

# Chelsea Thorpe

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## EDUCATION

<b>University of Cambridge</b> , Cambridge, England	<b>Expected Oct 2026</b>
Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Politics and International Studies	
<b>Institut d'Études Politiques de Paris (Sciences Po)</b> , Paris, France	<b>Jun 2020</b>
Master's in International Security	
Emile Boutmy Scholar	
<b>University of Georgia (UGA)</b> , Athens, GA	<b>May 2018</b>
Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice, Bachelor of Arts in Economics	
<i>summa cum laude</i> with Honors, Phi Beta Kappa	

## PUBLICATIONS

- Thorpe, Chelsea. (2026). "Marginalisation into Militancy: Rethinking Radicalisation through Filipino Vigilantism." In *The Routledge International Handbook on Radicalisation and Social Exclusion*, edited by T. Abbas, L. Vostermans, and R. McNeill-Wilson, Abingdon, UK: Routledge. *Forthcoming*.
- Thorpe, Chelsea and David Winston. (2026). "Pandemic Pressure: COVID-19 and Far-Right Violence in Germany." In *The Routledge International Handbook on Radicalisation and Social Exclusion*, edited by T. Abbas, L. Vostermans, and R. McNeill-Wilson, Abingdon, UK: Routledge. *Forthcoming*.
- Turchin, Peter, Daniel Hoyer, Andrey Korotayev, Nikolay Kradin, Sergey Nefedov, Gary Feinman, Jill Levine et al. "Rise of the war machines: Charting the evolution of military technologies from the Neolithic to the Industrial Revolution." *PloS one* 16, no. 10 (2021): e0258161.
- Turchin, Peter, Daniel Hoyer, James Bennett, Kiran Basava, Enrico Cioni, Kevin Feeney, Pieter Francois et al. "The Equinox2020 Seshat Data Release." *Cliodynamics* 11, no. 1 (2020).
- Combating Terrorism Working Group. (2020). *Counter-Terrorism Reference Curriculum*. Brussels, Belgium: North Atlantic Treaty Organization. [https://www.nato.int/nato\\_static\\_fl2014/assets/pdf/2020/6/pdf/200612-DEEP-CTRC.pdf](https://www.nato.int/nato_static_fl2014/assets/pdf/2020/6/pdf/200612-DEEP-CTRC.pdf)
- Thorpe, Chelsea. (2019). "Violence Against Women: Beyond Multilateral Virtue Signaling." *Council on Foreign Relations*, 1-6. <https://www.cfr.org/blog/violence-against-women-beyond-multilateral-virtue-signaling>

## MODELS & DATASETS

<b>JADC2 Kill Chain Scheduling Optimization Model</b>	<b>Jan 2023-Aug 2023</b>
<i>Operations Research Analyst at Booz Allen Hamilton</i> – Finds optimal platform to target/phase allocation and schedule to minimize total time to close kill chains vs. all targets for the DoD's Joint All-Domain Command and Control.	
<b>U.S. Air Force Synthetic Theater Operations Research Model (STORM)</b>	<b>Jan 2022-Aug 2023</b>
<i>Operations Research Analyst at Booz Allen Hamilton</i> – A stochastic model that serves as USAF's premier campaign analysis tool. We provide analysis of campaign-level contributions of air, space, sea, land and cyberspace forces.	
<b>Seshat: Global History Databank</b>	<b>Apr 2019-Sep 2020</b>
<i>Research Assistant at University of Oxford</i> – Seshat systematically collects what is currently known about the social and political organization of human societies and how civilizations have evolved over time. We built the database to test different hypotheses about the rise and fall of large-scale societies across the globe and human history.	

## INDEPENDENT RESEARCH

<b>"Plata por Plomo: Colombian Mercenaries in the Market for Force"</b>	<b>Oct 2023-present</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Conduct over 150 semi-structured interviews and focus groups with military personnel, police officers, demobilized insurgents, and civilians about the trade of direct combat in Colombia for PhD dissertation.</li><li>Write over 80,000 words to analyze collected data from fieldwork, archives, and demobilization records to review the effects of U.S.-Colombia security cooperation efforts on the availability of professional soldiers from Colombia.</li></ul>	
<b>"Political Ritual Violence of Anti-Communist Vigilantism: Philippines, 1965-1989"</b>	<b>Jan 2019-Mar 2020</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Pursued an archival study that explored how anti-communist vigilantism manifested in politically clientelist relationships between warlords and militants in the Philippines within a Cold War framework.</li><li>Synthesized messianic texts and religious manifestos with U.S. intelligence and military documents to evaluate armed group behavior in response to emerging Cold War ideologies.</li></ul>	
<b>"How Does Resource Availability Affect Non-State Armed Group Recruitment?"</b>	<b>Jun 2016-Apr 2017</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Performed a mixed methods study that analyzed how geographical location, political regime structure, and technological availability affect the expansion of non-state armed groups.</li><li>Designed a negative backwards regression to evaluate armed group behavior based on a set of independent variables, extracting and cleaning data from the World Bank, UN, Polity IV, and BAAD for final analysis.</li></ul>	
<b>"Moral Injury and the Display of Religion in the French Satirical Press"</b>	<b>Aug 2015-Apr 2017</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Analyzed a qualitative series of caricatures published in the <i>Charlie Hebdo</i> satirical magazine and timely media releases from other European press outlets to question the presence of moral injury to the French Muslim community.</li><li>Presented research at two research symposiums sponsored by the University of Georgia in 2016 and 2017.</li></ul>	

