

Distinguished Speaker Series

Dr. Nina Kollars



Dr. Kollars owns the rights to these photographs.
Photographers name is BP Miller
Company Chorus Photography



Distinguished Speaker Series

Dr. Nina Kollars

Dr. Kollars' title is: Assistant Professor of Government at Franklin & Marshall College

Biography:

Dr. Nina Kollars is Assistant Professor of Government at Franklin & Marshall College. As a graduate of Ohio State University's Department of Political Science Kollars' most recently published research has been featured in Security Studies, Journal of Strategic Studies, & Survival. Central themes in her work are innovation, adaptation, and organizational design. She is currently working on a book manuscript that focuses on the efforts of war practitioners and organizational responses to their insights and creativity. She is a non-resident fellow at the Modern War Institute at West Point Military Academy; a member of the Committee for the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy, an editorial board member of the Special Operations Journal, and a committed professor to her students. Before entering academia Kollars completed analyses for the Federal Research Division of the Library of Congress, and the World Bank.

Dr. Kollars Topic

Enabling Practitioner-driven Innovation: Balancing Genius with Mastery

The majority of research about new innovation models focus upon generating revolutionary grand design shifts as a way to assure military dominance. Left largely under-appreciated in current dialogue, however, are the accompanying processes of adaptation and improvisation and their impressive roles in driving military change.

In particular, new innovation models overemphasize the role of "private industry genius" without examining the means by which preexisting organizational knowledge is required to transform contemporary practices with future war fighting potential. Drawing on historical and contemporary case studies across the U.S. Armed Services, this presentation invites consideration of the relationship among these processes in order to try to rebalance the discourse on military innovation.

Dr. Kollars Publications

1. "Organizing Adaptation in War." *Survival* Vol 57, Iss. 6, 2015
2. Book Review: "When Soldiers Fall: How Americans Have Confronted Combat Losses from World War I to Afghanistan" *The RUSI Journal* Vol. 160, Iss. 5, 2015
3. "Bootstrapping and Portability in Simulation Design" co-authored with Amanda Rosen, *International Studies Perspectives* 2015 doi: 10.1093/isp/ekv007
4. "Military Innovation's Dialectic." *Security Studies*, no. December 2014 (2014).
5. "War's Horizon: Soldier-Led Adaptation in Iraq and Vietnam." *Journal of Strategic Studies* (2014). <http://dx.doi.org/10.1080/01402390.2014.971947>
6. Co-Author "Terrorists that Couldn't: Seeing Terrorist Innovation as a Risky Venture." *Homeland Security Review* (Fall 2014).
7. "Non-Material Factors & Taking the Soldier Seriously: Five Clarifications in Military Technological Innovation." in *American Strategy and Purpose: Reflections on Foreign Policy and National Security in an Era of Change*. Natter & Brooks eds.
8. Co-Author "Pass 'Em Right: Assessing the Threat of WMD Terrorism from America's Christian Patriots." *Perspectives on Terrorism* (2013, Vol 5:2)
9. Co-Author "Simulations as Active Assessment?: Typologizing by Purpose and Source." *Journal of Political Science Education* (2013, Vol 9:2)