

DEBAK DAS

Sié Complex, 2201 South Gaylord Street, Denver, Colorado, 80208

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

University of Denver

2022 - present

Assistant Professor of Peace and Security
Josef Korbel School of Global and Public Affairs

Stanford University

2021 - 2022

Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellowship
Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC)

Stanford University

2019 - 2020

MacArthur Nuclear Security Predoctoral Fellowship
Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC)

OTHER APPOINTMENTS

The Bridging the Gap Project, Washington, DC and Denver, CO

2025 - present

Director

EDUCATION

Cornell University, Ithaca, New York

2021

Ph.D. Department of Government

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

2013

M.Phil in Diplomacy and Disarmament
Centre for International Politics, Organisation, and Disarmament

Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi, India

2011

M.A. in Politics (with Specialization in International Relations)

Presidency College, Kolkata, India

2009

B.A. in History (Honours)

PEER REVIEWED PUBLICATIONS

Books and Monographs

Delivering the Bomb: The Spread of Nuclear Delivery Systems, and the Global Non-proliferation Order, Cornell University Press, forthcoming 2027)

Nuclear Learning in South Asia and the Levels of Analysis, RCSS Policy Studies 57, (New Delhi: Manohar, 2015).(with Rabia Akhtar)

Journal Articles

“Explaining the Proliferation of Nuclear Delivery Vehicles,” *Security Studies*, Volume 38, Issue 3, September 2025

“Cascades of Competition: Southern Asia, the Indo-Pacific, and AUKUS,” *Texas National Security Review*, Volume 8, No. 4., September 2025

“Standard Operating Barriers in International Studies,” *International Studies Review*, Volume 26, Issue 3, September 2024, viae038.

“‘The Courtroom of World Opinion’: Bringing the International Audience into Nuclear Crises,” *Global Studies Quarterly*, Volume 1, Issue 4, December 2021, ksab028.

“Warring from the Virtual to the Real: Assessing the Public’s Threshold for War over Cyber Security,” *Research and Politics* 4 (2): 1–8, June 2017.(with Sarah Kreps)

Book Chapters

“The Strategic Implications of the India-US Nuclear Deal,” in *The U.S.-India Nuclear Accord: History, Analysis, and Reflections*, ed. Šumit Ganguly and Dinsha Mistree, (Stanford University Press, 2026).

“Challenges to the Global Nuclear Order: An Indian Perspective,” *Perspectives on the Evolving Nuclear Order*, ed. Toby Dalton, Togzhan Kassenova, and Lauryn Williams, (Washington, D.C.: Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, 2016)

“Addressing the Asymmetry in Space: India’s Strategy for Space Security,” *PANORAMA of global security environment, 2014*, ed. Peter Bátor and Róbert Ondrejcsák (Bratislava: Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs, 2015)

“Strengthening Strategic Instability in South Asia: The Impact of Tactical Nuclear Weapons and Ballistic Missile Development,” *PANORAMA of global security environment, 2013*, ed. Marian Majer and Róbert Ondrejcsák (Bratislava: Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs, 2014)

“Indian Nuclear Policy: A Case of Deliberate Strategic Ambiguity,” *PANORAMA of global security environment, 2012*, ed. Marian Majer, Róbert Ondrejcsák and Vladimir Tarasovič (Bratislava: Centre for European and North Atlantic Affairs, 2013)

BOOK REVIEWS

Review of Vipin Narang, *Seeking the Bomb: Strategies of Nuclear Proliferation* (Princeton University Press), *Political Science Quarterly*, Volume 138 (2), Summer 2023, pp. 301-302.

Review of Mark Bell, *Nuclear Reactions: How Nuclear Armed States Behave* (Cornell University Press), *H-Diplo: Robert Jervis International Security Studies Forum*, Roundtable Review 15-8, 13 October 2023, pp. 1-18.

Review of Rachel Whitlark, *All Options on the Table: Leaders, Preventive War, and Nuclear Proliferation* (Cornell University Press). *H-Diplo: Robert Jervis International Security Studies Forum*, January 2025, pp. 1-18.

