

RUPAL N. MEHTA, PH.D.

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University of Nebraska-Lincoln
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CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

University of Nebraska-Lincoln

Associate Professor (with tenure), Department of Political Science August 2020-
-NSRI Fellow and Faculty Researcher, Nebraska Strategic Research Institute, 2014-present

Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science August 2014-July 2020

GOVERNMENT SERVICE

Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory

Chair of Research and Senior Fellow, Center for Global Security Research (CGSR) August 2024-

Los Alamos National Laboratory

Adviser, Director's Strategic Resilience Initiative, National Security and International Studies Office 2020-21

PREVIOUS ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs

Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University

Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellowship

International Security Program/Program on Managing the Atom September 2014 - July 2015

EDUCATION

University of California, San Diego

Ph.D. in Political Science, July 2014

Committee: David Lake (Co-Chair), Erik Gartzke (Co-Chair), Branislav Slantchev, Susan Shirk, Matt Kroenig

M.A. in Political Science, May 2010

University of California at Berkeley

B.A. in Political Science, May 2006

PUBLICATIONS

Books

1. *Delaying Doomsday: The Politics of Nuclear Reversal*, New York, NY: Oxford University Press, 2020.

Journal Articles

10. **Mehta, Rupal N.** and Brigitte Seim. 2022. "Avoiding 'Checkbox Inclusion: Structuring Meaningful Inclusion of Underrepresented Groups in Policy Engagement." *PS: Political Science and Politics*.
9. Mattiacci, Eleonora, **Rupal N. Mehta**, and Rachel Whitlark. 2021. "Atomic Ambiguity: Event Data Evidence on Latency and Cooperation," Forthcoming, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.
8. **Mehta, R. N.** and Whitlark, R. E. 2021. "Nuclear Proliferation: The Next Wave in 2020." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.
7. Cone, P., & **Mehta, R. N.** 2019. "Inducements in Interstate Relations." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*.
6. **Mehta, Rupal N.** 2019. "Extended deterrence and assurance in an emerging technology environment," *Journal of Strategic Studies*.

5. Whitlark, Rachel and **Rupal N. Mehta**. 2019. "Hedging Our Bets: Why Does Nuclear Latency Matter?" *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol 42, No 1.
4. Narang, Neil and **Rupal N. Mehta**. 2017. The Unforeseen Consequences of Extended Deterrence: Moral Hazard in a Nuclear Protégé," *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol 63, No 1.
3. **Mehta, Rupal N.** and Rachel Whitlark. 2017. The Benefits and Burdens of Nuclear Latency," Forthcoming, *International Studies Quarterly*, Vol 61, No 3.
2. **Mehta, Rupal N.** and Rachel Whitlark. 2016. "Unpacking the Iranian Nuclear Deal: Nuclear Latency and U.S. Foreign Policy," *The Washington Quarterly*, Vol 39, No 4.
1. Gartzke, Erik, Jeffrey Kaplow, and **Rupal N. Mehta**. 2014. "The Determinants of Nuclear Force Structure" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, Vol 58, No 3.

Edited Volume/Book Chapters

4. **Mehta, Rupal N.** 2021. "Extended deterrence and assurance in an emerging technology environment," *Emerging Technologies and International Stability*, edited by Todd S. Sechser, Neil Narang, and Caitlin Talmadge, Routledge Press.
2. **Mehta, Rupal N.** 2019. "Extended Deterrence and Assurance in Multiple Domains," *Cross-Domain Deterrence: Strategy in an Era of Complexity*, edited by Erik Gartzke and Jon Lindsay, Oxford, UK: Oxford University Press.
2. **Mehta, Rupal N.** and Rachel Whitlark. 2017. "Shaping the Next Phase of US Nonproliferation Policy," *US Foreign Policy in a Challenging World - Building Order on Shifting Foundations*, edited by Marco Clementi, Matteo Dian, Barbara Pisciotta, Springer Press.
1. Gartzke, Erik, Jeffrey Kaplow, and **Rupal N. Mehta**. 2015. "The Determinants of Nuclear Force Structure" *Nonproliferation Policy and Nuclear Posture: Causes and Consequences for the Spread of Nuclear Weapons*, edited by Neil Narang, Erik Gartzke, and Matt Kroenig, Routledge Press.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Revise and Resubmit or Under Review

