

Christopher James Trzaska

christopherjtrzaska@gmail.com · 973-943-6133

EDUCATION

American University, School of International Service

Master of Arts in International Affairs Policy and Analysis

Washington, DC

Expected Graduation: December 2024

- Concentration in National Security

Bachelor of Arts in International Studies

December 2022

- Conducted research on topics related to American defense acquisitions programs, including a regression analysis paper studying the impact of protectionist trade policies on defense procurement outcomes.

American University, Brussels Center

EU in Action Program

Brussels, Belgium

January – May 2022

American University School of International Service

U.S. Department of State Diplomacy Lab

Washington, DC

August – December 2022

- Collaborated with U.S. Embassy in Helsinki to conduct a public opinion poll in Finland that supported the development of policy recommendations to strengthen U.S.-Finnish relations and enhance U.S. Arctic strategy.

Relevant Coursework

SIS-600 International Affairs Stats and Methods

- Completed familiarization with RStudio, including statistical analysis and data visualization functionality.

SIS-750 Data Analysis

- Achieved proficiency in preparation and presentation of statistical data and analysis.
- Developed advanced data visualization, manipulation, and programming skills in the R language.

Data Analysis Skills

Programming

- RStudio/Rmarkdown
- Tidyverse package suite

Wrangling

- Data frame reshaping with pivot function
- Missing value standardization
- Variable mutation and creation

Analysis

- ggplot2 visualization tools
- Regression analysis and hypothesis testing

HONORS

- GPA: 3.67/4.0
- Graduate *cum laude* (December 2022)
- Member, Global Scholars Program (2019 - 2022)

EXPERIENCE

American University, Department of Chemistry

Counterproliferation Research Assistant

Washington, DC

September 2022 – June 2023

- Participated in a field test of a prototype cheminformatics tool being developed with the Stimson Center to identify areas for further improvement.
- Conducted in-depth statistical analysis on data collected from 10 field test participants of a prototype cheminformatics tool developed in collaboration with the Stimson Center, yielding actionable insights for enhancing tool functionality.
- Leveraged advanced data analytics techniques to support the collaborative formulation of a Request for Proposal (RFP) with partners at the Stimson Center, tailored specifically for the procurement of an operational cheminformatics tool by the Canada Border Services Agency for bolstering counterproliferation efforts.
- Provided analysis of evolving EU, U.S., and Canadian chemical export restrictions to support product development.

Eurasia Center

Research Assistant/Chief Editor

Washington, DC

June 2022 – December 2022

- Authored comprehensive reports detailing the history, governing structure, and current security and political environments in Ukraine and Bosnia.
- Served the Eurasia Research Division, editing each article, country report, and press release prior to publication.
- Produced analytical reports on issues pertaining to transatlantic security, including strategies to rebuild Ukrainian infrastructure, counter Russian WMD threats, and approaches to handling seized Russian financial assets.

Open Dialogue Foundation

Research Intern

Brussels, Belgium

January 2022 – May 2022

- Employed advanced data analysis strategies to prepare detailed policy briefs elucidating the Foundation's stance on pivotal issues concerning the security and democratization of Poland, Kazakhstan, and Ukraine.
- Utilized briefs to underpin formal memoranda to the U.S. Department of State, UK Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the EU External Action Service for review and consideration within policy-making processes.
- Conducted financial investigations using open-source intelligence into illicit assets held in the West by corrupt officials and elites in post-Soviet states.
- Designed and curated comprehensive databases to centralize and analyze investigative findings, serving as the cornerstone for actionable sanctions recommendations forwarded to governmental bodies in the United States, United Kingdom, and European Union.

LEADERSHIP

Pericles Institute

Fellow, Editor in Chief of Defense Division

Washington, DC

November 2021 - Present

- Composed and published op-eds focusing on Eastern European security and NATO's force posture on Eastern flank, U.S. strategy towards Ukraine, and developments in defense procurement.
- Served as an editor for the National Security Division, editing each prospective op-ed before publication.
- Engaged authors in constructive dialogue regarding approaches to improve and refine their writing styles.
- Co-hosted podcast "Root of the Issue" covering current topics in the fields of U.S. foreign policy and national security.
- Delved into the relevance of tanks in modern combat, U.S. policy towards Taiwan, the war in Ukraine, and the effectiveness of Olympic boycotts.

College Republicans for Biden

President

Washington, DC

March 2020 - November 2020

- Designed and built a national network of College Republicans working to elect Joe Biden through virtual rallies, media appearances, and direct engagement on more than 15 campuses across the United States.
- Developed and promoted a targeted social media presence, logging 680,000+ impressions across multiple online platforms including Twitter and Instagram.
- Coordinated member media opportunities, including features and interviews with CNN, InsideClimate News, and the Harvard Political Review, quoted extensively in a lead digital article on CNN Politics.

SKILLS

Computer:

- Microsoft Excel, Word, and PowerPoint
- Google Workspace
- JSTOR
- RStudio

Languages:

- Beginner Russian