

# Melinda H. Haas

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🏠 she/her/hers

**Research interests** international relations, international security, foreign policy decision-making, covert action, intelligence, congressional oversight, separation of powers, international law, national security law, constitutional law, qualitative (archival) and mixed-method research

**Appointments** **University of Pittsburgh**, GSPIA Pittsburgh, PA  
Assistant Professor of International Affairs 2021 – present  
Secondary Appointment, Department of Political Science  
Affiliate Scholar, Pitt Cyber: Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security

**Education** **Princeton University** Princeton, NJ  
PhD in Politics 2017 – 2021  
MA in Politics 2015 – 2017  
– Fields: International Relations, Public Law, Empirical Methods & Research Design

**University of Pennsylvania Law School** Philadelphia, PA  
JD, *cum laude* 2008 – 2011

**Bucknell University** Lewisburg, PA  
BA in Mathematics and Political Science, *summa cum laude* 2004 – 2008

**Research** **Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles**

- Melinda Haas, “Origins of Oversight: Covert Action Amendments to the National Security Act of 1947,” *International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence*, Vol. 36, No. 4 (2023), pp. 1297-1318, [doi.org/10.1080/08850607.2022.2119446](https://doi.org/10.1080/08850607.2022.2119446) (published online Sep. 2022)
- Melinda Haas and Keren Yarhi-Milo, “To Disclose or Deceive? Sharing Secret Information between Aligned States,” *International Security*, Vol. 45, No. 3 (Winter 2020/21), pp. 122–161, [doi.org/10.1162/isec.a\\_00402](https://doi.org/10.1162/isec.a_00402)

## Book Chapters

- “Israel’s Mossad and Covert Action: Immigration, Counter-Proliferation, and Assassination,” chapter for volume: *National Approaches to Practicing Unacknowledged Intervention* (Georgetown University Press, forthcoming 2024)
- “U.S. Escalation to Assassination as Revealed in Church Committee Report,” chapter for volume: *Killing in the Name of the State: Perspectives and National Approaches to State-Sponsored Assassinations* (volume under contract with Lynne Rienner Publishers)

## Works in Progress

- **Book Project:** *Secrecy and Oversight: U.S. Law and the Domestic Politics of Covert Action*
- *Let Everybody Know: Public Intelligence Disclosure, Audience Costs, and Credible Threats*, with Ofek Riemer
- *The Agency of the Agency: Intelligence Organizations and Strategic Disclosures*, with Keren Yarhi-Milo
- *A Matter of Proportionality? Customary International Law and Public Support for the Use of Force*

## Book Reviews

- Review of Bradley F. Podliska, *Fire Alarm: The Investigation of the U.S. House Select Committee on Benghazi* (Lexington, 2023), *H-War Review Essay* 2023. <https://www.h-net.org/reviews/showpdf.php?id=59456>
- Review of Beverly Gage, *G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century* (Viking Press, 2022), *H-Diplo—RJISSF Roundtable*, forthcoming
- Review of Allison Carnegie and Austin Carson, *Secrets in Global Governance: Disclosure Dilemmas and the Challenge of International Cooperation*. (Cambridge University Press, 2020), *H-Diplo—RJISSF Roundtable*, forthcoming

## Commentary

- “Studying Covert Action” Panel, Israeli Forum for Intelligence Studies (July 11, 2023), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dYk3LQA5Tjs>
- Quoted in Jeremy Scahill, “Conflicting Reports Thicken Nord Stream Bombing Plot,” *The Intercept* (March 10, 2023), <https://theintercept.com/2023/03/10/nord-stream-pipeline-bombing/>
- “Let’s Talk” Current Events Forum, Women in International Security – Pitt Chapter (October 27, 2022)
- “States Sharing Secrets: To Collude, Compartmentalize, Deceive, or Lie?” *Bunker’s Cable Podcast*, Matthew B. Ridgway Center for International Security Studies, University of Pittsburgh (June 2, 2022), [tinyurl.com/2p8cas4s](https://tinyurl.com/2p8cas4s)
- Participant on GSPIA Faculty Panel on Ukraine (March 2022), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfJRKXUuxEM>

