Zachary Burdette

Contact Information	MIT Security Studies Program 1 Amherst Street, Building E40-400 Cambridge, MA 02142	zacharyburdette.com ✉ zakb@mit.edu

Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Department of Political Science — 2018–present
  Ph.D. Candidate, Security Studies and Quantitative Methods Subfields
  Teaching Certificate, MIT Teaching + Learning Lab

Georgetown University, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service — 2013–2018
  M.A. Security Studies, Military Operations Concentration
  B.S. Foreign Service, *summa cum laude*

Academic Positions

Harvard University, Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs — 2023–2024
  Predoctoral Fellow, International Security Program

Research Experience

The RAND Corporation, Adjunct Researcher — 2021–present
- Researched and wrote reports related to grand strategy, defense planning, and escalation
- Developed conceptual frameworks, operational analysis, and defense planning scenarios
- Drafted policy memos for senior officials in the Department of Defense

MIT, Graduate Research & Teaching Assistant — 2020–present
- Contributed to research on the alt-right, misinformation, and insurgencies
- Analyzed and visualized data, drafted book chapters, and conducted literature reviews
- Taught weekly sections on military analysis and quantitative causal inference

Publications

The Limits of Restraint: The Military Implications of a Restrained U.S. Grand Strategy in the Asia-Pacific, Miranda Priebe, Karl Mueller, Kristen Gunness, and Zachary Burdette (Santa Monica, CA: RAND, 2022).

Do Alliances and Partnerships Entangle the United States in Conflict? Miranda Priebe, Bryan Rooney, Caitlin McCulloch, and Zachary Burdette (Santa Monica, CA: RAND, 2021).

Awards

Distinction, MIT Security Studies Program	2020
Distinction (awarded to 2 of 108 students), Georgetown Security Studies Program	2018
Summa Cum Laude (awarded to the top 5% of students), Georgetown University	2017
Edmund A. Walsh Medal (awarded to 1 student), Georgetown University	2017

Grants and Fellowships

World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship, Smith Richardson Foundation	2022–2023
Cold War Archives Research Institute Fellowship, Wilson Center	2021–2022
Merit Scholarship, Georgetown Security Studies Program	2018

Skills

Software: R (advanced), Python (basic), LaTeX

(Human) Languages: Arabic (intermediate reading | language immersion in Amman, Jordan)
French (intermediate reading | language immersion in Tours, France)