-19) - Presenter
- International Studies Association, Honolulu (cancelled due to COVID-19) - Presenter
- International Security Studies Section, ISA, Denver (October 2019) - Presenter and Discussant
- International Studies Association North East, Providence (November 2017) - Presenter
- Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago (April 2017) - Presenter and Discussant

Research Assistance

- Professor Linda Cook (Winter 2016-2017)
- Professor Mark Blyth (Winter 2015-2016)
- Professor Leslie Vinjamuri (Spring and Summer 2014)

Additional Training

- International Policy Summer Institute, Bridging the Gap (June 2022)
- New Era Workshop, Bridging the Gap (October 2021)
- IR Theory Colloquium, Cornell-Yale-Notre Dame (September 2020-June 2021)
- Summer Seminar in History and Statecraft, Clements Center (cancelled due to COVID-19)
- Summer Workshop on Analysis of Military Operations and Security (SWAMOS), Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University (July 2018)
- The Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR), Center for Qualitative and Multi-Method Inquiry, Syracuse University (June 2018)
- Prospectus Development Workshop, Tobin Project (June 2017)
- International Summer School on Chinese Politics, Renmin University of China (July 2012)

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS & AWARDS

External

- Kenneth N. Waltz Outstanding Dissertation Award - American Political Science Association (2022)
- Marie Sklodowska-Curie Fellowship, Award Number 101027421 - European Commission (2021)
- Doctoral Dissertation Improvement Grant, Award Number 1849585 - Science, Technology and Society Program, National Science Foundation (2019)
- Harold D. Lasswell Award - Horowitz Foundation for Social Policy (2019)
- Research Fellowship - Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia (2019)
- Prospectus Development Fellowship - The Tobin Project (2017)
- Cabeaux-Jacobs Fellowship - Belgian American Education Foundation (2015)
- Scholarship for Internship at United Nations - Flanders Trainee Programme (2014)
- Young Woman in Public Affairs Award - Zonta Belgium (2008)

Internal

- Pardee Summer Research Grant - Pardee School of Global Studies, Boston University (2024)
- Dissertation Fellowship - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2020-2021)
- Conference Travel Grant - Graduate School, Brown University (2020, 2019, 2017)
- Global Mobility Research Fellowship - Graduate School, Brown University (2019)
- Doctoral Research Travel Fund - Graduate School, Brown University (2019)
- International Travel Fund Award - Graduate School, Brown University (2019, 2016)
- Joukowsky Summer Research Award - Graduate School, Brown University (2019, 2018, 2016)
- Internal Dissertation Fellowship - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2018-2019)
- P. Terrence Hopmann Award for Excellence in Teaching - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2018)
- Research Funding - Social Science Research Institute, Brown University (2018)
- Methods Training Award - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2018)
- Travel Funding - Graduate Student Council, Brown University (2018)
- Teaching Consultant Award - Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University (2018)
- Workshop Mentor Award - Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning, Brown University (2017)
- Five-Year Funding Guarantee - Graduate School, Brown University (2015-2020)

TEACHING

Instructor

- Introduction to Security Studies (Boston University, Fall 2023, Spring 2024, and Spring 2025)
- Nuclear Security (Boston University, Fall 2024)
- Technology & War (Boston University, Spring 2024 and Fall 2024)
- Weapons & War in Europe (Boston University, Spring 2025)
- The Making and Unmaking of Nuclear Policies (Sciences Po, Spring 2023) - Co-Instructor

Teaching Assistant

- The International Law and Politics of Human Rights, Professor Nina Tannenwald (Brown University, Spring 2018) - Head Teaching Assistant
- Introduction to International Relations, Professor Jordan Branch (Brown University, Fall 2017) - Head Teaching Assistant
- Ethnic Politics and Conflict, Professor Linda Cook (Brown University, Spring 2017)
- The Intl. Law and Politics of Human Rights, Professor Nina Tannenwald (Brown Uni., Fall 2016)

