

Peter S. Henne, Ph.D.
Associate Professor
Department of Political Science
Director, Middle East Studies
Global and Regional Studies Program
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Education

Ph.D. in Government, Georgetown University May 2013
Dissertation Committee: Dr. Andrew Bennett (chair), Dr. Thomas Banchoff, Dr. Daniel Nexon

B.A. in Political Science, Vassar College May 2005

Academic Appointments

University of Vermont 2016-Present
Burlington, VT

- Assistant Professor 2016-2020
- Associate Professor with tenure 2020-

Administrative Appointments

Director, Middle East Studies, College of Arts and Sciences, 2019-Present
University of Vermont

Scholarly Publications

Books

Religious Appeals in Power Politics, Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2023

Islamic Politics, Muslim States and Counterterrorism Tensions, New York: Cambridge University Press, 2017.

Peer Reviewed Articles

“Reassembling the Social in the Study of Religion and International Relations,” *International Studies Review*, 25.3 (2023)

“What we talk about when we talk about soft power,” *International Studies Perspectives*, 23.1 (2022): 94-111

“Assessing the impact of the Global War on Terrorism on terrorism threats in majority-Muslim countries,” *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 33.7 (2021)

“Issues in quantitative and security analysis involving Muslims,” *International Journal of Religion*, 2.1 (2021)

“Weapon of the Strong?: Government Support for Religion and Majoritarian Terrorism,” (with Nilay Saiya and Ashlyn Hand), 64.10 (2020), *Journal of Conflict Resolution*

“Government interference in religious institutions and terrorism,” *Religion, state and society*, 47.1-Special Issue, “The Correlates of Religion and State” (2019): 67-87

Included in *The Correlates of Religion and States*, Fox (ed.), London: Routledge

“Taming the Gods: How Religious Conflict Shapes State Repression,” (with Jason Klocek) *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 63.1 (2019): 112-138

“Does the UN Human Rights Council Help or Hurt Religious Repression,” *Journal of Church and State*, 60.4 (2018): 705-724

“The Effect of Religious Restrictions on Forced Migration,” (with Melanie Kolbe) *Politics and Religion*, 7.4, 2014: 665-684

“The Domestic Politics of International Religious Defamation,” *Politics and Religion*, 6.3 (2013): 512-538

“The Two Swords: Religion-State Connections and Interstate Conflict,” *Journal of Peace Research*, 49.6, (2012): 755-769.

“The Ancient Fire: Religion and Suicide Terrorism,” *Terrorism and Political Violence* 24.1, (2012): 38-61. Included in *International Relations and Religion*, Hassner and Svensson (Eds.), London: Sage Publications, 2016.

Encyclopedia Chapters, Chapters in Edited Volumes and Book Reviews

“Religious nationalism and terrorism,” in *Routledge Handbook of Religious Nationalism*, ed. Jeffrey Haynes, London: Routledge, forthcoming

The Irony of American Religious Soft Power: Geopolitical Grand Narratives and Religious Outreach in US Foreign Policy (with Gregorio Bettiza), in *The Geopolitics of Religious Soft Power: How States Use Religion in Foreign Policy*, ed. Peter Mandaville, New York: Oxford University Press (2023)

“Religious soft power: Promises, limits and ways forward,” (with Gregorio Bettiza), *The Geopolitics of Religious Soft Power: How States Use Religion in Foreign Policy*, ed. Peter Mandaville, New York: Oxford University Press (2023)

“Mohammed Tabaar, *Religious Statecraft: The Politics of Islam in Iran*,” review in *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 32.6 (2020): 1365-1366.

“Lee Marsden, *Religion and International Security*,” review in *Global Change, Peace and Security* 32.2 (2020): 236-237

“Nilay Saiya, *Weapon of Liberty*,” review in *Nationalities Papers* (2020), 48.4, 791-793.

