TEXAS STATE VITA

I. Academic/Professional Background

A. Name: Ionut C. Popescu Title: Assistant Professor

B. Educational Background

Degree	*Year*	*University*	*Major*	*Thesis/Dissertation*
Ph.D.	2013	Duke University	Political Science	*Design and Emergence in the Making of American Grand Strategy*
B.A.	2007	Occidental College	Diplomacy and World Affairs	

C. University Experience

Associate Professor, Political Science	Texas State University	2023 -present
Assistant Professor, Political Science	Texas State University	2017-2023
Postdoctoral Fellow and Lecturer Clements Center for National Security and the Department of Government	The University of Texas, Austin	2016 - 2017
Visiting Researcher	Old Dominion University Research Foundation	2015 - 2016
Assistant Professor, School of Government	Regent University	2013-2015

D. Relevant Professional Experience

Naval Intelligence Officer U.S. Navy 2018-present
-Active Duty: US Special Operations Command – Ft. Liberty, NC (2023-2024)
-Reserve: CENTCOM J2 SAT, San Antonio, TX (2018-present)

E. Other Professional Credentials (licensure, certification, etc.)

II. TEACHING

A. Teaching Honors and Awards:

Faculty of the Year, Center for International Studies, 2022-2023
Teaching Award of Honor (Spring 2020), Texas State Alumni Association
Foundations of Excellence Award (2019), Student Foundation, Texas State University

B. Courses Taught:

POSI 3322 Introduction to International Studies, Fall 2017, Summer 2018, Spring 2020, Fall 2020
POSI 4367 International Conflict and Security, Fall 2017, Spring 2018, Spring 2020
POSI 4326 Issues in World Politics, Spring 2018
PS 3351 Introduction to International Studies, Fall 2018, Spring 2019, Fall 2019, Spring 2021, Fall 2021, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023
PS 4350 Homeland Security and National Affairs, Fall 2019
PS 4351 International Conflict & Security, Fall 2018, Spring 2021
PS 4355 US National Security Strategy, Fall 2020, Fall 2021
PS 4399: Senior Seminar in Political Science, Spring 2022, Fall 2022, Spring 2023, Fall 2023
IS 4380: Seminar in International Studies, Fall 2022
PS 5332 Problems in American Foreign Relations, Spring 2019, Spring 2020, Spring 2022
PS 5371: American Grand Strategy Spring 2021
PS 5398 Directed Readings, Fall 2019, Fall 2021, Summer 2022, Fall 2022

C. Directed Student Learning (i.e. theses, dissertations, exit committees, etc.):

Honors Thesis Supervisor for John Espinosa – "Evaporating Security: An Analysis of Water and Security in the Era of Climate Change" (Fall 2018)

Honors Thesis Supervisor for Alexia Malcom – "The United States' Next Move in the China-Taiwan Conflict: The Argument for a Conditional Commitment" (Fall 2022)

M.A. Exit/Examination Committees: Bharat Phuyal, Eric Hume, Kamela Syed, Damilola Asaye (2019), Elijah Miller (chair), Matt Douglas (chair), Kaleb Kelly, John Flores, Rex Wyatt (2021), Malec Jebr, Montana McMahon, and Jackson Wolek (2022), Sierra Blight and Jeron Barett (2023)

D. Courses Prepared and Curriculum Development:

PS 4355: US National Security Strategy
PS 5371: American Grand Strategy

E. Teaching Grants and Contracts

1. Funded External Teaching Grants and Contracts:

2. Submitted, but not Funded, External Teaching Grants and Contracts:

3. Funded Internal Teaching Grants and Contracts:

4. Submitted, but not Funded, Internal Teaching Grants and Contracts:

F. Other:

G. Teaching Professional Development Activities Attended

Quality Metrics "Designing Your Online Course" (December 6-20, 2018)

SAIS – Philip Merrill Center for Strategic Studies Annual Teachers' Workshop (June 2014)

III. SCHOLARLY/CREATIVE

A. Works in Print (including works accepted, forthcoming, in press):

1. Books:

a. Scholarly Monographs:

No Peer Rivals: American Grand Strategy in the Age of Great Power Competition, University of Michigan Press, in press, forthcoming 2025.

Emergent Strategy and Grand Strategy: How American Presidents Succeed in Foreign Policy, Baltimore, MD: Johns Hopkins University Press, 2017.

- Reviewed in: *Political Science Quarterly, Perspectives on Politics, International Studies Review, Strategic Studies Quarterly, Journal of American Studies, Survival, Choice, Passport, Claremont Review of Books, H-Net*

b. Textbooks:

c. Edited Books:

d. Chapters in Books:

"The Intellectual Roots of Reagan's Foreign Policy," in Eric Patterson and Jeffry Morrison, eds. *The Reagan Manifesto: "A Time for Choosing" and Its Influence*, New York: Palgrave Macmillan, 2016.