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## RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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**University of Cambridge**, Cambridge, England

Oct 2023-present

*Doctoral Candidate*

- Design and conduct a 3-year independent research project on the effects of U.S. military assistance on the supply of professional soldiers in the market for force, or an economy in which direct armed combat is traded.
- Coordinate book reviews as Features Editor for the Cambridge Review of International Affairs (CRIA) journal.
- Teach two undergraduate courses on international security and introduction to global politics at the University.

**RAND Corporation**, Santa Monica, CA

May-Sep 2025

*Adjunct Researcher*

- Collaborated in a team of three to design and write wargames to predict the risk of emerging technologies in deterring nuclear attacks on U.S. assets.
- Conducted a series of focus groups with STRATCOM officials to assess the likelihood of an attack occurring based on designed wargames.

**Universidad del Rosario**, Bogotá, Colombia

Sep 2024-Apr 2025

*Fulbright Researcher*

- Led a team of three to conduct interviews and focus groups for doctoral dissertation, specifically on veteran benefits, opportunities in the private military sector, and transferable skills developed during the civil conflict.
- Organize travel to rural locations to collect data and share results with academic community in Colombia.

**Booz Allen Hamilton**, Washington, DC

Oct 2020-2023

*Operations Research Lead*

Jan 2022-Oct 2023

- Led teams to conduct evidence-based research of foreign policy, concerning Chinese investments in Africa and U.S. interagency funding for international chemical, biological, radiological, & nuclear (CBRN) events.
- Developed tools for automated pre- and post-processing of wargame models for Strategic Portfolio Reviews – U.S. Secretary of Defense approved studies on selected topics addressed during a program/budget review cycle.
- Performed stakeholder interviews with subject-matter experts in national defense and international development and developed accompanying interview protocol and methodology.
- Created wargames and tabletop exercises for defense clients, regarding U.S. military and civilian behavioral response to CBRN events in international arenas.

*Wargaming Research Analyst*

Oct 2020-Dec 2021

- Facilitated wargame design workshops with clients, global leaders and academics in biological sample analyses.
- Built expertise in how political/policy process regarding CBRN events affect army combatant behavior and how militaries can quickly adapt to worsened operational environments to complete their original missions.

**University of Oxford**, Oxford, UK (remote)

Apr 2019-Sep 2020

*Research Assistant, Supervisors: Peter Turchin, Dan Hoyer*

- Supported the operational architecture development of *Sesbat: Global History Databank*, a multidisciplinary dataset that analyzes the evolution of conflict in relation to human society.
- Identified and developed technological variables that influenced warfighting capabilities.
- Wrangled and cleaned qualitative data to prepare for predictive forecasting and time-series analyses.
- Collaborated with a team of 6 to design and create regional political units to help evaluate trends in technological warfare based on varying environmental conditions.

**Council on Foreign Relations**, Washington, D.C.

Sep-Dec 2019

*Research Intern, Supervisor: Stewart Patrick*

- Conducted qualitative research for a chapter book evaluating multilateral policies and strategies to counter shared threats, e.g., conflict, global warming, and infectious diseases.
- Designed a research chapter to posit solutions to changing patterns in decentralized violence.

**S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies**, Singapore (partly remote)

Apr-Sep 2017

*Research Analyst, Supervisor: Rohan Gunaratna*

- Collected data on the growth of the Islamic State (Daesh) into South Asia for senior and local government officials.
- Edited three white papers that presented qualitative findings of de-radicalization and prison rehabilitation efforts in Singapore and the United States.

**U.S. Army War College**, Carlisle, PA (partly remote)

May-Aug 2017

*Research Intern, Supervisor: Chris Bolan*

- Collected qualitative data on changing U.S. foreign policies in the Arab Gulf after the Iran nuclear deal.
- Helped write a Strategic Studies Institute (SSI) monograph that analyzed hedging as an alternative for U.S. grand strategy.

## LANGUAGE, SKILLS, & HOBBIES

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- **Languages:** French, Spanish (Full Professional Working Proficiency)
- **Skills:** R, Tableau, and Microsoft Office (Full Professional Working Proficiency), ArcGIS (Professional Working Proficiency), Python and GAMs (Limited Working Proficiency)
- **Hobbies:** Running club, pottery, recreational volleyball and tennis, community service