- *The Patron's Dilemma: Recklessness and Restraint Under Nuclear Umbrellas*, with Neil Narang, *Under Review*, Cornell University Press, Spring 2023.
- "Risky Business: An Ideological Basis for Variance in Nuclear Bargaining Outcomes," with Noelle Troutman, *Under Review*.
- "Too Fast Too Furious: The Challenges of Hypersonic Missile for Crisis Bargaining," with Paige Cone, *Under Review*.

In Progress

- *Atomic Uncertainty: Information Problems in Nuclear Negotiations*, Book project with William Spaniel.
- "Rebel Rebel: Prior Revolutionary Experience and the Pursuit of Weapons of Mass Destruction," with Eleonora Mattiacci.
- "Ideology and Risk," with Noelle Troutman and Ingrid Haas.
- "Making Sanctions Work in Cyber Era: The Case of Iran," with Jelena Vicic and Jason Davis.
- "Deterrence and the Structure of Nuclear Forces," with Erik Gartzke and Jeffrey Kaplow.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

- *Carrol R McKibben Distinguished Research Award*, UNL Department of Political Science 2022
- *Stanton Foundation Course Development Award* 2020-2021
- *Certificate of Recognition for Contributions to Students*, UNL Parents' Association 2021, 2020
- *Managing the Atom/International Security Program Faculty Research Fellowship* 2020-2021
Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, *Declined*
Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University

- Women of Character, Courage, and Commitment, UNL Teaching Award 2016
- Council on Foreign Relations, Stanton International Affairs Fellowship, *Alternate* 2015-2016
- *Stanton Foundation Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellowship* 2014-2015
Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs
Kennedy School of Government at Harvard University
- *Sanford Lakoff Research Fellowship*
UC San Diego Department of Political Science 2013-2014
- *International Nuclear Security Dissertation Fellow*
UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation (IGCC) 2012-2013
- Edmund G. Brown Sr. Fellowship, UC San Diego 2008-2013

