

# Spencer L Willardson

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## CONTACT INFORMATION

Stephen F. Austin State University  
Department of Government  
Dugas Liberal Arts North, Office 136  
Nacogdoches, TX 75962

(936) 468-1208  
[spencer.l.willardson@gmail.com](mailto:spencer.l.willardson@gmail.com)  
[www.spencerwillardson.net](http://www.spencerwillardson.net)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

Foreign Policy Analysis, Arms transfers, International Security, Intelligence and Foreign Policy, Russian Foreign Policy.

## EDUCATION

### University of Iowa

Ph.D. Political Science, May 2013

- Dissertation Title: *Under the Influence of Arms: The Foreign Policy Causes and Consequences of Arms Transfers*
- Advisors: Cameron G. Thies and William Reisinger

### American Military University

M.A. in Strategic Intelligence, July 2007

### Utah State University

B.S. in Business Administration, December 2005

- *Cum Laude*
- Minors in Russian and International Business

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

### Assistant Professor

Stephen F. Austin State University

**2020–Present**

### Assistant Professor

Nazarbayev University, Astana KZ

**2014–2020**

### Visiting Assistant Professor

University of Nevada Las Vegas

**2013–2014**

## SCHOLARSHIP

## REFEREED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Willardson, Spencer L and Richard A.I. Johnson. 2022. "Arms Transfers and International Relations Theory: Situating Military Aircraft Sales in the Broader IR Context." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 39(2):191-213.

Johnson, Richard A.I. and Spencer L Willardson. 2018. "Human Rights and Democratic Arms Transfers: Rhetoric Versus Reality with Different Types of Major Weapon Systems," *International Studies Quarterly* 62(2):453-64.

Willardson, Spencer L. 2016. "Detention as a Peacemaking Strategy: The 2007-08 Iraq Surge and US Detention." *Foreign Policy Analysis* 12(3):275-294.

Solt, Frederick, Donkyu Kim, Kyu Young Lee, Spencer Willardson, and Seokdong Kim. 2014. Neoliberal Reform and Protest in Latin American Democracies: A Replication and Correction. *Research and Politics* July-September 2014:1-13.

Willardson, Spencer L. 2013. Strategic Intelligence During COIN Operations: Relational Data and Understanding Latent Terror Networks. *Defense and Security Analysis* 29(1):42-53.

## NON PEER-REVIEWED SCHOLARSHIP

Willardson, Spencer L. 2020. "Building a Parallel World Order: A Review of Post-Western World." *International Studies Review* 22(3):718-9.

## WORKING PAPERS

*This section lists papers that are nearing completion for submission to journals, or which are submitted, but without an R&R status.*

"Stability in Global Arms Transfers: A Relational Event Network Approach" with Richard A.I. Johnson and Narisong Huhe (Strathclyde)

"Role Theory and Kazakhstan's Multi-Vector Foreign Policy" with Akbota Karibayeva (George Washington University)

"Arming Rebels: Using Arms to foster Roles in the International System."

## OTHER PROFESSIONAL WRITING

Willardson, Spencer and Charles J. Sullivan. 2021. "So You're Thinking About Professing Abroad." [Duck of Minerva](#)

## CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

*This section lists conference presentations for the past five years.*

"Role Theory and Kazakhstan's Multi-Vector Foreign Policy." Presented at LDS Scholars Workshop, Brigham Young University, May 19-20, 2022.

"Arming Rebels: Enacting Roles in the International System." Presented at ISA Annual Meeting (virtual), April 6-9, 2021.

"Testing Kazakhstan's Multi-Vector Foreign Policy Concept in its Security Policy Actions." Presented at *Texas Triangle* Conference; Online: February 6-7, 2021.

"Building an Independent Identity through Arms Sales: Ukrainian Arms Sales 1990-2017." Presented at ISA Midwest annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO: November 22-23, 2019.

"Arms as Socialization: Arms Transfers as a Mechanism for Creating and Enforcing International Roles." Presented at ISSS-IS Annual Meeting; Denver, CO: October 18-19, 2019.

"Arms as Socialization: Arms Transfers as a Mechanism for Creating and Enforcing International Roles." Presented at ISA Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada: March

27-30, 2019.

“Covert Military Action and Domestic vs. External Audiences.” Presented at ISA Annual Meeting, Toronto, Canada: March 27-30, 2019.

“Covert Military Action and Domestic vs. External Audiences.” Presented at ISA Midwest Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO: November 16-17, 2018.

“Measuring Attitudes Toward Military Issues in Kazakhstan.” Presented at ISA Midwest Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO: November 16-17, 2018.

“Arms as Socialization: Arms Transfers as a Mechanism for Creating and Enforcing International Roles” Nazarbayev University PSIR Colloquium with Cameron Thies, September 4, 2018.

