

Andrew Vitek

Associate Teaching Professor

Director, Counterterrorism Option, M.P.S. Homeland Security

Department of Political Science

Penn State University

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Education

Ph.D. Political Science | 2018

State University of New York at Albany, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, Albany, NY
Areas of Study: Conflict studies, terrorism, political violence, comparative politics, Homeland Security

M.A. Political Science | 2016

State University of New York at Albany, Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, Albany, NY

B.A. Political Science and Philosophy | 2010

McGill University, Montreal, QC.

Academic Appointments

Penn State University

Assistant Teaching Professor: Summer 2018 – Present

Responsible for teaching courses in political science and homeland security.

In-Residence Courses Taught:

- PLSC 3: Introduction to Comparative Politics
- PLSC 291: Introduction to Peace and Conflict Studies
- PLSC 408: Democracy and Its Impacts
- PLSC 414: Dictators and Their Demise
- PLSC 423: Post-Soviet Politics

- PLSC 439: The Politics of Terrorism
- PLSC 414W: International Relations Theory

Online Courses Taught via Penn State World Campus:

- PLSC 3: Introduction to Comparative Politics
- PLSC 594: Research in Political Science (Counterterrorism Capstone research/writing course)
- PLSC 837: Radicalization, Counter-Radicalization, and Deradicalization

**Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy/College of Emergency Preparedness
Homeland Security and Cyber Security (CEHC), SUNY Albany**

Lecturer: Spring 2017 – Summer 2018

Responsible for developing and delivering undergraduate courses both in residence and online.

Courses Taught:

- RPOS 364: Building Democracy
- RPOS 360: Violent Political Conflict (in residence and online)
- CEHC 343: Homeland Security (online)
- CEHC 210: Critical Inquiry and Communication

Rockefeller College of Public Affairs & Policy, Albany, NY

Teaching Assistant: Fall 2013 – Fall 2016

Responsible for teaching 10 to 20-person discussion sections, grading assignments, holding office hours, advising students, and other duties required by supervising professors.

Courses Worked on:

- RPOS 101 – Introduction to American Politics
- RPOS 102 – Introduction to International Politics
- RPOS 103 – Introduction to Political Theory
- CEHC 101 – Introduction to Homeland Security and Emergency Preparedness

Professional Experience

Penn State University, State College, PA

Director, Counterterrorism Option, M.P.S. Homeland Security: July 2018 – Present.

Managing and overseeing the Counterterrorism Masters option offered through Penn State World Campus via course development, student outreach and recruitment, and admissions.

College of Emergency Preparedness Homeland Security and Cyber Security (CEHC), Albany, NY

Project Manager: December 2017 – May 2018

Overseeing a grant-funded quantitative data project on divergences between terrorism and hate crime under PI Dr. Brandon Behlendorf. Responsibilities include the creation of project data collection and coding parameters, training and management of undergraduate coders, quality control of gathered data, and assisting with quantitative analysis of final scrubbed dataset.

College of Emergency Preparedness Homeland Security and Cyber Security (CEHC), Albany, NY

Research Assistant: May 2017 – August 2017

Served as a research assistant for Dr. Eric Stern. Research focused on critical infrastructure, accountability and decision making, and resilience.

Center for Policy Research (CPR), Albany, NY

Research Project Assistant: May 2016 – August 2016

Worked as a researcher for the “Project on Violent Conflict” at Rockefeller College’s Center for Policy Research (CPR). Duties involved the collection, coding and quality control of international terrorism related data for use in the “Big, Allied and Dangerous (BAAD)” dataset compiled and developed by CPR. (PI: Victor Asal, Project Manager: Suzanne Weedon).

National Center for Security and Preparedness (NCSP), Albany, NY

Technical Assistant: September 2012 - May 2016

Worked under NCSP Director Rick Mathews and several section directors over an approximately four-year period. Primary duties were developing and managing empirical research on US domestic extremist organizations. Additional duties included: terrorism, radicalization, and CBRNE research to support the development of first responder training, simulations and tabletop exercises, real-time tracking and drafting of situation reports on active shooter and terrorism events, and working as part of a larger team of NCSP staff and consultants to draft the official after-action report for the New York State response to Hurricane Sandy in 2012.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Vitek, Andrew. (2024). Blind Spots and Backdoors: The Growth of the Global Far-right and the Paralysis of Liberal Democracies. *International Studies Review*, 26(2), viae027.

Vitek, Andrew. (2024) "Keeping up appearances: US domestic extremist organizations and the effects of membership on domestic terrorism perpetrators." *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict*, DOI: 10.1080/17467586.2024.2315411

Asal, Victor, Inga Miller, and Andrew Vitek. (2024). The Use of Popular Songs and Cartoons in Teaching Introduction to International Relations and Comparative Politics. *International Studies Perspectives*, 25(2), 164-184.

Nussbaum, Brian, and Andrew Vitek. *Attacking Muslims in North America – An Empirical Analysis of Terrorist Attacks and Plots from 1970-2016*. In "Islamophobia and Acts of Violence: The Targeting and Victimization of American Muslims." Carolyn Turpin-Petrosino, Eds. Oxford University Press., 2022.

Asal, Victor, and Andrew Vitek. "Sometimes they mean what they say: understanding violence among domestic extremists." *Dynamics of Asymmetric Conflict* (2018): 74-88.

Working Papers

"The Ancaram Summit: A Classroom Simulation for Teaching International Relations and Comparative Politics" with Nolan Fahrenkopf

"The Running Game: Modeling Diversity of Inequality in the Classroom" with Victor Asal

Works in Progress

"Tweets vs. Terror: The Effects of Social Media on the Use of Terrorism by Dissent Organizations in Africa" with Suzanne Levy

Conference Presentations

International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference, 2024, San Francisco, CA.

International Studies Association-Northeast (ISA-NE) Annual Conference, 2023, Providence, RI.

International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Conference, 2023, Montreal, QC.

International Studies Association-Northeast (ISA-NE) Annual Conference, 2022, Baltimore, MD.

Northeast Political Science Association Annual Conference (NPSA), 2018, Montreal, QC.

ISSS-ISAC Annual Conference, 2017, Washington, D.C.

Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA) Annual Conference 2016, Chicago.

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Conference 2015, San Francisco.

Grants and Awards

Faculty Research Awards Program B Grant. 2014. Building Domestic Extremist Behavior Project: NY database. University at Albany: SUNY. \$4000.

Graduate Assistantship. 2013-2016. University at Albany: SUNY. Amount variable, depending on yearly tuition levels.

Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award. 2016. University at Albany: SUNY.

Skills and Training

Quantitative Analysis

- Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Four Week Summer Workshops on maximum likelihood analysis, network analysis, and analysis utilizing R and Python.
- Graduate level courses in and professional use of statistics, regression analysis, and spatial and network modeling.

Academic Service

Penn State

2018 – Present: Member, Online Education Committee

SUNY Albany

Organizing Chair, Rockefeller Institutions and Societies Conference, 2017.

Secretary, Graduate Association of Political Science (GAPS), 2015 – 2016