WORKS IN PROGRESS

“How Many Hands on the Handle of the Umbrella’? Negotiating Multilateral Nuclear Guarantees”

“Built to Fail: Missile Technology Control Regime and the Efforts to stop Missile Proliferation”

“British Nuclear Forces at the End of the Cold War, the United States, and the Eurodeterrent”

“Nuclear Vulnerability, Credibility, and Strategic Forces”

“Cryogenic Rockets and Non-proliferation: United States-Russia cooperation on the Indian Space Program”

“Global Public Opinion on Nuclear Energy Polarized in Shadow of Zaporizhzhia” (with Stephen Herzog et.al.) (under review)

“What Is a Nuclear Weapon? Imprecision, Bargaining, and the Limits of International Security Law” (with J. Luis Rodriguez)

“Whose Democracy is it Anyway? Public Opinion and Crisis Decision-making in India” (with Shubha Kamala Prasad)

POLICY BRIEFS, ANALYSES, AND ROUNDTABLES

“War on Iran during nuclear negotiations undermines the US’s ability to talk peace around the world and the effects won’t end when Trump leaves office,” *The Conversation*, March 27, 2026.

“Biden opened the door to missile proliferation. Trump should close it,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, March 28, 2025.

“An Unreliable America Means More Countries Want the Bomb,” *Foreign Policy*, March 14, 2025.(with Rachel Epstein)

“How India’s restructured rocket force makes conflict with China more likely,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*,

April 4, 2024.

[“The State of Nuclear Instability in South Asia: India, Pakistan, and China,”](#) *Lawfare*, September 3, 2023.

[“Not much happened after India’s accidental cruise missile launch into Pakistan—this time.”](#) *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, March 25, 2022.

[“China’s Missile Silos and the Sino-Indian Nuclear Competition,”](#) *War on The Rocks*, October 13, 2021.

[“Australia Will Get Nuclear-powered Submarines. Some See a Proliferation Threat,”](#) *The Washington Post*, September 24, 2021.

[“An Indian Nuclear Power Plant Suffered a Cyberattack. Here’s What You Need To Know,”](#) *The Washington Post*, November 4, 2019.

[“Introduction: A Changed Status Quo: Key Dynamics in the India-Pakistan Nuclear Relationship,”](#) *Texas National Security Review*, October, 2019.

[“Leveraging the Atom? Nuclear Weapons in Indian Foreign Policy,”](#) *Observer Research Foundation Issue Brief*, Issue No. 259, September 2018.

[“Americans Are United on Retaliating Against Russian Cyberattacks”,](#) *The Washington Post*, January 19, 2017.(with Sarah Kreps)

OTHER PUBLICATIONS

[“Modi 2.0’s Foreign Policy: More Continuity than Change”,](#) *South Asian Voices*, July 23, 2019.(with Shubha Kamala Prasad)

[“Indian Diplomacy during the Kargil War: Success with a Limited Legacy,”](#) *South Asian Voices*, May 29, 2019.

[“Leaked Cables: Allende, Kissinger, Moynihan, and the Indian Nuclear Bomb,”](#) *Sources and Methods*, March 2019.

[“Nuclear Posture Review 2018: Its Implications for India,”](#) *Observer Research Foundation*, February 21, 2018. .

[“Indian Armed Forces Joint Doctrine: Unanswered Questions and Obvious Incongruities,”](#) *South Asian Voices*, May 23, 2017.

[“India’s Cold Start Doctrine: Better Left in Cold Storage,”](#) *South Asian Voices*, January 26, 2017..

[“A Nuclear Arms Race That Could Spell Disaster For India, Pakistan,”](#) *The Wire*, August 31, 2016.

[“Pakistan, MIRVs, and Counterforce Targeting,”](#) *Stimson Center*, July 7, 2016.

[“India’s Membership in the NSG is Symbolic: Lack of Success does it no harm,”](#) *Catch News*, June 10, 2016.

[“Status and Security and Inverse Relationship?”](#) *South Asian Voices*, December 28, 2014.

[“Increased FDI in Indian Defence: Feeding Conventional Asymmetry?”](#) *South Asian Voices*, July 24, 2014.

[“The Netherlands 2014 Nuclear Security Summit: An Agenda,”](#) *Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies*, March 28, 2013.

[“Review: India, Pakistan and Incremental CBMs,”](#) *Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies*, February 18, 2013.

[“Nuclear Weapons: Can They Be Made Strategically Obsolete?”](#) *Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies*, February 2013.

[“The Trident Debate: UK’s Strategic Nuclear Deterrent,”](#) *Eurasia Review*, January 2, 2013.

[“India: How Credible is its Ballistic Missile Defence,”](#) *Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies*, October 29, 2012.