“Testing Kazakhstan’s Multi-Vector Foreign Policy Concept in its Security Actions.” Presented at the ISA Midwest annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO: November 17-18, 2017.

“Arms as Socialization: Arms Transfers as a Mechanism for Creating and Enforcing International Roles” Presented at the APSA Annual Meeting, San Francisco, CA: August 31-Sept 3, 2017

#### INVITED TALKS

“Perspectives on the Ukraine-Russia Conflict.” Stephen F. Austin State University Political Science and National Security Studies Program Event. March 2, 2022.

“Sources of Conflict in the Middle East.” Nazarbayev University Debate Academy. Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan; July 12, 2019.

“Arms as Socialization: Arms Transfers as a Mechanism for Creating and Enforcing International Roles.” Brigham Young University Department of Political Science. Provo, Utah; April 9, 2019.

“Testing Kazakhstan’s Multi-Vector Foreign Policy Concept in its Security Actions.” School of Advanced Military Studies. Fort Leavenworth, KS; April 9, 2018.

“Testing Kazakhstan’s Multi-Vector Foreign Policy Concept in its Security Actions.” PSIR Forum, November 2, 2017. Nazarbayev University.

“The End of History vs. The Clash of Civilizations: Examining International Trends and Threats.” Special seminar Senior Executives Program for the State Security Service of the Republic of Kazakhstan, Graduate School of Public Policy, Nazarbayev University. 31 October 2016.

“Covert Military Action and Domestic vs. External Audiences Examining Russia’s Response to Allegations of Covert Actions in Ukraine.” University of Wisconsin, Madison. 15 September 2016.

“Covert Military Action and Domestic vs. External Audiences Examining Russia’s Response to Allegations of Covert Actions in Ukraine.” Coastal Carolina University. 22 April 2016.

“Covert Military Action and Domestic vs. External Audiences Examining Russia’s Response to Allegations of Covert Actions in Ukraine.” PSIR Forum, January 28, 2016. Nazarbayev University.

“Building Bridges to the Island of Intelligence: Incorporating Intelligence Studies into Security Studies.” Political Science and International Relations (PSIR) Forum, October 1, 2015. Nazarbayev University.

## TEACHING

### AWARDS AND HONORS

**2022** Stephen F. Austin State University College of Liberal and Applied Arts *Teaching Excellence Award*. (Awarded to one tenure track professor per college per year.)

**2018** School of Humanities and Social Science *Mentor of the Year Award*.

**2013** Outstanding Teaching Assistant University of Iowa – \$1,000

### COURSES TAUGHT

*The courses listed in two sections below reflect teaching across three institutions: UNLV, Nazarbayev University and SFASU. Courses with course numbers reflect courses at my current institution.*

#### GRADUATE AND MIXED GRADUATE UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Course	Last Taught
NISS-5307: US Policy Russia	Spring 2022
NISS-5320: Interagency Operations	Fall 2021
NISS-5321: Response to Transnational Threats	Spring 2021
NISS-5304: International Terrorism	Fall 2020
Graduate IR Seminar	Fall 2018
Advanced Research Methods ( <i>Req. Grad. Research Design</i> )	Fall 2017
International Security and Conflict	Spring 2019
The Politics of Arms in International Relations	Fall 2019
International Relations of Eurasia	Spring 2020

#### UNDERGRADUATE COURSES

Course	Last Taught
GOVT-2340: Money and Power (Intro to CP)	Spring 2022
GOVT-2305: Intro to Federal Government	Spring 2022
GOVT-4339: Civil-Military Relations	Spring 2021
Quantitative Methods	Fall 2015
Political Science Research Methods	Fall 2017
Introduction to International Relations	Fall 2018
Research Methods in Political Science (UNLV)	Spring 2014
Political Violence and Terrorism	Spring 2014
International Security	Fall 2013

## AWARDS AND GRANTS

<b>Year</b>	<b>Award/Grant</b>
2017	ISA Travel Grant –\$440
2016	ISA-Midwest Emerging Scholar Travel Grant – \$100
2016	John and Mary Witte Service Award – Award for Service to the School Faculty Development Exchange in Madison, Wisconsin. ≈\$5,500.
2015	BYU Young Scholars Workshop travel grant –\$1,700 NU Social Policy Seed Research Grant – ≈ \$10,000
2014	ISA Travel Grant – \$250 University of Nevada, Las Vegas Travel Grant – \$1,000
2013	UNLV Course Development Grant – \$1,500 U. of Iowa Department of Political Science Travel Grant – \$1,000 U. of Iowa Graduate Student Senate (GSS) Travel Grant – \$200 ISA Travel Grant – \$250
2012	Boren Fellowship (\$18,125) – Award declined. (family circumstances)