RESEARCH GRANTS

- “For a project on party competition and nuclear policy,” Understanding the Politics of Nuclear Weapons RFP, Carnegie Corporation of New York (\$430,000) (2023-2025).
- “Ideology and Risk: How Neuroscience can Inform Nuclear Security,” Research Impact and Engagement Grant, University of Nebraska (\$10,000) (2021-2022).
- “Ideology and Risk: How Neuroscience can Inform Nuclear Security,” National Strategic Research Institute (NSRI), University of Nebraska (\$25,000) (2021-2022).
- “Recklessness and Restraint Under Nuclear Umbrellas: American Grand Strategy in the 21st Century”; Director’s Strategic Resilience Initiative Los Alamos National Laboratory (\$240,000) (2020-2021).
- “Nuclear Deterrence and Escalation in the 21st Century: New Approaches and Continuing Challenges”; University of Nebraska-Lincoln Senning Fellowship (\$6500) (2020).
- “Enhancing and Increasing Equity in Curriculum-Critical Political Science Methods Coursework,” with Geoffrey Lorenz, University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Arts and Science Instructional Improvement Award (\$10,000) (2020)
- “Atomic Uncertainty”; University of Nebraska-Lincoln Senning Fellowship (\$6500) (2019).
- “Strategies of Nuclear Latency” (Principal Investigator); University of Nebraska Foundation Layman Seed Award (\$10000) (2018-2019).
- “Strategies of Nuclear Latency” (Principal Investigator); University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Arts and Science ENHANCE Award (\$5000) (2018).
- UNL College of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant, EPSA (Paris, Vienna) (\$1,500) (2018).
- “Strategies of Nuclear Latency”; University of Nebraska-Lincoln Senning Fellowship (\$6500) (2018).
- “The Politics of Nuclear Reversal” (Principal Investigator); University of Nebraska-Lincoln College of Arts and Science ENHANCE Award (\$5000) (2017).
- UNL College of Arts and Sciences Travel Grant, Peace Science Society (Shanghai) (\$1,500) (2017)
- “The Determinants of Nuclear Latency” University of Nebraska-Lincoln Senning Award (\$6500) (2016)
- "Assessing the Benefits and Burdens of Nuclear Latency" (Co-Principal Investigator); Naval Postgraduate School's Project on Advanced Systems and Concepts for Countering WMD (PASCC) Grant, Defense Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA) (\$96,000) (2016–2017).
- “Deterrence in a Rapidly Changing Strategic Environment” (Faculty Organizer); Hendricks Symposium, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (\$15,000) (2016-2017).
- “But My Hands Are Tied: The Schelling Conjecture and the Distributional Politics of Nuclear Deproliferation”; University of Nebraska-Lincoln Senning Fellowship (\$6500) (2015)
- “Exploration of Horizontal and Vertical Proliferation” (Principal Investigator); University of Nebraska-Lincoln/National Security Research Institute, USSTRATCOM/J55 (\$72,000) (2015-2016).
- “Risk Analysis of Extended Nuclear Deterrence” (Principal Investigator); University of Nebraska-Lincoln/National Security Research Institute, USSTRATCOM/J55 (\$73,000) (2014-2015).

POLICY RESEARCH REPORTS, BOOK REVIEWS, AND RESEARCH-BASED COMMENTARY

9. Book Review, *Tempting Fate: Why Nonnuclear States Confront Nuclear Opponents*. By Paul Avey. Chair, Texas National Security Roundtable, 2020.
7. Book Review, *Atomic Assurance: The Alliance Politics of Nuclear Proliferation*. By Alexander Lanoszka, *Political Science Quarterly*, Spring 2020.
6. Scott Wolford, Rupal Mehta, Alexandre Debs, Matthew Fuhrmann, and Yonatan Lupu. “The Constraining Effect of Arms Control Treaties.” *International Studies Quarterly* Online Symposium, 2019.
5. SMA Strategic Outcomes in the Korean Peninsula Project, Report for Joint Chiefs of Staff (US Department of Defense), September 2018.
5. Book Review, *Nuclear Weapons and Coercive Diplomacy*. By Todd S. Sechser and Matthew Fuhrmann, *Perspectives on Politics* 16(02):575-577, June 2018.
3. H-Diplo-ISSF Roundtable Book Review, *Fighting for Credibility: U.S. Reputation and International Politics*. By Frank P. Harvey and John Mitton, (Toronto, CA: University of Toronto Press 2016).
2. “The Search for Significance Continues: The Progress of Quantitative Nuclear Studies and the Bridges Yet to Cross,” *International Studies Quarterly Symposium*, January 2016.
3. “Risk Analysis of Extended Nuclear Deterrence,” USSTRATCOM, January 2016.
1. “Alliances, Extended Deterrence and Managing Escalation in East Asia” with Fiona Cunningham, *German Marshall Fund* Edited Volume, September 2016.