“Religion and terrorism: an overview,” chapter in the *Oxford Encyclopedia of Politics and Religion*, New York: Oxford University Press, 2020

“One Cheer for Classical Realism, or Toward a Power Politics of Religion,” (with Daniel Nexon) in Jodok Troy (ed.), *Religion and the Realist Tradition*, pp 164-176, New York, NY: Routledge, 2013

“Interpret this Volume! What we’ve learned about *Battlestar Galactica*’s International-Relations scholar-fans,” (with Daniel Nexon) in Neumann, Iver and Nicholas Kiersey (Eds.), pp 206-219, *Battlestar Galactica and International Relations*, New York, NY: Routledge, 2013.

“Is all Jihad Local? Transnational Contention and Political Violence in Somalia” chapter in Leonard, Emma & Gilbert Ramsay (Eds.). *Globalizing Somalia: Multilateral, International, and Transnational Repercussions of Conflict*. New York, NY: Bloomsbury Academic, 2013.

Works in progress

“The impact of ISIS on local conflicts: a social network approach”

“Is there a Muslim world? A social network approach”

“Bringing irony back in: Creating space for ambivalence about values in international relations”

“The Role of Islam in Post-Arab Spring International Relations: A Social Network Analysis”

“Religious Repression and the Moderating Effects of Social Networks” (with Jason Klocek)

“Aiding religion: Regime survival, ideological affinity, and authoritarian collaboration,” (with Howard Liu and Shahryar Minhas)

Fellowships and Awards

Research Fellowship, Alwaleed Centre for the Study of Islam in the Contemporary World/
Institute for the Advanced Study of the Humanities, University of Edinburgh Spring 2022

Project Launch Grant, University of Notre Dame, Global Religion Research Institute, 2019-2020

- Role: PI
- Extended and expanded, Spring 2021

Small Grant Award, University of Vermont College of Arts and Sciences, 2019

- Role: PI

Faculty Research Support Award, University of Vermont College of Arts and Sciences, 2017

- Role: PI

Selected to attend the Bridging the Gap Project’s International Policy Summer Institute, 2017

National Fellowship, Miller Center of Public Affairs, University of Virginia, 2012- 2013

Eliza Buffington Fellowship, Vassar College, 2012

Jill K. Hopper Memorial Fellowship, Georgetown University Department of Government, 2011-2012

Teaching

Associate Professor, University of Vermont 2016-Present
Introduction to International Relations, Middle East politics, Islam and world politics, Terrorism and Counterterrorism

- Course format: large lecture, small seminar, online

Instructor, Department of Government/School of Continuing Studies, 2010- 2011
Islam and World Politics

Teaching Assistant, Department of Government, Georgetown University 2008-2010
Contemporary US Foreign Policy, Introduction to International Relations

Theses advised

- “Climate change and conflict in the Middle East,” Evan Smith, University of Vermont, 2020
- John Bush, “China’s soft power in the context of the BRI,” 2021
- Emma Allen, “An Idealized Past: An Investigative Analysis of 21st Century Reactionary Politics in the State of Vermont,” 2023

Outside dissertations that engaged with my work

- Alon Burstein, “Terrorizing God’s Enemies: The influence of religion on terror group activity,” Hebrew University, 2020
- Luke M. Herrington, “Unpacking the “Religious Freedom Peace”: Religious Freedom as a Multivalent Determinant of Political Violence,” University of Kentucky, 2020

-Harrison Akins, "The Terrorism Trap," University of Tennessee, 2018
-Nicholas Chan, Cambridge University, 2017

Presentations

Recent Conference Presentations

"Is there an Islamic world? A social network approach," presented at the 2023 Society for the Scientific Study of Religion annual meeting

"Progress in international relations: the view from the trenches," presented as part of a roundtable at the 2023 annual meeting of the International Studies Association

"The internationalization of religious repression in the Arab Spring: A social network analysis," (with Shahryar Minhas and Howard Liu), presented at the 2022 annual meeting of the American Political Science Association

"Does any of this work? US religious engagement and counterterrorism," presented at the 2022 International Studies Association annual meeting

"A network approach to religious repression and terrorism," (with Jason Klocek) presented at the 2022 International Studies Association annual meeting

"A Weapon in the Diplomatic Arsenal: Saudi Arabia's Islamic Pact"

- Presented at the 2020 American Political Science Association conference
- Presented at the 2019 International Security Section conference