- Michael Poznansky and Mindy Haas, “As US-China Competition Grows, Will Covert Regime Change Make a Return?” *The Diplomat* (June 16, 2020), <https://thediplomat.com/2020/06/as-us-china-competition-grows-will-covert-regime-change-make-a-return/>

## Conferences

American Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2020, 2021, 2022, 2023 <sup>P</sup> , 2024 (forthcoming)
PSU-Pitt IR Conference	2023, 2024
Society for Intelligence History Conference	2023 <sup>cd</sup>
Workshop on Secrecy, Publicity, and the Role of Intelligence in Foreign Policymaking (University of Haifa)	2023 <sup>*</sup>
Conference on State-Sponsored Assassinations in International History, Politics, and Law (Swansea University)	2023 <sup>*</sup>
International Studies Association Annual Meeting	2020 <sup>P†</sup> , 2021 <sup>P</sup> , 2022 <sup>Pd</sup> , 2023 <sup>Pcd</sup>
Constructing and Deconstructing International Law Workshop (Global Human Rights Hub, Arizona State University)	2022
Annual New Faces Conference (Triangle Institute for Security Studies)	2021
Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2020, 2021
Workshop on New Research on Secrecy in IR (Princeton University)	2019
Conference on International Law, Organization, and Politics, (Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania)	2019

**Note on symbols:** \* = conference organizer, *p* = panel organizer,  
*c* = chair, *d* = discussant, † = conference cancelled

## Grants, honors & fellowships

GSPIA Faculty Research Grant Program (\$7,500 for book workshop)	2023
Global Studies Center International Travel Grant (\$1,000)	2023
GSPIA Faculty Research Grant Program (\$6,250 for survey experiment)	2022
Research Travel Grant (Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation)	2020
Kenneth W. Gemmill '32 Fellowship in Politics (Princeton Univ.)	2019 – 2020
Center for International Security Studies Fellow (Princeton Univ.)	2019 – 2020
Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice Graduate Dissertation Research Grant (Princeton University)	2019

## Service

### Reviewer

- Verified reviews available on Web of Science:  
<https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/AHA-5103-2022>
- Journals: *American Political Science Review*, *Security Studies*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Intelligence and National Security*, *International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence*,
- Book reviews: H-War Book Reviews, H-Diplo/Robert Jervis International Security Studies Forum

### Professional service

- Program Committee, Society for Intelligence History Conference 2025
- JSOU Press Editorial Board Member 2024-present
- Workshop on Intelligence Teaching, Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence, University of Central Florida 2023

### Departmental and University service

- Member, GSPIA Academic Integrity Committee 2023 – 2024
- Member, GSPIA PhD Committee 2021 – 2022, 2022 – 2023
- Faculty Editor, Pitt Policy Journal 2023 – present
- Member, Women In International Security (WIIS) - University of Pittsburgh 2021 – present
- Student advising:
  - MPIA Thesis Committee Member, Kathleen Brett 2024
  - MPIA Thesis Chair, Tianshu Hao 2023
  - MPIA Thesis Committee Member, Victoria Hans 2023
  - BPhil Honors Thesis Member, Juliana Geyer 2023
  - Independent Study on U.S. national security law, Jordyn Kamasa Spring 2023
  - SJD Committee Member (Law School), Khalid Alamer 2022 – present
  - PhD Committee Member (GSPIA), Jon Shine 2022 – present

### Teaching

- PIA 2021. International Affairs Spring 2022, Spring 2023
- PIA 2362. Leaders & U.S. Foreign Policy Decision-Making Fall 2023, Fall 2024
- PIA 2470. U.S. Foreign Policy and Law Regulating the Use of Force Fall 2021, Fall 2022
- PIA 2471. Espionage, Surveillance, and Secret Information in International Affairs Spring 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023

### Professional experience

#### United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit

Judge Marjorie O. Rendell Philadelphia, PA  
Law Clerk 2014 – 2015

#### United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania

Judge Mary A. McLaughlin Philadelphia, PA  
Law Clerk 2013 – 2014

#### Duane Morris LLP

Philadelphia, PA  
Associate, Trial Practice Group, Appellate Subgroup Summer 2010, 2011 – 2013

### Skills

Online survey design and programming (Qualtrics, Lucid)  
R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Python (web scraping)

### Memberships

American Political Science Association Society for Intelligence History  
International Studies Association Pennsylvania State Bar (inactive status)