

# JASON BLESSING, PH.D.

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## **EDUCATION**

**Ph.D.**, Political Science (Concentrations: International Relations, Public Policy), Syracuse University, Syracuse, NY: 2020;

**M.A.**, Political Science, Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech), Blacksburg, VA: 2013.

**B.A.**, Government, The College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA: 2011.

## **EMPLOYMENT HISTORY**

**Foreign Policy Institute, Johns Hopkins University School of Advanced International Studies (SAIS)**, Washington, D.C.

DAAD Post-Doctoral Fellow, September 2020 – Present. 40 hrs./wk.

- Conduct independent and collaborative policy-relevant research on issues related to transatlantic security.

**United States Institute of Peace**, Washington, D.C.

USIP-Minerva Peace and Security Scholar, September 2019 – August 2020. 40 hrs./wk.

- Predoctoral Fellow jointly funded by the U.S. Dept. of Defense Minerva Initiative and the U.S. Institute of Peace.
- Produced policy-relevant research related to international security and peacebuilding.
- Built oral briefing skills through professional development workshops.

**Syracuse University**, Syracuse, NY.

Graduate Teaching Assistant, August 2015 – August 2019. 20 hrs./wk.

- Contributed to curriculum development, instruction, and performance assessment.
- Managed discussions and debates for class sizes ranging from 25-300 students.
- Enabled the achievement of learning outcomes for students from diverse backgrounds.

**Qualitative Data Repository**, Syracuse, NY.

Graduate Research Assistant, May 2018 – August 2018. 10 hrs./wk.

- Managed, cataloged, and curated primary data provided by clients.
- Redacted PII according to industry standards for human subjects research.
- Supported new initiatives for client outreach and acquisition.

**E\*TRADE Financial Corporation**, Alpharetta, GA.

Fraud Operations Analyst, May 2014 – July 2015. 40+ hrs./wk.

- Identified and resolved financial fraud cases based on technical compromise data and customer behavioral patterns.
- Mitigated risk and losses by providing remediation measures for high-value exposures.
- Gained practical experience with cybersecurity principles and developed financial regulatory expertise.

Financial Services Representative, September 2013 – May 2014. 40+ hrs./wk.

- Provided financial expertise and support for existing and prospective bank and brokerage clients as a Series 7 and Series 63 licensed broker.
- Assisted in the training and transitioning of new hires to the FSR role.
- Refined critical listening and problem-solving skills through proactive client engagement.

**Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State University (Virginia Tech)**, Blacksburg, VA  
Graduate Teaching Assistant, August 2011 – May 2013. 20 hrs./wk.

- Contributed to curriculum development, instruction, and performance assessment.
- Managed discussions and debates for classes of 50 students.
- Facilitated learning outcomes for students from diverse backgrounds.

Instructor of Record, June 2012 – July 2012. 20 hrs./wk.

- Developed curriculum and performance assessment standards for undergraduates.
- Lectured and facilitated critical discussions of course material and current events.
- Adapted course structure to evolving needs of students from diverse backgrounds.

### **CURRENT RESEARCH**

*Securing Cyberspace: Military Innovation and Cyber Force Structure.* Book Manuscript.

“Estonia’s Road to Cyber Command.” Working paper.

“Assessing Cyber Forces, 2000-2018: A Typology for Force Structure.” Working paper.

“An Introduction to the Dataset on Cyber Force Structures (DCFS).” Working Paper.

### **PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATIONS**

Jennings Randolph Peace Scholar Dissertation Program, September 2019 – August 2020.

American Political Science Association, January 2019 – Present.

Carnegie International Policy Scholars Consortium and Network, April 2018 – May 2019.

Future Professoriate Program, May 2018 – August 2019.

Student Association on Terrorism & Security Analysis, August 2015 – August 2020.

Bridging the Gap Working Group (Syracuse University), August 2015 – May 2016.

### **SKILLS AND PROFICIENCIES**

#### **Core competencies**

- Research design, data collection, and data management.
- Quantitative and qualitative data analysis.
- Data mining and complex pattern recognition.
- Teaching and training individuals and groups across multiple professional environments.
- Proficient in: Salesforce; STATA; SPSS; RSA Adaptive Authentication.

#### **Language Proficiencies**

English – Native

Arabic – Basic (5 semesters MSA, 1 semester Iraqi Dialect)

Spanish – Basic (6 semesters)

**Licenses**

Series 99 Securities License, FINRA, obtained September 2014

Series 63 Securities License, NASAA, obtained October 2013

Series 7 Securities License, FINRA, obtained October 2013