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Academic and Policy Talks

- 2024 “Ideology and Risk,” IGCC University of California
- 2023 “Patrons’ Dilemma,” Security Studies Program (SSP), MIT
- 2023 “Patrons’ Dilemma,” Center for Global Security Research, Livermore National Laboratory
- 2022 “Exploring the Next Frontier: Future Avenues for Research in Nuclear Disarmament,” Inauguration Alva Myrdal Centre for Nuclear Disarmament Uppsala University
- 2022 “Nuclear Security and the NPT,” NTI-Sponsored Event at the NPT Review Conference
- 2022 “Causes and Consequences of Nuclear Latency,” William and Mary
- 2022 “Emerging Technologies and Nuclear Weapons,” GSPIA, University of Pittsburgh
- 2021 “Global Nuclear Development” NEREC, Korea Advanced Institute of Science and Technology
- 2021 “Patrons’ Dilemma,” Director’s Strategic Resilience Initiative, Los Alamos National Laboratory
- 2021 “Nuclear Weapons and Emerging Technologies on Global Security,” InQTel
- 2020 “Modern War Institute Class of 2006 War Studies Conference,” West Point
- 2020 “PSAC Workshop,” Cornell Department of Government.
- 2020 “Peace and Security During Uncertain Times,” WIIS-Pitt Conference.
- 2020 “Delaying Doomsday,” Book Launch, Bridging the Gap.
- 2020 “Delaying Doomsday,” Book Talk, CSIS PONI.
- 2020 “Delaying Doomsday,” Book Talk, cPASS, UCSD.
- 2020 “Leadership Change and Counterproliferation,” ETH Zurich (Postponed due to Covid-19).
- 2020 “Delaying Doomsday,” Book Talk, CISAC Stanford (Postponed due to Covid-19).
- 2020 “Delaying Doomsday,” Book Talk, Department of National Security Affairs, NPS.
- 2020 “Delaying Doomsday,” Book Talk, Department of Political Science, Stanford.
- 2020 “Delaying Doomsday,” Book Talk, Livermore National Lab (CGSR).
- 2019 “Consequences of Nuclear Weapons for Alliances and Other Security Outcomes, UCSB.
- 2019 “Deterrence and Assurance in the 21st Century,” Minerva Workshop (Washington, D.C.)
- 2019 “Advanced Operational Law Conference,” USSTRATCOM (Offutt Military Base, NE).
- 2019 “Careers to Bridge the Gap,” Bridging the Gap’s New Era Workshop (Washington, D.C.).
- 2019 “The Deterrent and Signaling Effects of Sanctions,”

- 2019 Bridging the Gap's New Voices in National Security Initiative (Washington D.C.)
- 2019 "Extended Deterrence and Emerging Technologies," POSSE Emerging Technologies and Risk Reduction Workshop, King's College London.
- 2018 "All Options on the (Latency) Table: Carrots and Sticks on Nuclear Reversal," Vienna Center for Disarmament and Nonproliferation (VCDNP) (Vienna).
- 2018 "Future Strategy Forum," Center for Strategic and International Studies, Kissinger Center.
- 2018 "Assurance in an Emerging Technology Environment," Deterrence and Assurance Academic Alliance (DAAA), King's College London.
- 2017 "Assurance in an Emerging Technology Environment," POSSE Conference, Stanford University.
- 2017 "The Politics of Nuclear Reversal," Peace Science Society International (Shanghai, China).
- 2017 "Benefits and Burdens of Nuclear Latency," National Defense University PASCSC Workshop.
- 2017 "The Causes and Consequences of Nuclear Latency," College of William and Mary.
- 2016 "Alliances, Extended Deterrence and Managing Escalation in East Asia," Young Strategists Forum Edited Volume Launch, German Marshall Fund (Washington D.C.).
- 2016 "Deterrence and Assurance in the 21st Century," 2016 James Timbie Forum, State Department.
- 2016 "Benefits and Burdens of Nuclear Latency," Nuclear Policy Talk: Nuclear Latency Panel, Elliot School at George Washington University.
- 2016 "The Causes and Consequences of Nuclear Latency," MTA Seminar, Harvard University.
- 2016 "The Causes and Consequences of Nuclear Latency," Nuclear Weapons Working Group, MIT.
- 2015 "The Politics of Nuclear Reversal," US-China Young Scholars Dialogue on Nonproliferation and Nuclear Security, China Institute of International Studies (CIIS) (Qingdao and Beijing, China).
- 2015 "Buying Friends and Foes: The Determinants of Nuclear Reversal," Nuclear Security Research Initiative Annual Workshop, Warrenton, VA.
- 2015 "Benefits and Burdens of Nuclear Latency," Managing the Atom (MTA), Harvard University.
- 2014 "The Determinants of Nuclear Reversal," ISP Program Seminar Harvard University.
- 2013 "The Determinants of Nuclear Force Structure," PPNT Workshop, UCSD