"The impact of the Arab Spring on Islamist influence: A social network analysis," (with Shahryar Minhas and Howard Liu)

- Presented at the 2020 International Studies Association-Midwest conference
- Presented at the 2021 International Studies Association annual meeting

"What are the effects of US religious soft power?" presented at the 2021 International Studies Association annual meeting

"Beyond Soft Power: Religious appeals and foreign policy," scheduled to be presented at the cancelled 2020 annual meeting of the International Studies Association

"The Role of Islam in Post-Arab Spring International Relations: A Social Network Analysis"

- presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, March 2019
- presented at the 2019 Political Networks conference
- to be presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, August 2019

"Weapon of the Strong?: Government Support for Religion and Majoritarian Terrorism," presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, March 2019

Recent Invited Presentations

"Is there a Muslim world? A social network approach," presented at the Institute for Advanced Studies in the Humanities, University of Edinburgh, May 2023

"The value of network analysis to the study of religious politics," presented at the Centre for the Study of Subversion, Unconventional Interventions and Terrorism, University of Nottingham, May 2023

"Religious repression and terrorism: a social network approach," presented at the German Institute for Global and Area Studies, April 2023

“Religious appeals as an unpredictable tool in power politics,” presented at John Cabot University, April 2023

“The Prospects for Middle East peace,” Norwich University Peace and War Summit, March 2023

“Careers in international affairs,” Vassar College Sophomore-Alumni Career Mentoring Workshop, January 2023

“Geopolitics and religious soft power,” presented at the Religion and IR International Studies Association book talk series, January 2023

“What explains rising restrictions on religion?” part of plenary session on International Religious Freedom, Global Peace Foundation Peace Convention, August 2021

“Does any of this work? US religious engagement and counterterrorism,” Research Workshop on Resolving Armed Islamist Conflicts, Uppsala University, Uppsala Sweden, July 2021

“Impacts of the Ukraine war on security in the Indo-Pacific,” Vermont Council on World Affairs, May 2021

“What are the effects of US religious soft power?” Talk as part of Georgetown University’s Berkley Center Religious Soft Power speaker series, January 2021

“Religion as a tool in US foreign policy,” Georgetown University’s Berkley Center conference on the geopolitics of faith, scheduled for March 2020 (cancelled due to pandemic)

“Computational approaches to religious conflict,” Michigan State University Political Science/John Jay College working group, 2018

“Islam and counterterrorism: What’s the connection” (based on findings from *Islamic Politics, Muslim States and Counterterrorism Tensions* (Cambridge University Press, 2017)

-National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Response to Terrorism, 2017

-United States Department of Homeland Security, 2017

Consulting

US Commission on International Religious Freedom, Center for American Progress, US State Department Office of International Religious Freedom, Catholic Social Services Immigration Legal Services, US Committee for Refugees and Immigrants,

Reviewer

Journals:

American Journal of Political Science; Conflict Management and Peace Science; Democracy and Security, International Interactions; International Journal of Media, Culture and Politics; International Journal of Religious Freedom, International Organization, International Studies Quarterly; Journal of Conflict Resolution; Journal of Peace Research; Journal of Politics; Journal of Political Power; Politics and Religion; Politics, Religion and Ideology; Religion, State and Society; Religion; Religions, Theory and Society; Security Studies; Social Compass; St. Anthony’s International Review; Terrorism and Political Violence

Books and Reports:

Cambridge University Press, Oxford University Press, Routledge Taylor and Francis Group, Lynne Reiner Press, MacMillan, De Gruyter, US Institute for Peace

Grant Proposals:

Israeli Science Foundation, Swiss Science Foundation, Templeton Religion Trust

Professional Service

- Fulfills frequent *ad hoc* requests for information manuscript review by both junior and senior scholars
- Fulfills frequent requests for access to data and publications for researchers around the world
- International Studies Association
 - Chair, Best Book Award Committee, Religion and International Relations Section 2023-2024
 - Editorial board, *International Studies Perspectives* 2020-2023
 - Best Book Award Committee member, Religion and International Relations Section 2019-2020
 - Vice Chair, Religion and International Relations section 2018-2020
 - Secretary, Religion and International Relations section 2016-2018
- American Political Science Association
 - Kenneth N. Waltz Dissertation Award Committee, International Security Section, 2020-2021
 - Aaron Wildavsky Best Dissertation award committee, Religion and Politics section, American Political Science Association 2020-2021

