

## **Paul C. Avey**

Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech  
531 Major Williams Hall, 220 Stanger St.  
Blacksburg, VA 24061  
Email: pcavey@vt.edu  
Phone: (540) 231-6814

### **ACADEMIC POSITIONS**

---

Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech, August 2021 – present

Affiliated Faculty, School of Public and International Affairs, Virginia Tech, January 2020 – present

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, Virginia Tech, August 2015 – July 2021

### **EDUCATION**

---

Ph.D., University of Notre Dame, Political Science, August 2013

M.A., University of Notre Dame, Political Science, January 2010

M.A., University of Chicago, Social Sciences, June 2006

B.A., University of Iowa, with Distinction, May 2005

Majors: History with Honors, Political Science with Honors

### **RESEARCH**

---

#### **Book**

Paul C. Avey, *Tempting Fate: Why Nonnuclear States Confront Nuclear Opponents* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, November 2019)

Reviewed by *Survival Online* (October 2022), *H-Diplo* (December 2021), *Texas National Security Review* (August 2020), *Choice* (June 2020), and *Perspectives on Politics* (June 2020).

#### **Refereed Journal Articles**

Paul C. Avey, “Just Like Yesterday? New Critiques of the Nuclear Revolution: A Review Essay,” *Texas National Security Review*, Vol. 6, No. 2 (Spring 2023).

Paul C. Avey, Michael C. Desch, Eric Parajon, Susan Peterson, Ryan Powers, and Michael J. Tierney, “Does Social Science Inform Foreign Policy? Evidence from a Survey of U.S. National

Security, Trade, and Development Officials,” *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 66, No. 1 (March 2022).

Paul C. Avey, Michael C. Desch, Ana Petrova, and Steven L. Wilson, “Narrowing the Academic-Policy Divide: Will New Media Bridge the Gap?” *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 136, No. 4 (Winter 2021-22).

Reprinted in: Marylena Mantos and Robert Y. Shapiro, eds., *Current Perspectives on American Politics* (New York: Academy of Political Science, 2022), 235-263

Paul C. Avey, “MAD and Taboo: U.S. Expert Views on Nuclear Deterrence, Coercion, and Non-Use Norms,” *Foreign Policy Analysis*, Vol. 17, No. 2 (April 2021).

Paul C. Avey, Jonathan N. Markowitz, and Robert J. Reardon, “Disentangling Grand Strategy: International Relations Theory and U.S. Grand Strategy,” *Texas National Security Review* Vol. 2, No. 1 (November 2018).

Paul C. Avey, “The Historical Rarity of Foreign-Deployed Nuclear Weapon Crises,” *Security Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 1 (January – March 2018).

Paul C. Avey, Jonathan N. Markowitz, and Robert J. Reardon, “Do U.S. Troop Withdrawals Cause Instability? Evidence from Two Exogenous Shocks on the Korean Peninsula,” *Journal of Global Security Studies*, Vol 3, No. 1 (January 2018).

Paul C. Avey, “Who’s Afraid of the Bomb? The Role of Nuclear Non-Use Norms in Confrontations between Nuclear and Non-Nuclear Opponents,” *Security Studies*, Vol. 24, No. 4 (October – December 2015).

Paul C. Avey and Michael C. Desch, “What Do Policymakers Want from Us? Results from a Survey of Current and Former National Security Decision Makers,” *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol. 58, No. 2 (June 2014).

Paul C. Avey “Confronting Soviet Power: U.S. Policy during the Early Cold War,” *International Security*, Vol. 36, No. 4 (Spring 2012).

### **Book Chapters**

Paul C. Avey, “U.S. Policy on the Road to Berlin: The Role of Ideology and Power” in John M. Schuessler, Adam R. Seipp, and Thomas D. Sullivan, eds., *The Berlin Airlift and the Making of the Cold War* (College Station, TX: Texas A&M University Press, 2022).

Paul C. Avey and Michael C. Desch, “The Bumpy Road to a ‘Science’ of Nuclear Strategy,” in Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, Ryan Powers, and Mike J. Tierney eds., *Bridging the Theory-Practice Divide in International Relations* (Washington, DC: Georgetown University Press, 2020).

### **Works in Progress**

Paul C. Avey, “Alliance Assurance: Reputation, Capability, and Consultation.” Book and article project in progress.

Paul C. Avey, “NATO Hardware Nuclear Sharing: Explaining Success and Failure” Article in progress.

