

William Spaniel

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

University of Rochester

Scheduled dissertation defense: May 2015.
MA, political science. May 2013.
Fields: International relations, formal theory, and political methodology.

University of California, San Diego

BA, political science (international relations). High honors. September 2009.

PUBLICATIONS

[Sanctions, Uncertainty, and Leader Tenure](#). With Bradley C. Smith. (Forthcoming, *International Studies Quarterly*.)

[How Uncertainty about the Legal Views of Judicial Nominees Distorts the Confirmation Process](#). With Maya Sen. (Forthcoming, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*.)

BOOK MANUSCRIPT *Bargaining over the Bomb: The Successes and Failures of Nuclear Negotiations*

Summary: Why do states acquire nuclear weapons? Existing theories of nuclear proliferation fail to account for the impact of the bargaining process—i.e., credible agreements exist in which rival states make sufficient concessions to convince the potential rising state not to proliferate. This book proves the existence of that range of settlements and the robustness of the inefficiency puzzle. It then provides two main explanations as to why states proliferate anyway. First, if the would-be proliferator expects to lose the ability to construct nuclear weapons in the future, the states face a commitment problem: the rival state would like to promise to continue providing concessions into the future but will renege once proliferation is no longer an option. And second, if the proliferator's rival faces some sort of uncertainty—whether regarding the potential proliferator's ability to go nuclear or regarding its previous proliferation activity—the optimal offer can entail positive probability of nuclear investment. However, the nonproliferation regime's mission to increase the cost of building often leads to Pareto improvement. Put differently, rising states sometimes benefit directly by making their nuclear options more costly.

WORKING PAPERS [Preventive War and the Credibility of Arms Treaties](#). (Revise and resubmit, *International Interactions*.)

[The Perverse Incentives of International Institutions](#)

[Ideology Matters: Policy Bargaining and International Conflict](#). With Peter Bils. (Under review.)

[Multi-Method Research: The Case for Formal Theory](#). With Hein Goemans. (Under review.)

[Getting a Hand By Cutting Them Off: How Uncertainty over Political Corruption Affects Violence](#). With Paul Zachary.

IN PREPARATION

[Why Collect Intelligence? The Role of Leaders](#). With Jonathan Bennett.

Risky Business: International Ideology, Crisis Initiation, and Conflict Duration. With Peter Bils and Brad Smith.

Crisis Bargaining with Irrelevant Learning. With Peter Bils.

Leaders, Uncertainty, and War. With Brad Smith

OTHER
PEER-REVIEWED
PUBLICATIONS

“Breaking Balls with a Runner on Third: A Game Theoretical Analysis of Optimal Behavior.” *The Baseball Research Journal*, Spring 2012.

TEXTBOOKS

Game Theory 101: Bargaining

Published August 2014.

The Rationality of War

Published August 2012.

Game Theory 101: The Complete Textbook

Published September 2011.

Game Theory 101: The Basics

Published July 2011.

INVITED TALKS

“The Invisible Fist: How Potential Power Coerces Concessions,” University of Buffalo, October 2012.

CONFERENCE
PRESENTATIONS
AND SERVICE

“Getting a Hand By Cutting Them Off: How Uncertainty over Political Corruption Affects Violence,” Comparative Politics Association at UCLA Graduate Student Conference, with Paul Zachary (Scheduled April 2015)

“Ideology Matters: Policy Bargaining and International Conflict,” 73rd Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, with Peter Bils (Scheduled April 2015).

“International Conflict, Uncertainty, and Leader Tenure,” 73rd Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, with Brad Smith (Scheduled April 2015).

“Crisis Bargaining with Irrelevant Learning,” 73rd Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference, with Peter Bils (Scheduled April 2015).

“Sanctions, Uncertainty, and Leader Tenure,” 2014 Peace Science Society Annual Meeting, with Bradley C. Smith.

2014 New Faces Conference. Triangle Institute for Security Studies.

“Ideology Matters: Policy Bargaining and International Conflict,” 2014 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition, with Peter Bils.