Smaller Conferences/Workshops

- 2020 Nuclear Security Workshop (Hertie School, Berlin; Postponed due to Covid-19)
- 2020 Role of Leaders in Nuclear Politics (Zurich; Postponed due to Covid-19)
- 2020 Academic Exchange (Israel; Postponed due to Covid-19)
- 2019 Bridging the Gap's New Voices in National Security Initiative (Washington D.C.)
- 2018 European Initiative on Security Studies (EISS) Conference
- 2018 CISAC-Hoover-Stanley Workshop on Effects of the Global Information Ecosystem on the Risk of Nuclear Conflict (Stanford University, CA)
- 2016- POSSE Emerging Technologies Workshop (King's College London, January 2019; Stanford, December 2017; Charlottesville, VA, December 2016; Washington D.C., June 2016)
- 2016 German Marshall Fund's Young Strategists Forum (Tokyo, Japan)
- 2015 Nuclear Studies Research Initiative Conference (Warrenton, VA)
- 2015 Stanton Foundation Fellows Conference (Washington, D.C.)

Professional and Methodological Training

- 2016 International Policy Summer Institute (IPSI), Bridging the Gap Project, American University.
- 2016 Young Strategists Forum (Japan), German Marshall Fund.
- 2014 New Era Foreign Policy Conference, Bridging the Gap Project; American University.
- 2013 Nuclear Science and Security Consortium Summer Workshop: Institute of Global Conflict and Cooperation, University of California, San Diego.
- 2009 Government, Development and Political Violence Workshop: Institute on Global Conflict and

- Cooperation, University of California, San Diego.
- 2009 Public Policy and Nuclear Threats Workshop (PPNT): Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, University of California, San Diego.

Conference Presentations

Annual Meetings (P = Paper Presented; O = Panel Organizer; D = Discussant; C = Chair)

- American Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2021 (P, C); 2020 (P) 2019, 2018 (P, O, D), 2017 (P, C), 2016 (P), 2015 (P, O), 2014(P)
- International Studies Association Annual Meeting: 2020 (Cancelled due to COVID-19), 2019 (P, O, D), 2018 (P, O, D), 2017 (P), 2016 (P, O), 2015 (P), 2014 (P, O), 2012 (P)
- Peace Science Society International Annual Meeting: 2018 (P, C), 2016 (P, O, D), 2015 (P), 2014 (P), 2011 (P), 2010 (P)
- Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting: 2020 (O, D, C), 2014 (P), 2013 (P), 2012 (P), 2011 (P), 2010 (P)
- European Political Science Association: 2018 (P)

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

University Service (UNL)

- College of Arts and Sciences Executive Committee, Fall 2022-
- Research Council, Fall 2021-
- Academic Integrity Committee, Fall 2021 –

Department Service (UNL)

- Graduate Committee, Fall 2018 -
- Model UN Advisor, Fall 2017 -Fall 2021
- IR/CP Brownbag Coordinator, Fall 2017 -
- Member, Big Data/National Security Faculty Search Committee, by invitation (UNL –CS), Fall 2016
- Member, Executive Committee, Department of Political Science, UNL, 2016-
- Co-Coordinator, Hendricks Symposium, University of Nebraska-Lincoln, 2016-2017
- Member, International Relations/National Security Faculty Search Committee (UNL), Fall 2015
- Workshop on Extended Deterrence (Organizer), USSTRATCOM, September 2015

Graduate and Undergraduate Mentoring (UNL)