University Service

- Honors Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont 2022-Present
- Parliamentarian, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont 2021-Present
- Political Science Department Social Media efforts, founder and director University of Vermont 2019-2023
- Political Science Department representative to the University of Vermont College of Arts and Sciences Faculty Meetings 2016-Present
- Chair, Academic hiring committee, Department of Political Science, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont Spring 2022
- Appointed member, Political Science Department chair search committee, University of Vermont Spring 2022
- Curriculum Committee, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont 2019-2022
- Participant in Phase II of EAB Advising Software roll-out, 2018-2019
- Appointed by Dean's Office, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Vermont
- Appointed member, Political Science Department chair search committee, University of Vermont 2017
- Notetaker, Political Science Department, University of Vermont, 2016-2019

Recent Policy/Popular Publications and Media Appearances

Appearances in Vermont media:

WCAX News:

- "Expert: Protests over woman's death putting pressure on Iranian regime," September 2022
- "Expert analysis of the situation in Iran," January 2020
- "Analysis: What will be the impact of Iranian general's death?" January 2020
- "Where will the Khashoggi mystery end?" October 2018
- "What do sanctions against Iran mean for us?," August 2018
- "What's the next step in relations with Iran," May 2018
- "Assessing the Impact of Airstrikes on Syria," April 2018
- "Local lawmakers react to military strikes on Syria," April 2018
- "What will Trump's Jerusalem announcement mean," December 2017

Dave Gram Show, WDEV:

- "Iran retaliations for Suleimani's death," January 2020
- "Saudi Arabia and School Sports," December 2018
- "Peter Henne on the ongoing situation in North Korea," May 2018

Interviewed for “Senate tables Sanders-led effort to withdraw from Yemen,” *VT Digger*, March 2018

Other Media Appearances:

Interviewed on Somalia and terrorism for *The Media Line*, August 2023

Interviewed for “State Department Religious Freedom Event ends with comments, critiques,” in *Religion News Service*, July 2018

Interviewed for “Current events in Pakistan,” *WION News* (India), December 2017

Interviewed for “5 Faith Facts about Sam Brownback,” in *Religion News Service*, July 2017

Policy/Popular Publications:

Contributor, *Duck of Minerva*, Sept. 2018-Present

“It’s time to end ‘name and shame’ religious freedom policy,” *Religion News Service*, November 2020

“Pompeo investigation could undermine religious freedom movement’s ‘success,’” *Religion News Service*, May 2020

“Saudi Arabia held secret talks with Iran to ease regional tensions: Are they holding back the United States?” *The Washington Post Monkeycage*, December 2019

“The geopolitics of faith: Religious soft power in Russian and US foreign policy,” *Brookings Institute/Berkley Center program on The Geopolitics of Religious Soft Power*, June 2019

“Is patriotism the solution to nationalism?” *The Big Q: Project for Public Interest Media* (New Zealand), December 2018

“Does the Russia Turkey deal on Idlib signal a new era of relations in the Middle East,” *The Washington Post Monkey Cage*, October 2018

“Is Trump v. Hawaii about religious liberty? An international perspective,” *Berkley Forum*, May 2018

“Integrating and restoring religious minority communities in Iraq,” *Center for American Progress*, April 2018

“Trump says Pakistan harbors terrorists. The real story isn’t so simple,” *The Washington Post Monkey Cage*, August 2017

“What effect does religious freedom promotion have on counterterrorism?” *Religious Freedom Institute Cornerstone Blog*, June 2017

“How Trump’s budget may hurt counterterrorism,” *Political Violence at a Glance*, March 2017

Professional Experience

Research Associate, Pew Research Center	2014- 2016
Senior Researcher, National Consortium for the Study of Terrorism and Responses to Terrorism, University of Maryland	2013-2014
Senior Consultant, Booz Allen Hamilton	2004-2009