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 — Anticipated: 2023
  Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science
  Fields: Security Studies, Quantitative Methods

Georgetown University, Edmund A. Walsh School of Foreign Service
  M.A. Security Studies, Military Operations Concentration — 2016–2018
  B.S. Foreign Service, *summa cum laude* — 2013–2017

Additional Training

Qasid Arabic Institute | language immersion in Amman, Jordan — Summer 2019
Institut de Touraine | language immersion in Tours, France — Summer 2015

Experience

The RAND Corporation, Summer Associate — 2021
  • Conduct research on U.S. grand strategy and military posture in the Asia-Pacific

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Graduate Research Assistant — 2020–2021
  • Contributed to research on the alt-right, political misinformation, and insurgencies
  • Visualized data, drafted book chapters, and conducted literature reviews
  • Developed quantitative models to analyze text data from YouTube video transcripts

Teaching

MIT, 17.802, Quantitative Methods II: Causal Inference (TA for PhD students) — 2021
Georgetown, GOVT-060, International Relations (TA for undergraduates) — 2017

Working Papers

"The Emerging Military Balance in Space" — 2021
"Economic Strategies in Great Power Politics" — 2021
"Twitter in Iraq's Protest Movement" (with Elizabeth Parker-Magyar) — 2020

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
Phi Beta Kappa, Georgetown University — 2017
Edmund A. Walsh Medal, Georgetown University — 2017

Grants and Fellowships

Graduate Fellowship, MIT Department of Political Science — 2018–2023
Merit Scholarship, Georgetown Security Studies Program — 2018
Ellsworth Bunker Research Fellowship, Georgetown University — 2016–2017

University Service

Tutor, MIT English as a Second Language Program for Service Employees — 2021
Mentorship Committee Co-Chair, MIT Political Science Graduate Student Council — 2020–2021
Social Committee Co-Chair, MIT Political Science Graduate Student Council — 2018–2020
Working Group Co-Coordinator, MIT Women in International Politics and Security — 2020
Adviser, MIT Political Science Application Mentorship Program — 2020

Skills

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

(Human) Languages: Modern Standard Arabic (media reading, writing, and speaking)
French (basic reading, tourist speaking)