Graduate Students

Marxen Kyriss (Defended 2019, Dissertation Committee Member)

Julia Reilly (Defended 2019, Dissertation Committee Member)

Dennis Crawford (Defended 2019, Dissertation Committee Member)

Hannah Read (Dissertation Committee Member)

Noelle Troutman (Dissertation Committee Chair)

Joseph Maestas (Dissertation Committee Member)

Makayla Wendland (Dissertation Committee Member)

DISCIPLINARY SERVICE

Editorial Service

- Associate Editor, *Security Studies*, 2025-
- Editorial Board, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 2022-Present
- Editorial Board, *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 2020-Present

Conference Service

- Member and Best Book/ Article Award Committee, ISSS-ISA Governing Council, 2022-
- Member, Best Dissertation Award Committee APSA International Collaboration Section, 2021-Present
- International Security Section Chair, Midwest Political Science Association, 2019-2020
- Organizer, Nuclear Workshop, Annual Meeting of the Peace Science Society, October 2016.
- Field Conference Panel Organizer:
 - Novel Nuclear Knowledge via Multi-Method Means, ISA 2017.
 - Before Proliferation: Examining the Causes and Consequences of Nuclear Latency ISA 2016.
 - Nuclear Proliferation: Diverse Actors and Strategies Reconsidered, APSA 2015
 - Unpacking the Nuclear Black Box, ISA 2014

Reviewer Service

- Journals: *American Journal of Political Science*, *Security Studies*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *American Political Science Review*, *International Security*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Journal of Global Security Studies*, *Conflict Management and Peace Studies*, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, *Political Research Quarterly*.

Professional Associations: American Political Science Association, European Political Science Association
Peace Science Society (International) International Studies Association, Midwest Political Science Association

MEDIA and COMMUNITY OUTREACH

- “Why Cyber Dogs Have (Mostly) Failed to Bite,” *War on the Rocks*, March 2022
- Interview with Central Time, *Wisconsin Public Radio*, June 2021.
- Interview with Steve Miller, *Voice of America*, April 2021.
- Invited Op-Ed, *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, November 2020.
- National Strategic Research Institute (NSRI) Researcher Feature, August 11, 2020.
- Interview with *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, February 5, 2020
- Interview with Good Morning Scotland, *BBC Scotland*, January 8 2020.
- Interview with Dotun Adebayo, *BBC 5 Live Radio*, January 6, 2020.
- “Did the Killing of Qassim Suleimani Deter Iranian Attacks, or Encourage Them?,” *New York Times*, January 4, 2020.
- Interview with Kourosh Ziabari, *Fair Observer*, June 2019.
- “Cross-Domain Coercion?: How the US-North Korea Talks May Affect North Korea’s Other Capabilities,” *Bulletin of Atomic Scientists*, June 8, 2018.
- “The Determinants of Nuclear Force Structure,” *SMA STRATCOM Academic Alliance Session*, 2018.
- “The Iran Nuclear Deal Isn’t So Great – for Iran,” *Washington Post (Monkey Cage)*, October 13, 2017.
- “Mr. Trump, Choose Your Own Adventure,” *Duck of Minerva*, October 11, 2017.
- “Is a Nuclear-Armed Japan Inconceivable,” *War on the Rocks*, June 9, 2016.
- “Drivers of Horizontal and Vertical Nuclear Proliferation,” *Omaha Public Radio*, October 8, 2015.
- “Why Would Iran Give Up on Nukes,” *DecodeDC/WNYC (Invited by Scripps News)*, July 30, 2015.
- “Why did Iran Make a Deal Now?” *Washington Post (Monkey Cage Blog)*, July 17, 2015.

LANGUAGES AND METHODOLOGICAL SKILLS

- Field Work: Vienna, Austria; Paris, France; and Tokyo, Japan
- Language: English (native); French; Hindi/Gujarati (conversational).

REFERENCES

Available upon request.