

# Melinda H. Haas

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**Research interests** international relations, international security, foreign policy decision-making, covert action, intelligence, international law, national security law, constitutional law, qualitative and mixed-method research

**Appointments** **University of Pittsburgh, GSPIA** Pittsburgh, PA  
Assistant Professor of International Affairs 2021 – present  
Secondary Appointment, Department of Political Science Fall 2022 – present  
Affiliate Scholar, Pitt Cyber: Institute for Cyber Law, Policy, and Security  
Fall 2021 – present

**Education** **Princeton University** Princeton, NJ  
PhD in Politics 2017 – 2021  
MA in Politics 2015 – 2017  
Committee: Keren Yarhi-Milo (chair), Gary Bass, Aaron Friedberg  
Dissertation: Secrecy and Oversight: U.S. Law and the Domestic Politics of Covert Action

**University of Pennsylvania Law School** Philadelphia, PA  
JD, *cum laude* 2008 – 2011  
Executive Editor and Print Contact, *University of Pennsylvania Law Review*

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

**Research Publications**

- Melinda Haas, “Origins of Oversight: Covert Action Amendments to the National Security Act of 1947,” *International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence* (2022), [doi.org/10.1080/08850607.2022.2119446](https://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](https://doi.org/10.1162/isec_a.00402)
- Paul M. da Costa and Melinda Harris, “Has Expert Adequately Accounted for Obvious Alternative Explanations?,” in *The Daubert Compendium* 301 (Def. Research Inst. 2011)

## Works in Progress

- Israel's Mossad and Covert Action: Immigration, Counter-Proliferation, and Assassination, chapter for volume on National Approaches to Covert Action (*under review*)
- **Book Project:** Secrecy and Oversight: U.S. Law and the Domestic Politics of Covert Action. Includes empirical chapter: "No Instructions or Green Light? US and Iranian Arms in the Yugoslavian Civil War"
- A Rogue Elephant: Credibility and Strategic Disclosures by the Intelligence Community, with Keren Yarhi-Milo
- Let Everybody Know: Public Intelligence Disclosure, Audience Costs, and Credible Threats, with Ofek Riemer
- A Matter of Proportionality? Customary International Law and Public Support for the Use of Force
- Assassination, Covert Norm Violation, and Customary International Law

## Commentary

- "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://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZfJRKXUuxEM)
- 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* (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
<i>panel organizer</i>	upcoming September 2023
North American Society for Intelligence History Annual Conference	
<i>panel chair</i>	upcoming July 2023
Conference on State-Sponsored Assassinations in International History, Politics, and Law (Swansea University), <i>co-conference organizer</i>	upcoming May 2023
International Studies Association Annual Meeting	2020, 2021, 2022
<i>panel chair, volunteer discussant, panel organizer</i>	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
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
Grants, honors & fellowships	UCIS Global Studies Center International Travel Grant (\$1,000)	2023
	GSPIA Faculty Research Grant Program (\$6,250)	2023
	Research Travel Grant (Gerald R. Ford Presidential Foundation)	2020
	Kenneth W. Gemmill '32 Fellowship in Politics (Princeton University)	2019 – 2020
	Center for International Security Studies Fellow (Princeton University)	2019 – 2020
	Mamdouha S. Bobst Center for Peace and Justice Graduate Dissertation Research Grant (Princeton University)	2019
Professional experience	<b>United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit,</b> Judge Marjorie O. Rendell Law Clerk	Philadelphia, PA 2014 – 2015
	<b>United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania,</b> Judge Mary A. McLaughlin Law Clerk	Philadelphia, PA 2013 – 2014
	<b>Duane Morris LLP,</b> Trial Practice Group Associate	Philadelphia, PA Summer 2010, 2011 – 2013
Service	<b>Professional service</b> – Reviewer: <i>Security Studies, Journal of Conflict Resolution, International Studies Quarterly, Intelligence and National Security, International Journal of Intelligence and CounterIntelligence</i> Verified reviews available on Web of Science: <a href="https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/AHA-5103-2022">https://www.webofscience.com/wos/author/record/AHA-5103-2022</a>	
	– Silent Game Book Club, North American Society for Intelligence History, featured in <b>NASIH Winter 2022, Issue No. 6 Newsletter</b>	2021 – present
	– Center for International Security Studies, Princeton University, Coordinator of Security Studies Colloquium	2018 – 2021
	<b>Departmental and university service</b> – Member, GSPIA PhD Committee	2021 – 2022, 2022 – 2023
	– Faculty Editor, Pitt Policy Journal – Member, Women In International Security (WIIS) - University of Pittsburgh	2023 – present 2021 – present
– Student advising: MPIA Thesis Chair, Tianshu Hao MPIA Thesis Committee Member, Victoria Hans BPhil Honors Thesis Member, Juliana Geyer	2023 2023 2023	

**Teaching**

PIA 2021. International Affairs Spring 2022, Spring 2023  
PIA 2362. Leaders & U.S. Foreign Policy Decision-Making Fall 2023  
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

**Skills**

Online survey design and programming (Qualtrics)  
R, Python (web scraping)

**Memberships**

Pennsylvania State Bar (since 2011, currently inactive)  
American Political Science Association  
International Studies Association  
North American Society for Intelligence History