## SERVICE

### UNIVERSITY SERVICE

#### Stephen F. Austin University

<b>Years</b>	<b>Service Assignment</b>
2021-22	Member, Department of Government Executive Committee
2020-21	Member, Undergraduate Research Conference Committee
2021-22	Member, Department of Government Scholarship Committee

#### Nazarbayev University

<b>Years</b>	<b>Service Assignment</b>
2019	<i>Member</i> , Department hiring committee
2019	<i>Member</i> , Graduate Admissions Committee, PSIR MA Program
2015-17	<i>Chair</i> , Department of Political Science
2016	<i>Member</i> , Graduate Admissions Committee, PSIR MA Program
2015	<i>Chair</i> , Graduate Admissions Committee, PSIR MA Program.
2015	<i>Chair</i> , Department Hiring Committee
2015-20	Head Coach, NU Women's Basketball Team
2017-19	SHSS Teaching and Learning Committee
2015-17	SHSS Research Committee
2015-17	SHSS Leadership Committee
2014-15	Student Affairs Committee member
2014-16	Nazarbayev University Faculty Senate

### CONFERENCE PANEL ACTIVITIES

*Panel activities for last five years.*

*Discussant*, paper entitled “Cost Sensitivity and Public Support for Nuclear Weapon,” Texas Triangle Conference: February 6-7 2021.

*Discussant*, panel entitled “Roles in International Relations,” ISA Midwest, St. Louis, MO: November 22-23, 2019.

*Chair*, panel entitled “Authoritarian Politics,” ISA Midwest, St. Louis, MO: November 22-23, 2019.

*Chair and Discussant*, panel entitled “Soft and Hard Power Projection,” ISA Midwest, St. Louis, MO: November 16-17, 2018.

*Panelist*, panel entitled “Quincy Wright Distinguished Scholar Roundtable,” ISA Midwest, St. Louis, MO: November 17-18, 2017.

## MA THESIS SUPERVISION

### Nazarbayev University

Year	Student Name	Thesis Link
2021	Basit Gulzar (Outside Reviewer)	<a href="#">Link</a>
2020	Alina Nurtas	<a href="#">Link</a>
	Bakhyt Tulegenova	<a href="#">Link</a>
2017	Madina Bizhanova	<a href="#">Link</a>
2016	Almira Sadykova (PhD Student SUNY Bing.)	<a href="#">Link</a>
	Aibar Sharipov	<a href="#">Link</a>
	Alibek Akhmentov	<a href="#">Link</a>

## REVIEWER

### Reviews for last five years:

*Oxford Research Encyclopedia Series, Foreign Policy Analysis, Journal of Peace Research, International Studies Quarterly, International Studies Review, Journal of Global Security Studies, Journal of Conflict Resolution, International Security, International Interactions, Journal of Politics, Defence and Peace Economics.*

## SERVICE TO DISCIPLINE

Student Paper Award Committee, Intelligence Studies Section, ISA, (2015, 2016, 2017).

## OTHER SKILLS

### LANGUAGES

English – native speaker

Russian – advanced reading, professional/functional speaking, intermediate writing

### SOFTWARE

**Statistical:** STATA, R

PROFESSIONAL  
MEMBERSHIPS

**Applications:** L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, common Windows spreadsheet and presentation software, Zotero

American Political Science Association – September 2008-Present

International Studies Association – June 2009-Present

International Political Science Association 2015-Present

Midwest Political Science Association – December 2009-December 2013

NON-ACADEMIC  
EXPERIENCE

AWARDS AND HONORS

Bronze Star Medal – "For meritorious service during combat operations as a Tactical HUMINT Team Leader in the 101st Airborne Division"

Knowlton Award – Given to individuals who have "contributed significantly to the promotion of Army intelligence" (Awarded for actions during Iraq service in 2003-2004)

Army Commendation Medal – Awarded for being the 141st Military Intelligence Battalion Noncommissioned Officer (NCO) of the Year 2005

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**2000-2009** Counterintelligence Agent, Utah Army National Guard

- Developed tracking database to establish relationships between intelligence targets within population of more than 20,000 detainees. (2007-2008 Iraq)
- Developed threat ranking matrix/calculator to assess threats posed by detainees to guard force and other detainees. (2007-2008 Iraq)
- Served as Tactical Human Intelligence Team leader of 4 soldiers in combat in Iraq. (2003-2004)
- Coordinated language training for 40 soldiers speaking 6 languages at monthly drills. (2004-2007)
- Supervised 8 soldiers translating open source documents in multiple locations. (2005-2007)
- Developed process and Standard Operating Procedures for Quality Assurance Team which processed more than 3,000 translated documents (27,000 pages) over an 18 month period. (2005-2007)

REFERENCES

References Available upon request.

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[www.spencerwillardson.net](http://www.spencerwillardson.net)