

SPENCER MICHAELS

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EDUCATION

Amherst College

Class of 2024

B.A.: Russian & LJST (Law, Jurisprudence, & Social Thought), *magna cum laude* (3.9 GPA)

Awards & Honors: The Mikhail Schweitzer Memorial Book Award; Finalist, Amherst College's Speaking Competition 2023, 2024; The Bancroft Prize.

College Activities: Journalist at *The Amherst Student*; Photographer, Amateur Archaeologist, and Translator; Head of Amherst College's Russian House

EXPERIENCE

Program Associate

2024

HFX | Washington, D.C.

- Managed communications and logistics for the 2024 Halifax International Security Forum, coordinating with over 300 high-level participants including ministers, military officials, and thought leaders from 70+ countries.
- Processed and analyzed registration data using Swoogo event management software to track participant information, speaking roles, and financial/travel assistance requests.
- Coordinated onsite logistics in Halifax during the Forum to ensure smooth execution of the conference.

Thesis

2023 — 2024

Amherst College LJST Department | Amherst, MA

- Analyzed the alignment and regulatory challenges posed by artificial intelligence and corporations through the lens of Thomas Hobbes' political philosophy, drawing parallels between AI, corporate personhood, and Hobbes' conception of the "artificial person" of the state.
- Applied experience in open-source investigation, international law, and academic research to an ambitious thesis topic.

Research Assistant

Summer 2023

Hamilton Commission at Hudson Institute | Washington, DC

- Assisted former Deputy National Security Advisor and Senior Scholar to build policy recommendations in critical economic sectors for national security and defense innovation.
- Focused on U.S. – China competition in natural gas, artificial intelligence, and critical next-generation weaponry.

Board Member

2023 — 2024

Artificial Intelligence in the Liberal Arts Initiative | Amherst, MA

- The student leader of an initiative promoting discussion, awareness, and engagement in the role of AI in liberal arts education.
- Advised faculty members on campus-wide guidelines, regulations, and approaches to AI in the classroom.

Research Assistant**2021 — 2024***Amherst College Russian Center* | Amherst, MA

- Supported research staff by serving as an archivist and translator, maintaining and cataloging historically significant works. Organized and managed events such as lectures, colloquia, and gallery tours attended by the public and student body.

Open-Source Investigator & Researcher**2022 — 2024***Bellingcat* | Amsterdam, NL (Remote)

- Geolocate and verify instances of civilian harm in the ongoing Russian invasion of Ukraine and government suppression in Tajikistan. Presented during an open-source investigation colloquium and hosted a workshop on ways to use natural features for rural geolocations.

Volunteer Translator**2022 — 2024***The BEARR Trust* | London, England (Remote)

- Translate news articles from Russian to English for publication on current CSO/NGO activities in Russia.

Schupf Fellow**Summer 2022***Amherst College Schupf Fellowship Program* | Amherst, MA

- Independently researched and produced weekly reports on topics in international relations and politics; warfare development; and international humanitarian law. Located primary sources both online and in archives to support arguments and analyses.

Editorial Assistant & Staff Writer**Summer 2021***The Moscow Times* | Moscow, Russia

- Provided editorial assistance, designed newsletters, edited podcasts, and wrote articles. Monitored breaking news of incidents, events, and topics of interest to quickly create engaging content for an international audience.

Gregory S. Call Academic Intern & Research Assistant**2021 — 2022***Amherst College Political Science Department* | Amherst, MA

- Provided research assistance to faculty by conducting extensive professional research. Engaged in the development of future political science courses and organized student outreach programs to boost student engagement.

Assistant Archeologist, Photographer, & Videographer**2018 — 2021***Tunnug Expedition, Explorers Club* | Tuva, Siberia, Russia

- Traveled three times to the active archeological site Tunnug-1 in southern Siberia.
- Assisted in the documentation of findings and was an assistant cameraman for a documentary on the expedition and black market antiquities trade.

ADDITIONAL INFO

Technical Skills: Full Adobe Suite; Python, C#, R, Go, HTML/CSS; GIS Software and Analysis; advanced academic research techniques; Microsoft Suite; LLM and AI image generation and detection.

Languages: English, Russian

Citizenship: US, UK, Australia

Hobbies: Classical piano, running, freelance photography, archaeology, programming.