Statement of Work

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The project titled “Access and Influence? US U.S. and Chinese Military Presence and Popular Support in Host Countries” aims to study how states project power abroad to exert influence in the international system. The project seeks to make research contributions relating to how great power competition between the U.S. and China is redefining the concepts of basing and access, comparing military versus civilian methods of influence, and contrasting views of the U.S. and China abroad. The project will produce new theory on these topics and will test it using quantitative and qualitative methods, including survey experiments. As deliverables, the project will produce a series of peer-reviewed journal articles, general audience articles and blog posts, and publicly available survey data.

Dr. Michael Flynn, Professor of Political Science at Kansas State University, will contribute to all aspects of the project. Dr. Flynn is an expert on U.S. foreign policy, military basing, and military deployments. Dr. Flynn and his colleagues have been at the forefront of the new wave of the study of overseas military basing, using mass public opinion surveys and advanced quantitative methods. Dr. Flynn is also an expert in Bayesian statistical analysis and data science techniques, and can contribute to both the theoretical and empirical understanding of the factors that shape individuals’ views of foreign military powers and their efforts at projecting power through military bases and deployments. Dr. Flynn’s work has appeared in a wide range of leading political science journals and his work is frequently cited by researchers and journalists who are interested in questions of military basing. Dr. Flynn also has experience interviewing members of the military, and also civilians and government officials, in his previous work on military basing and deployments. Dr. Flynn also wrote, develops, and maintains the “troopdata” R package, which provides other researchers with easy access to publicly available U.S. Department of Defense data on military deployments for use in their own research.

Dr. Flynn will work as a co-author on manuscripts related to these topics and will contribute to the development of theoretical arguments, survey design, and research design. Given his expertise with Bayesian modeling and other data science tools, Dr. Flynn will serve as the principal data analyst on this project. Kansas State University provides Dr. Flynn with office space and access to a graduate research assistant. Dr. Flynn uses open source software (e.g. R, Stan, and brms) to develop and run his statistical models and carry out the quantitative analyses for the project.