

Melinda H. Haas

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in [melinda-h-haas](#) (697 followers)
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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, SPIA** 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
- 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

Book Chapters

- “U.S. Escalation to Assassination as Revealed in Church Committee Report and in the Global War on Terrorism,” in *Killing in the Name of the State: State-Sponsored Assassination in International Politics* (Lynne Rienner Publishers, December 2025)

- “Israel’s Mossad and Covert Action: Immigration, Counter-Proliferation, and Assassination,” in *Covert Action: National Approaches to Practicing Unacknowledged Intervention* (Georgetown University Press, November 2025)

Works in Progress

- **Book Project:** Taming the Rogue Elephant: Principal-Agent Alignment and Democratic Oversight of Covert Action (*under review with Cambridge Univ. Press*)
- Public Intelligence Disclosure and the Creation of Audience Costs in International Crises, with Ofek Riemer
- Dangerously Provocative: Co-optation and Exploitation of Women’s Groups by U.S. Intelligence Agencies, with Katie Whipkey
- The Agency of the Agency: Intelligence Organizations and Strategies of Influence, with Keren Yarhi-Milo
- A Matter of Proportionality? Customary International Law and Public Support for the Use of Force
- Soldiers of Fortune: Recruitment of Covert Agents in the Church Committee’s Interim Report on Assassination

Book Reviews

- Review of David V. Goe and Michael J. Morell, “Spy and Tell: The Promise and Peril of Disclosing Intelligence for Strategic Advantage,” *Foreign Affairs* 7:4 (2024): 138-152, *H-Diplo—RJISSF Roundtable 17-5*, 2025. <https://issforum.org/roundtables/jervis-forum-roundtable-17-5-on-gioe-and-morell-spy-and-tell>
- *The President’s Kill List: Assassination and US Foreign Policy since 1945* by Luca Trenta, *The RUSI Journal*, 170(1), 80–82 (2025). <https://doi.org/10.1080/03071847.2025.2458939>
- Review of Beverly Gage, *G-Man: J. Edgar Hoover and the Making of the American Century* (Viking Press, 2022), *H-Diplo—RJISSF Roundtable 16-7*, 2024. <https://issforum.org/roundtables/h-diplo-rjissf-roundtable-16-7-on-gage-g-man>
- 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 15-52*, 2024. <https://networks.h-net.org/group/discussions/20038416/h-diplorjissf-roundtable-15-52-carnegie-and-carson-secrets-global>
- 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>

Commentary

- Melinda Haas, “Labeling dissent as terrorism: New US domestic terrorism priorities raise constitutional alarms,” *The Conversation* (December 3, 2025), <https://theconversation.com/labeling-dissent-as-terrorism-new-us-domestic-terrorism-priorities-raise-constitutional-alarms-269161> (<https://doi.org/10.64628/AAI.yj6y6mvwm>)
- Interview with DW News on pager and walkie-talkie explosions in Lebanon (September 18, 2024), <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=krksU6WkFGE&t=195s>
- “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/>
- “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
- 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

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| APSA Annual Meeting | 2020–2022, 2023 ^p , 2024, 2025 ^c , 2026 (forthcoming) |
| ISA Annual Meeting | 2020 ^{p†} , 2021 ^p , 2022 ^{pd} , 2023 ^{pcd} , 2026 |
| APPAM Conference | 2025 [‡] |
| IS-ISSS Annual Conference | 2025 |
| IPSA World Congress | 2025 [‡] |
| Society for Intelligence History Conference | 2023 ^{cd} , 2025 [*] |
| PSU-Pitt IR Conference | 2023, 2024 |
| Workshop on Secrecy, Publicity, and the Role of Intelligence in Foreign Policymaking (University of Haifa) | 2023 [*] |
| Conference on State-Sponsored Assassinations in International History, Politics, and Law (Swansea University) | 2023 [*] |
| Constructing and Deconstructing International Law Workshop (Global Human Rights Hub, Arizona State University) | 2022 |
| Annual New Faces Conference (Triangle Institute for Security Studies) | 2021 |
| MPSA 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, † = cancelled, ‡ = presented by co-author

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| 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*, *World Politics*, *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, Royal United Services Institute

Professional service

- Book workshop participant, Erik Lin-Greenberg and Theo Milonopoulos, “The Transparency Dilemma: International Politics in a World Without Secrets,” Massachusetts Institute of Technology 2025
- Council on Foreign Relations College and University Educators Workshop 2025
- Program Committee, Society for Intelligence History Conference 2025
- Joint Special Operations University 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

- Co-Coordinator, Pitt Global Politics Seminar 2025 – 2026
- Faculty Editor, Pitt Policy Journal 2023 – present
- Member, Women In International Security (WIIS) 2021 – present
- *SPIA committee service:*
 - Member, SPIA Faculty Advisory Committee 2025 – 2026
 - Member, SPIA Bylaws Subcommittee Spring 2025
 - Chair, SPIA Planning and Budgetary Committee 2024 – 2025
 - Member, SPIA Academic Integrity Committee 2023 – 2024
 - Member, SPIA PhD Committee 2021 – 2022, 2022 – 2023

- *Student advising:*
 - PhD Committee Chair (SPIA), Katie Whipkey expected 2027
 - PhD Committee Member (SPIA), Jon Shine 2025
 - SJD Committee Member (Law School), Khalid Alamer 2025
 - MPIA Thesis Committee Member, Kathleen Brett 2024
 - MPIA Thesis Chair, Tianshu Hao (current PhD student, Univ. of Florida) 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

- *Participation in University events:*
 - Participant on SPIA Panel Discussion, Trump’s First 100 Days (April 2, 2025)
 - “Let’s Talk” Current Events Forum, Women in International Security –
Pitt Chapter (October 27, 2022)
 - Participant on GSPIA Faculty Panel on Ukraine (March 2022),
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfJRKXUuxEM>

Teaching

PIA 2021. International Affairs Spring 2022, 2023, 2025, 2026

PIA 2362. Leaders & U.S. Foreign Policy Decision-Making Fall 2023, 2024

PIA 2470. U.S. Foreign Policy and Law Regulating the Use of Force Fall 2021, 2022
Spring 2025

PIA 2471. Espionage, Surveillance, and Secret Information in International Affairs
Fall 2023
Spring 2022, 2023, 2026

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, MTurk, Lucid)
R, L^AT_EX, Python (web scraping)

Memberships

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