"Is It Time for Retrenchment? The Big Debate on American Grand Strategy," in Peter Feaver, ed. *Strategic Retrenchment and Renewal in the American Experience*, Carlisle, PA: Army War College Strategic Studies Institute, 2014.

e. Creative Books:

2. Articles:

a. Refereed Journal Articles:

"Great Power Competition, Offensive Realism, and The New Debates on US Grand Strategy," *Comparative Strategy,* Issue 44, No.1, January 2025 (in press)

"Adapting the US Defense Strategy to Great Power Competition," *Parameters*, in press, forthcoming 2025.

"American Grand Strategy and the Rise of Offensive Realism," *Political Science Quarterly*, Vol. 134, No. 3, 2019.

"Pragmatism and Practicality: Rethinking U.S. Civil-Military Relations Models for a Turbulent Era," *Armed Forces & Society,* Vol 45, No.1, 2019.

"Grand Strategy vs. Emergent Strategy in The Conduct of Foreign Policy," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 41, No.3, 2018.

"Conservative Internationalism and the Trump Administration?" *Orbis*, Vol. 62, No. 1, Winter 2018.

"Strategic Uncertainty, the Third Offset, and US Grand Strategy," *Parameters*, Vol. 46, No. 4 Winter 2016-17.

"Strategic Theory and Practice: A Critical Analysis of the Planning Process for the Long War on Terror," *Contemporary Security Policy*, Vol.30, No.1, April 2009.

b. Non-refereed Articles:

"The Disputed Importance of Process in the Making of American Grand Strategy: A Review Essay," *Orbis*, Vol.54, No.4, Fall 2010.

"The Last Quadrennial Defense Review? What the Pentagon Should Learn from Corporations about Strategic Planning," *Armed Forces Journal*, March 2010.

"Bridging the Strategy-Resources Gap: Defense Planning in a Time of Crisis," *Joint Force Quarterly*, No.53, 2nd Quarter, April 2009.

3. Conference Proceedings:

a. Refereed Conference Proceedings:

b. Non-refereed:

"War and Military Operations in the 21st Century: Implications for Civil-Military

Relations", conference report, Triangle Institute for Security Studies, April 2010.

"American Grand Strategy After War" (with Dallas D. Owens), Strategic Studies Institute Colloquium Brief, Carlisle, PA: U.S. Army War College, May 2009.

4. Abstracts:

5. Reports:

6. Book Reviews:

"The Pursuit of Dominance: 2000 Years of Superpower Grand Strategy by Christopher J. Fettweis." *Political Science Quarterly,* Volume 139, Issue 1, Spring 2024

"Essay by Ionut Popescu on Benjamin Miller, *Grand Strategy from Truman to Trump*," *H-Diplo/ISSF Roundtable* 13-11, May 27, 2022

"Seeds of Stability: Land Reform and US Foreign Policy," *Perspectives on Politics,* Volume 19, Issue 2, June 2021.

"An Old Grand Strategy for A New Era: Rediscovering American Conservative Nationalism - Review of Colin Dueck's *Age of Iron*," *Providence,* February 28, 2020.

"The Case for Pragmatic Globalism: Review of Paul Miller's American Power and Liberal Order," *Providence,* December 18, 2018.

"Conservative Internationalism and American Foreign Policy," book review of Henry Nau, *Conservative Internationalism* (Princeton University Press, 2014) *War on the Rocks*, February 12, 2014.

"*The Problem of Force: Grappling with the Global Battlefield,"* by W. Simon Murden, *Contemporary Security Policy,* Vol.30, No.3, December 2009.

7. Essays:

"The Promise of Trump's Realist China Grand Strategy," *The American Conservative,* November 20, 2024.

"From Globalism to America First Geoeconomics" (with Dan Negrea), *The American Conservative,* July 5, 2024.

"Donald Trump's First-Term China Strategy Was A Success" (with Dan Negrea), *The National Interest,* May 21, 2024.

"Teaching A Man to Fish: Donald Trump's Second-Term Alliance Policy" (with Stefano Graziosi, Dan Negrea), *The National Interest,* April 24, 2024.

"Rare Earths Supply Chains and Confrontation with China" (with Dan Negrea, James Jay Carafano), *The National Interest*, March 21, 2023.

"Only Offensive Realism Can Contain China," *The National Interest,* December 7, 2022.

"It's Too Soon For America To Kill Its Grand Strategy," *The National Interest,* September 22, 2020.

"It's Time to Get Real about Great-Power Politics," *The National Interest*, April 15, 2020.

"A Middle Path? US Public Opinion and Grand Strategy," *E-International Relations*, March 3, 2019.

