

SPENCER MICHAELS

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EXPERIENCE

Joseph S. Nye, Jr. National Security and Technology Intern

2024 — Present

Center for a New American Security | Washington, D.C.

- Co-leading CNAS's formal response to the National AI R&D Strategic Plan RFI, drafting recommendations on federal research funding priorities, security safeguards, and public-private partnerships.
- Contribute to three additional policy papers—including RFCs on the White House AI Action Plan and the AI Diffusion Framework—and co-authoring an upcoming report on incident reporting mechanisms.
- Conduct policy research on U.S. technological competitiveness, focusing on AI governance frameworks, export controls, and energy regulation, while producing analytical briefs examining the intersection of emerging technologies and national security.
- Build and maintain automation tools using Python, advanced Excel, and light front-end scripts to streamline data collection, stakeholder tracking, and citation management.

Analyst Intern

2025 — Present

Obviant | Alexandria, VA

- Develop data-driven policy analysis content examining defense acquisition trends and program innovations, translating complex technical information for diverse stakeholders.
- Collaborate with data analytics team to transform program office and budget data into compelling narrative content for the defense technology community.

Program Associate

2024

HFX | Washington, D.C.

- Managed communications and logistics for the 2024 Halifax International Security Forum, meeting with over 300 high-level participants including ministers, military officials, and thought leaders from 70+ countries.

Research Assistant

Summer 2023

Hamilton Commission at Hudson Institute | Washington, DC

- Assisted former Deputy National Security Advisor and Senior Fellow Dr. Nadia Schadlow to build policy recommendations in critical economic sectors for national security and defense innovation.
- Focused on U.S.-China competition in AI hardware and emerging technologies, analyzing potential regulatory approaches and their impact on innovation.

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; Winner, Amherst College's Speaking Competition 2023 & 2024; The Bancroft Prize.