[“India and Pakistan Missile Flexing: Cruising Towards Regional Instability,”](#) *Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies*, October 22, 2012.

[“Indian Membership to the NSG: American Interests and Chinese Opposition,”](#) *Eurasia Review*, August 10, 2012.

INTERVIEWS, MEDIA, AND PODCASTS

Wall Street Journal, Global Dispatches, Defense News, 9News Denver, Asia Experts Forum, Free Food for Thought (Claremont McKenna College), The Bomb, University of Denver Undergraduate Research Journal, The Telegraph (India), India's World, Press Trust of India

GRANTS, AWARDS, AND FELLOWSHIPS

External Grants and Fellowships

2025	<i>Nuclear Security Research Grant</i> The Stanton Foundation
2024	<i>Course Development Grant</i> The Stanton Foundation
2023	<i>International Peace and Security Grant</i> (co-PI) Carnegie Corporation of New York
2022	<i>APSIDA Junior Faculty Fellowship</i> (with Shubha Kamala Prasad) Association of Professional Schools of International Affairs
2021-2022	<i>Stanton Nuclear Security Postdoctoral Fellowship</i> Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University
2019, 2021	<i>Conference Travel Grant</i> American Political Science Association
2019-2020	<i>MacArthur Nuclear Security Predoctoral Fellowship</i> Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University
2018-2019	<i>Visiting Fellowship</i> Le Centre de Recherches Internationales (CERI), Sciences Po, Paris, France
2018-2019	<i>Chateaubriand Fellowship in Humanities and Social Sciences</i> The Embassy of France in the United States
2018	<i>India Research Fellowship</i> The Wilson Center, Washington, D.C.
2018	<i>Visiting Fellowship</i> Observer Research Foundation, New Delhi, India
2017	<i>Conference Travel Grant</i> International Studies Association
2015	<i>Visiting Fellowship</i> Forum for Strategic Initiative, New Delhi, India
2013	<i>Mahbub-ul-Haq Award</i> Regional Centre for Strategic Studies, Colombo
2012	<i>National Eligibility for Lectureship in International and Area Studies</i> University Grants Commission, India

Internal Grants and Fellowships

2025	<i>Public Impact Fellow</i> University of Denver
2023, 2024	<i>Korbel Research Support Fund</i> Josef Korbel School for International Studies, University of Denver
2023	<i>Professional Research Opportunities for Faculty (PROF) Grant</i> University of Denver
2023	<i>Internationalization Grant</i> University of Denver
2020	<i>Sage Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i>

	Graduate School, Cornell University
2020	<i>Herbert I. Flourney Graduate Fellowship</i> Department of Government, Cornell University
2019	<i>Sage Dissertation Completion Fellowship</i> Graduate School, Cornell University
2018	<i>Stephen and Margery Russell Distinguished Teaching Award</i> College of Arts and Sciences, Cornell University
2018	<i>Michele Sicca Grant for Research in Europe</i> Cornell Institute for European Studies, Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies
2018	<i>Graduate School Research Travel Grant</i> Graduate School, Cornell University
2017-2018	<i>Frank and Marion Long Graduate Research Fellowship</i> Judith Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, Cornell University
2016	<i>Herbert I. Flourney Graduate Fellowship</i> Department of Government, Cornell University, Cornell University
2016-2017	<i>Director's Fellow</i> Judith Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, Cornell University
2016	<i>International Research Travel Grant</i> Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University
2015-2016	<i>Graduate Fellow</i> Judith Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, Cornell University
2015	<i>International Research Travel Grant</i> Mario Einaudi Center for International Studies, Cornell University
2014-2015	<i>Sage Fellowship</i> Graduate School, Cornell University

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University of Denver , Denver, Colorado		
INTS 2605 – Nuclear Weapons in International Security		Fall 2022, Spring 2024-26
INTS 4702 – Emerging Issues in International Security		Winter 2023-2025, Spring 2026
Cornell University , Ithaca, New York		
<i>Instructor-of-Record</i> , Department of Government, Cornell University		
Govt 1101 - Military Innovation in World Politics		Fall 2016
<i>Co-Instructor</i> , John S. Knight Institute for Writing in the Disciplines, Cornell University		
Writ 7101 – Writing in the Majors Seminar (for Graduate Students)		Spring 2017
<i>Teaching Assistant</i> , Department of Government, Cornell University		
Govt 3837 - The Cold War, with Matthew Evangelista		Spring 2021
Govt 1817 - Making Sense of World Politics, with Peter Katzenstein		Fall 2017
Govt 3897 - Human Rights at War, with Matthew Evangelista		Spring 2017
Govt 3837 - The Cold War, with Matthew Evangelista		Spring 2016
Govt 3877 - Nuclear Security in a Changing World, with Sarah Kreps		Fall 2015
Jawaharlal Nehru University , New Delhi, India		
<i>Student Tutor</i> , Centre for International Politics, Organisation, and Disarmament		2013
[appointed by a duly constituted board of the University]		