Paul C. Avey, “The Fragility of the Nuclear Peace,” Article in progress.

Paul C. Avey, “Of Professors and Policymakers.” Chapter for *Research Handbook on American Foreign and Security Policymaking*.

### **Commentary and Reports**

Paul C. Avey, Irene Entringer Garcia Blanes, Shauna N. Gillooly, Susan Peterson, Ryan Powers, Andrew Shaver, Michael J. Tierney, “TRIP Policymaker Survey 2022 Report.” January 2023.

Paul C. Avey, “The Biden and Trump National Security Strategies: Continuity, Change, and the Implications for Scholars,” H-Diplo|ISSF, December 2, 2022

Paul C. Avey, “The Present and Future of US-Saudi Relations,” in *Saudi Arabia and the Global Ambitions of the Crown Prince Mohammad bin Salman al Saud* (Tactics Institute for Security & Counter Terrorism, July 2022)

Paul C. Avey, “Implications of Afghanistan May Be Modest,” *The Roanoke Times*, August 21, 2021

Paul C. Avey, “The Icebreaker Gap Doesn’t Mean America is Losing in the Arctic,” *War on the Rocks*, November 28, 2019

Paul C. Avey, “Conflict in Nuclear Monopoly: Then and Now,” Cornell University Press News, November 13, 2019

WUSA9 OffScript (Washington, DC), U.S.-North Korean Nuclear Summit, June 11, 2018

WFIR Radio, U.S.-North Korea Nuclear Crisis, September 21, 2017

Paul C. Avey, “How We Should Deal with North Korea,” *The Roanoke Times*, August 23, 2017

WDBJ7 CBS, U.S.-North Korea Nuclear Crisis, August 11, 2017

WLNI Radio, National Security Adviser Michael Flynn Resignation, February 16, 2017

Augusta Free Press, National Security Adviser Michael Flynn Resignation, February 16, 2017

Paul C. Avey, "What's New About Trump's Finger on the Nuclear Button?" *War on the Rocks*, April 4, 2016

Paul C. Avey, "Political Science and Policy: It Ain't Just Academic," *War on the Rocks*, September 29, 2014

Paul C. Avey and Michael C. Desch, "But If You Try Sometime, You (Might) Get (Some of) What You Need: A Response to Goldgeier, Weaver, and Peterson," *International Studies Quarterly* online forum, August 28, 2014

Paul C. Avey and Michael C. Desch, "Policymakers Follow Pertinent Academic Research," USApp blog, American Politics and Policy at the London School of Economics and Politics, <http://bit.ly/1nTnYI5>, March 14, 2014

Paul C. Avey, "Cold War Fear is Unfounded," *The Des Moines Register*, March 6, 2014

Paul C. Avey and Michael C. Desch, "What do Policymakers Want from Academics?" *The Monkey Cage*, September 25, 2013

Paul C. Avey, Michael C. Desch, James D. Long, Daniel Maliniak, Susan Peterson, and Michael J. Tierney, "The Ivory Tower," *Foreign Policy*, No. 191 (Jan/Feb 2012)

## **Reviews**

"*Agonies of Empire: American Power from Clinton to Biden*, by Michael Cox," H-Diplo|ISSF Review (December 2024)

"*Grand Strategies of the Left: The Foreign Policy of Progressive Worldmaking*, by Van Jackson," *Political Science Quarterly*, Online First (2024)

"*Grand Strategy from Truman to Trump*, by Benjamin Miller with Ziv Rubinovitz," H-Diplo|ISSF Review (May 2022)

"*To Kill Nations: American Strategy in the Air-Atomic Age and the Rise of Mutually Assured Destruction*, by Edward Kaplan," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 131, No. 3 (Fall 2016)

"The Korea Syndrome: An Examination of War-Weariness Theory, by Bradford Ian Stapleton," H-Diplo|ISSF Review, (April 2016)

"*No Use: Nuclear Weapons and U.S. National Security*, by Thomas M. Nichols," H-Diplo|ISSF Review (October 2014)

"Two Concepts of Liberty: U.S. Cold War Grand Strategies and the Liberal Tradition, by Brendan Rittenhouse Green," H-Diplo|ISSF Review (April 2013)

## **Fellowships, Grants, and Awards**

Charles Koch Foundation, The Future of America's Alliances Research Grant, 2022

Virginia Tech, carryover grant for "Integrating Safety, Security, and Safeguards in Nuclear Science and Policy," with Patrick Roberts and Sonja D. Schmid, 2019-2020