"Trump Doesn't Need a Grand Strategy: Why Planning is Overrated," *Foreign Affairs,* May 21, 2018.

"The Missing Element in Trump's NSS: A Competitive Strategy" (with Ian Johnson), *The National Interest*, January 2, 2018.

"Grand Strategy is Overrated," *Foreign Policy,* December 11, 2017.

"Trump and Emergent Strategy: The First One Hundred Days," *War on the Rocks*, April 29, 2017.

"Immigrants and American Exceptionalism," *War on the Rocks*, May 25, 2016.

"What Obama Gets Right and Wrong on Grand Strategy," *War on the Rocks,* March 19, 2015.

"Obama Needs a Use of Force Doctrine," *The Hill*, May 9, 2014.

8. Poems:

9. Short Stories:

10. Other Works in Print:

B. Works Not in Print:

1. Papers Presented at Professional Meetings:

"US, China, Russia and Offensive Realism: Theorizing Great Power Competition (GPC)," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA. September 4, 2023.

"Grand Strategy for Great Power Competition," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Seattle, Washington. September 29, 2021.

"US, China, and Offensive Realism: Grand Strategy in the Era of Great Power Competition," Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference (via Zoom), April 14, 2021.

"An Offensive Realist Grand Strategy for the Era of Great Power Competition," ISSS-IS Annual Conference, Denver, CO, October 18-19, 2019.

"Resurgent America: An Alternative Grand Strategy to the Offshore Balancing and Deep Engagement Paradigms," International Studies Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, April 5-8, 2018.

"The Future of US Foreign Policy in the Age of Trump; Towards a New Grand Strategic Framework?," ISSS-ISAC Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. October 13-14, 2017

"The Trump Administration and the Future of Conservative Foreign Policy," Conservatives in the World Symposium, University of Texas at Austin, May 5, 2017

"Grand Strategy Planning Models Under Three Levels of Uncertainty," International Studies Association South Meeting, Richmond, VA, October 25-26, 2014.

"Revisiting the Bush Doctrine(s): America's Evolving Grand Strategic Framework after 9/11," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Washington, D.C. August 29-Sept 1, 2014.

"Strategy-Driven Retrenchment? The Obama Experience With Defense Spending Cuts," American Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL, August 29-Sept 1, 2013

"The Use of Force in Post-Cold War American Grand Strategy: Designed, Emergent, or Ad-Hoc?" International Studies Association Annual Conference, San Francisco, CA, 3-6 April 2013

2. Invited Talks, Lectures, and Presentations:

"Emergent Strategy, Grand Strategy and Realism," Clements Center -University of Texas at Austin, September 28, 2023.

"US-China Strategic Competition and its Consequences," Odfjell Board of Directors, Houston, TX, September 19, 2023.

"US, China, and the New Cold War," Inklings, Texas State University, March 29, 2022.

"IR Theory and American Grand Strategy perspectives on the War in Ukraine:," Panelist, Texas State University, March 7, 2022

"The Process of Strategy," The Clements Center for National Security - University of Texas at Austin, Portfolio in Security Studies program, October 18, 2021.

"US, China, and Offensive Realism: Grand Strategy in the Era of Great Power Competition," Pi Sigma Alpha Lecture Series, Texas State University, Sept. 22, 2021.

"Qualitative Research in Political Science," International Studies Graduate Program presentation, Texas State University, Sept 21, 2021.

"The Longer Telegram: US-China Grand Strategic Competition," Regent University (via Zoom), March 31, 2021.

"US-China: A New Cold War?" Texas State University International Studies Club, San Marcos, March 3, 2020.

"Russia and the West: What Went Wrong? What to Do Now?" International Studies Association Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada, March 27, 2019.

"Civil-Military Relations in the Trump Era," guest lecture, PS4341- Civil-Military Relations in Comparative Perspective, Texas State University, March 11, 2019.

"The Rise of Offensive Realism in American Grand Strategy," Inklings, Texas State University, October 16, 2018.

"A Method to the Madness? Foreign Policy in the Trump Era," Texas State University Round Rock Campus Speaker Series, October 3, 2018.

"US Foreign Policy and International Studies," Texas State University International Studies Club, San Marcos, September 18, 2018.

"Emergent Strategy and Grand Strategy," The Clements Center for National Security-University of Texas at Austin, January 30, 2018.

"Grand Strategy in A New Administration," AEI Western Executive Council Forum, Austin, Tx, January 27, 2018.

"The US, North Korea and Nuclear Weapons: Faculty Panel," Inklings, Texas State University, October 10, 2017.

"Emergent Strategy and the US Navy," CNA Corp. - Center for Strategic Studies, Arlington, VA, January 27, 2017

"Grand Strategy and Middle East Alliances During the Obama Era," World Affairs Council of Greater Hampton Roads, Virginia Beach, VA, February 20, 2016.