Guest Lectures

- Preparing for the Job Market, Boston University (March 2024)
- Missile Defense, Hamburg University (January 2024)
- Emerging Technologies, Brandeis University (November 2023)
- Research Design, Boston University (October 2023)
- Norms & Ideas, London School of Economics and Political Science (February 2022)
- Qualitative Research Methods, Lehigh University (November 2022)
- Hypersonics & Missile Defense, Air Force Academy (May 2022)
- The Politics of Weapons Development, Georgia Institute of Technology (October 2021)
- The Responsibility to Protect, Brown University (November 2019)
- The Plight of the Rohingya, Brown University (April 2017)

Mentoring

- MA Thesis Advisor: Abdulrazaq Altammar (2023-2024)
- BA Thesis Advisor: Austin Petryck (2024-2025)
- Second Reader: Anna Victoria Sasaki (Spring 2016)

Pedagogical Training

- Teaching Consultant Program - Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning (2017-2018)
- Course Design Seminar - Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning (2017)
- Seminar on Reflective Teaching - Harriet W. Sheridan Center for Teaching and Learning (2016)

RELEVANT PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Stockholm International Peace Research Institute *May-June 2016*
Guest Researcher

Flemish Peace Institute *April-June 2015*
Research Intern

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs *July-December 2014*
Political Affairs Intern

Centre for the International Politics of Conflict, Rights and Justice *January-August 2014*
Research Intern

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE & SKILLS

Professional Service

- Founder and Organizer of the Global Security Studies Speaker Series - Pardee School, Boston University (2024-present)
- Board Member - European Initiative for Security Studies (2024-present)
- Member of the BU Hub Council - Boston University (2024-present)
- Member of the Awards Committee - Pardee School, Boston University (2023-present)
- Member of the Academic Affairs Committee - Pardee School, Boston University (2023-present)
- Co-organizer of the Workshop for Emerging Scholars on Emerging Technologies (2021-present)
- Committee Member of 2023 Kenneth N. Waltz Dissertation Award - American Political Science Association (2023)
- Organizer of the Nuclear Knowledges Work-in-Progress Seminar - Center for International Studies, Sciences Po (2022-2023)

- Mentor in the Mentorship Program, Center for International Security and Cooperation (2022)
- Co-convener of Nuclear Reading Group - Center for International Security and Cooperation (2022)
- Co-convener of Speaker Series on International Security from a South Asian Perspective - Saxena Center for Contemporary South Asia, Brown University (2019-2020)
- Coordinator of Graduate Peer Mentorship Program - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2019-2020)
- Graduate Representative - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2018-2019)
- Convener of Graduate Workshop for IR and CP - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2015-2017)
- Co-organizer of Graduate Women in PoliSci Workshop - Department of Political Science, Brown University (2016-2017)

Professional Affiliations

- Board Member - European Initiative for Security Studies (2024-present)
- Member - Strategic Defense Initiative Working Group (2023-Present)
- Affiliate - Center for International Security and Cooperation, Stanford University (2022-Present)
- Member - Bridging the Gap Network (2021-Present)
- Member - Women in Conflict Studies (2020-Present)
- Member - American Political Science Association (2020-Present)
- Member - International Studies Association (2018-Present)
- Visiting Researcher - Center for International Studies, Sciences Po (April-July 2019)
- Visiting Researcher - Department of War Studies, King's College London (January-March 2019)

Reviewer

- International Security, Security Studies, Global Studies Quarterly, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Review of International Studies, International Studies Review, International Interactions, European Journal of International Security, International Affairs, Technology and Culture, Socio-Economic Review, De Guyter Handbooks

Languages

- Dutch (Mother Tongue), English (Fluent), French (Fluent), German (Basic Knowledge)

Skills

- R, Stata, HLM, LaTeX, Microsoft Office

Fieldwork

- Various Locations, United States (Fall 2018, Fall 2019, Spring 2020, and Spring & Summer 2022)
- London, United Kingdom (January-March 2019, February 2023, worked with Professor Susan Martin)
- Paris, France (April-July 2019, April-June 2023, worked with Professor Benoît Pelopidas)
- New Delhi, India (scheduled for Spring 2025)