United States Department of Defense, Office of the Secretary of Defense Medal for Exceptional Public Service, July 2020

Council on Foreign Relations, International Affairs Fellowship based at the United States Department of Defense (Office of the Under Secretary of Defense for Policy), 2018-2019

Stanton Foundation, Course Development Grant, 2016

Virginia Tech, Mentoring Project for New Faculty Members, 2016

Carnegie Corporation of New York, renewal grant for "Beyond the Cult of the Irrelevant," with Michael C. Desch and Peter Campbell, 2015-2017

Postdoctoral Teaching Fellow, John G. Tower Center for Political Studies, Southern Methodist University, August 2014 – July 2015

Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, August 2013 – June 2014

Managing the Atom/International Security Program, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Pre-doctoral Research Fellow, 2012-2013

### **Recent Conference Presentations**

"Reputation, Capabilities, and Alliance Politics"

2024 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA

2024 Annual Meeting of the British International Studies Association, Birmingham, United Kingdom

2023 Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Montreal, Canada

"Fragility of the Nuclear Peace"

2022 Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Nashville, TN

2020 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, San Juan, PR

2019 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC

"Alliance Costs of Foreign Nuclear Deployments"

2022 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Montreal, Canada

2021 Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Virtual Conference

“MAD and Taboo: Elite Views of Nuclear Weapons”

2020 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, San Juan, PR

2018 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Boston, MA

“Conflict in Nuclear Monopoly and the Evolving Nuclear Taboo”

2017 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA

2017 Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Baltimore, MD

“Narrowing the Academic-Policy Gap: Evidence on the Role of Blogging” with Michael C. Desch and Steven Wilson

2017 Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Baltimore, MD

“The Strategic Costs of Foreign-Deployed Nuclear Weapons” (various titles)

2016 Annual Meeting of the ISAC-ISSS, Notre Dame, IN

2016 Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA

2016 Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, San Juan, PR

2015 Annual Meeting of the ISAC-ISSS, Springfield, MA

“Effects of Forward Troop Deployments on Regional Stability” with Jonathan N. Markowitz and Robert J. Reardon

2016 Annual Meeting of the ISAC-ISSS, Notre Dame, IN

“Disentangling Grand Strategy” (various titles) with Jonathan N. Markowitz and Robert J. Reardon

2016 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, Philadelphia, PA

2016 Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA

2015 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA

“Tempting Fate: Conflict in Nuclear Monopoly”

2015 Annual Meeting of the American Political Science Association, San Francisco, CA

2015 Nuclear Studies Research Initiative Conference, Warrenton, VA

### **Invited Presentations and Roundtables**

“The Future of Transatlantic Relations: Nuclear Sharing,” panel member at The Future of the Transatlantic Relationship under the Incoming US Administration, Washington, DC, December 4, 2024

“Thank You for Being a Friend: The Primacy of Capabilities and Consultation over Reputation in Alliance Politics,” paper presentation at the Political Violence Lab and Teaching, Research, and International Politics Workshop on Surveys of International Policy Elites, San Francisco, CA, April 2, 2024

“Saudi Arabia and the Global Ambitions of the Crown Prince Mohammad Bin Salman,” panel presentation with Aaron Brantly, Robert Hodges, Bettina Koch, and Yannis Stivachtis, sponsored by the Center for European Union, Transatlantic, and Trans-European Space Studies

at VT, the Washington Institute for Defense and Security, and the Tactics Institute for Security & Counter Terrorism of London, United Kingdom, April 19, 2022.

“The Quad Alliance,” Great Decisions Workshop sponsored by the Lifelong Learning Institute at VT and the League of Women Voter’s of Montgomery County, March 2, 2022

“The Fragility of the Nuclear Peace,” paper presentation at the ISCS Security Policy Workshop Series, The George Washington University, November 29, 2021

“The Korean Peninsula,” Great Decisions Workshop sponsored by the Lifelong Learning Institute at VT and the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, March 17, 2021

“The Fragility of the Nuclear Peace,” paper presentation at the Lansing Lee/Bankard Seminar in Global Politics, University of Virginia, February 1, 2021

2020 International Affairs Fellowship Conference, Council on Foreign Relations. Presented on panel Scheduled to present on panel “The Future of U.S. Middle East Policy,” October 14, 2020