“War Exhaustion and the Stability of Arms Treaties,” 72st Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

“Bargaining over Nuclear Proliferation,” 55th Annual International Studies Association Convention.

“War Exhaustion and the Stability of Arms Treaties,” 85th Annual Southern Political Science Association Conference.

“War Exhaustion and the Stability of Arms Treaties,” 2013 Peace Science Society Annual Meeting.

“The Invisible Fist: How Potential Power Coerces Concessions,” 2013 American Political Science Association Annual Meeting & Exhibition. (Poster.)

“The Invisible Fist: How Potential Power Coerces Concessions,” 71st Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

Chair of “Nuclear Weapons and International Security” Panel, 71st Annual Midwest Political Science Association Conference.

“Butter for Bombs: How Potential Power Coerces Concessions,” 84th Annual Southern Political Science Association Conference.

Chair of “Political Power and Bargaining Models” Panel, 84th Annual Southern Political Science Association Conference.

“The Fear of Injury: Explaining Delay in Contract Extensions,” 42nd Annual Society for American Baseball Research Convention July 2012.

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

2014 Edward Curtis Peck Award Winner for Excellence in Teaching (University of Rochester’s highest graduate student teaching award; first political scientist to win it.)

Graduate Instructor Fellowship. University of Rochester, Spring and Fall 2014.

Charles E. Lanni Research Assistant Fellowship with Maya Sen. University of Rochester, 2014.

Graduate Student Association Conference Travel Award. University of Rochester, Spring 2014.

W. Allen Wallis Institute of Political Economy Fellowship. University of Rochester, 2013-2014.

Teaching Assistant Fellowship. University of Rochester, Fall 2013.

Teaching Assistant Fellowship. University of Rochester, Spring 2013.

Prestage-Cook Travel Award. 84th Annual Southern Political Science Association Conference, 2013.

Charles E. Lanni Research Assistant Fellowship with Maya Sen. University of Rochester, 2012.

Teaching Assistant Fellowship. University of Rochester, Fall 2012.

Charles E. Lanni Research Assistant Fellowship with Mark Fey. University of Rochester, 2012.

Charles E. Lanni Second Year Paper Fellowship. University of Rochester, 2012.

Teaching Assistant Fellowship. University of Rochester, Spring 2012.

Research Assistant Fellowship with Hein Goemans. University of Rochester, 2011.

Graduate Student Stipend and Tuition Fellowship. University of Rochester, 2010-2015.

TEACHING

Courses Taught

Introduction to International Relations. Fall 2014 and Spring 2015. University of Rochester. [Personal Website](#), [YouTube](#), [Udemy](#).

Civil War and International Systems. Spring 2014 and Spring 2015. University of Rochester. [Personal Website](#), [YouTube](#).

The Bargaining Model of War. Winter 2013. (Short course, graduate level.)

Game Theory 101. Fall 2012. MOOC. [Personal Website](#), [YouTube](#), [Udemy](#).

Teaching Assistant

Law and Politics in the United States. Professor Maya Sen. Fall 2013.

Introduction to International Relations. Professor Hein Goemans. Spring 2013 and Spring 2012.

Civil War and the International System. Professor Bethany Lacina. Fall 2012 and Fall 2011.

Game Theory 101

Creator of the [Game Theory 101 YouTube Channel](#). 400 videos; 15,000 subscribers; 3.4 million lifetime video views.

REFEREEING

Conflict Management and Peace Science, International Interactions, Journal of Politics, Review of International Studies, Stability: International Journal of Security and Development, The Baseball Research Journal

REFERENCES

Randall W. Stone (Chair)

Professor of Political Science
University of Rochester
randall.stone@rochester.edu

Mark Fey

Associate Professor of Political Science
University of Rochester
mark.fey@rochester.edu

Hein Goemans

Associate Professor of Political Science
University of Rochester
hgoemans@mail.rochester.edu

Maya Sen

Assistant Professor of Political Science
Harvard University
maya_sen@hks.harvard.edu

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