"Debating Strategic Visions for US Global Leadership," Old Dominion University Faculty Forum, February 21, 2015.

"ISIS: The Current Threat," Regent University, October 7, 2014

"'It's Not You, It's Me': America's Military Separation from the Middle East," Patuxent Defense Forum, St. Mary's City, MD, April 30, 2014

3. Consultancies:

4. Workshops:

5. Other Works not in Print:

a. Works "submitted" or "under review":

b. Works "in progress":

"Great Power Competition, Irregular Warfare, and the Future of the Special Operations Forces," book manuscript

c. Other Works Not in Print:

C. Scholarly / Creative Grants and Contracts:

1. Funded External Grants and Contracts:

"No Peer Rivals: American Grand Strategy in the Era of Great Power Competition," *America in the World Consortium,* $10,000 (2021)

"Shape or Adapt: The Planning of American Grand Strategy," *Smith Richardson Foundation,* Grant No. 2015-0952, Strategy and Policy Fellows Program- $60,000. (2015)

2. Submitted, but not Funded, External Grants and Contracts:

"Great Power Competition, Irregular Warfare, and the Future of the Special Operations Forces," Smith Richardson Foundation, September 2024.

3. Funded Internal Grants and Contracts:

"Public Opinion and American Grand Strategy: Does the Public Support a Middle Path?," Research Enhancement Program 2018 - $6,501.

4. Submitted, but not Funded, Internal Grants and Contracts:

D. Scholarly / Creative Fellowships, Awards, Honors:

"Freedom and Opportunity Academic Prize," The Heritage Foundation (2023) $15,000

"College Achievement Award for Scholarship", TXST College of Liberal Arts (2023) $1,000

Elihu Root Prize - Strategic Landpower Essay Award 2016, US Army War College (Third Prize)

Alona Evans Award, Duke Political Science Department (2012-2013)- $10,000.

Bernard Brodie Prize (nominee, top 5) for "Article of the Year" in *Contemporary Security Policy* (2010)

James B. Duke Fellowship (2008-2012) - $20,000.

Bradley Summer Fellowship (2009-2011) - $14,100.

E. Scholarly / Creative Professional Development Activities Attended:

F. Media Recognition:

Guest on "Texas Standard" (*National Public Radio/KUT),* December 3, 2019.

IV. SERVICE

A. Institutional

1. University:

2. College:

Panel Organizer and Moderator, "Challenges and Opportunities for American Foreign Policy in an Election Year," Discourse in Diplomacy event, October 3, 2023.

Panel Organizer and Moderator, "Russia, Ukraine, and the Future of International Order," Discourse in Diplomacy event, April 20, 2022.

Event Organizer and Moderator, "What is Putin Up To? Understanding Russian Foreign Policy- A Conversation with Brian Taylor" Discourse in Diplomacy event, April 6, 2022.

Panel Organizer and Discussant, "War in Ukraine: Russia, Ukraine, and NATO," Discourse in Diplomacy event, March 7, 2022.

Event Organizer and Moderator, "US-Russia Relations Discussion with Dr. Mark Pomar", Discourse in Diplomacy event, March 23, 2021.

3. Department/School:

SCONA TXST Team Faculty Coordinator, 2018-present

Faculty Search Committee Member, 2018-2019

Panel Chair and Discussant, ESMOAS Conference, November 2, 2018.

B. Professional:

Chair and Discussant, "Change and Challenge in Practices and Theories of IR," ISSS-IS Annual Conference, Denver, CO, October 18-19, 2019.
Chair, "Challenges to the Liberal Order," ISSS-IS Annual Conference, Denver, CO, October 18-19, 2019.
Chair, "Defense Economics and National Security" panel, ISSS-ISAC Annual Conference, Washington, D.C. October 13-14, 2017.

Reviewer
Cambridge University Press, Cambridge Review of International Affairs, Journal of Strategic Studies, Defence Studies, Armed Forces & Society, Parameters, Contemporary Security Policy, Texas National Security Review, SUNY Press, Routledge, Palgrave Macmillan, Cambria Press, Polity Press.

C. Community:

Guest Expert, *The Wisdom Factory* Podcast, TXST/San Marcos-based show, February 26, 2019.

D. Organization Memberships: American Political Science Association, International Studies Association

E. Service Honors and Awards:

F. Service Grants and Contracts:

1. Funded External Service Grants and Contracts:

2. Submitted, but not Funded, External Service Grants and Contracts:

3. Funded Internal Service Grants and Contracts:

4. Submitted, but not Funded, Internal Service Grants and Contracts:

G. Service Professional Development Activities Attended:

Updated 11/14/2018