“Iran and the U.S. in the Age of Trump,” panel presentation with Merzad Boroujerdi, Bettina Koch, Djavad Salehi-Isfahani, organized by the Virginia Tech Middle East Working Group, February 5, 2020

“The Beltway and the Ivory Tower: Bridging the Gap,” panel presentation with Peter Campbell, Michael C. Desch, and Susan Peterson, New America, Washington, D.C. June 26, 2018

“U.S. Global Engagement and the Military,” Great Decisions Workshop sponsored by the Lifelong Learning Institute at VT and the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, March 7, 2018

“The Strategic Costs of Foreign-Deployed Nuclear Weapons,” North Carolina State University, Visiting Young Scholars Program, April 11-12, 2017

“Nuclear Security,” Great Decisions Workshop sponsored by the Lifelong Learning Institute at VT and the League of Women Voters of Montgomery County, March 8, 2017

“Tempting Fate: Conflict in Nuclear Monopoly,” University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA, May 2-3, 2016. Presented a working paper as part of workshop The Nuclear Taboo Revisited

“Iran Nuclear Deal: Physics, Politics, and Diplomacy,” with Patrick Huber, Bettina Koch, Djavad Salehi-Isfahani, organized by the Virginia Tech Middle East Working Group, September 15, 2015

“Competing Visions of Grand Strategy and the Consequences for Nuclear Proliferation,” paper presentation with Jonathan N. Markowitz and Robert J. Reardon, International Security Program, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, March 12, 2015

“Why the Wizards of Armageddon Hit An Intellectual Dead-end,” workshop and presentation with Michael C. Desch, College of William and Mary, Williamsburg, VA, January 14-15, 2015

“Tempting Fate: Escalation, Red-Lines, and Conflict in Nuclear Primacy,” Notre Dame International Security Center, April 9, 2014

### **Professional Development and Engagement**

Member, Mid-Career Cadre, Project on Nuclear Issues, Center for Strategic and International Studies, 2020-2023

Bridging the Gap International Policy Summer Institute in Washington, D.C., June 2018

Summer Workshop on Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy, Ithaca, NY, June 2016

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research, Summer Program in Quantitative Methods of Social Research, Ann Arbor, MI, June-July 2011

### **TEACHING**

---

#### **Instructor**

Virginia Tech

- Introduction to World Politics
- National Security (undergraduate)
- National Security (graduate)
- National Security Policies
- Nuclear Strategy and Politics
- Security Studies: Theories and Concepts
- Seminar in Diplomacy and Security
- Strategies of Modern Warfare

Southern Methodist University

- Introduction to International Relations

#### **Workshops and Courses Taken**

Ally: Course Accessibility Checker, Virginia Tech Technology-Enhanced Learning and Online Strategies, August 2024

Universal Design for Learning, Virginia Tech Technology-Enhanced Learning and Online Strategies, July 2024

Anti-Racist Teaching, Virginia Tech Technology-Enhanced Learning and Online Strategies, July 2024



Digital Learning Essentials, Virginia Tech Technology-Enhanced Learning and Online Strategies, May 2024

Inclusive Pedagogy: How Student Identities Matter, Virginia Tech Professional Development Network, Spring 2020

Making It Real: Simulations and Learning, Virginia Tech Professional Development Network, Dec. 2019

Philip Merrill Center Teachers' Workshop, Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies at the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, Basin Harbor Club, Lake Champlain, VT, June 1-5, 2015

## **SERVICE**

---

### **Reviewer**

Columbia University Press, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, U.S. Department of Defense Minerva Grant; *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *International Security*, *International Studies Perspectives*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *International Studies Review*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *Journal of Strategic Studies*, *The Nonproliferation Review*, *Political Research Quarterly*, *PONI Nuclear Scholars Initiative*, *The RUSI Journal*, and *Security Studies*

### **Virginia Tech**

Department of Political Science Representative to the Faculty Senate, 2020-present; Faculty Senate Representative to the Transportation and Parking Committee, 2021-2024; PhD Strategy Group, 2024-present; Middle East and North Africa Faculty Position Search Committee, Member, 2019-2020; Commencement Committee, Member, 2019-2020; Awards Committee, Member, 2015-2017, 2019-present; Security Governance Faculty Position Search Committee, Member, 2016-2017; Executive Committee, Member, 2016-2017, 2023-2025; Curriculum Committee, Member, 2015-2017