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

<i>Graduate Assistant</i> , MacArthur Foundation Project on “Nuclear Stability at Low Numbers”	2015-2016
Judith Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, Cornell University , Ithaca, New York	

<i>Programme Officer</i> (Track II India-Pakistan Dialogues) Centre for Dialogue and Reconciliation , New Delhi, India	2013-2014
<i>Research Officer</i> Nuclear Security Programme Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies , New Delhi, India	2012-2013

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

International Studies Association Annual Convention	2015-2026
American Political Science Annual Meeting	2019-2026
Stanton Nuclear Security Conference	2021
Midwest Political Science Association	2019, 2020
British International Studies Association Global Nuclear Working Order Working Group	2017
Judith Reppy Institute of Peace and Conflict Studies Graduate Student Conference	2016, 2017

INVITED TALKS AND PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

The Spread of Nuclear Delivery Systems, and the Global Non-proliferation Order Carnegie India, New Delhi	February, 2026
Arms Control Treaties and the Future of Nuclear Proliferation Colorado Foothills World Affairs Council	February, 2026
The Spread of Nuclear Delivery Systems, and the Global Non-proliferation Order Athenaeum Talk, Claremont McKenna College	May, 2025
Standard Operating Barriers Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University	April, 2025
The Spread of Nuclear Delivery Systems, and the Global Non-proliferation Order Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University	April, 2025
Standard Operating Barriers American University, Washington, D.C.	April, 2025
India: A Rising Power Douglas County Public Library, Colorado	April, 2025
The Spread of Nuclear Delivery Systems, and the Global Non-proliferation Order Centre for International Peace and Security Studies, McGill University	November, 2024
Opportunities to Bridge the Gap New Era Workshop, Bridging the Gap, University of Denver	October, 2024
Missile Technologies in Southern Asia Virtual Panel, Stimson Center, Washington DC	November, 2023
Proliferating the Means of Nuclear Delivery Department of Political Science, University of Wisconsin-Madison	October, 2023
Redefining U.S. Foreign Policy for the Next Generation Metropolitan State University, Denver	September, 2023
Sapphire Series: Real Struggles, High Stakes: Cooperation, Contention, and Creativity Virtual Panel, International Studies Association	February, 2023
Proliferating the Means of Nuclear Delivery Center for International Security Studies, Princeton University	February, 2023
Delivering the Bomb Energy Seminar Series, Colorado School of Mines	October, 2022
Roundtable of Nuclear Issues in South Asia International Student/Young Pugwash (ISYP)	August, 2022
Nuclear Dynamics in South Asia Council for Strategic and Defence Research, New Delhi	March, 2022

Existential Risk and the India-Pakistan Nuclear Dynamic Stanford Existential Risks Conference	February, 2022
Nuclear Peace in South Asia Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington D.C.	November, 2021
Rethinking Nuclear Security Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University	October, 2021
Haves and Have Nots: How Power Shapes Nuclear Regimes Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies (FSI), Stanford University	April, 2021
Building Nuclear Forces: Strategy, Postures, Deterrence Guest Lecture, United States Military Academy, and Modern War Institute, Westpoint	March, 2021
Nuclear Stability in Southern Asia Guest Lecture, George Washington University	March 2021
Nuclear Vulnerability and the Cyber Threat Guest Lecture, Lewis and Clark College	October 2020
Book Launch - Delaying Doomsday: The Politics of Nuclear Reversal by Rupal N. Mehta Virtual Book Launch Panel, Bridging the Gap, Washington D.C.	August 2020
Enhancing Diversity and Strengthening Inclusion in Efforts to Bridge the Academia-Policy Gap Virtual Panel, Bridging the Gap, Washington D.C.	May 2021
Secrecy, Deniability, and Indo-French Space Cooperation Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University	February, 2020
The Courtroom of World Opinion: Bringing the International Audience into Nuclear Crises Nuclear Policy Working Group, University of California, Berkeley	November 2019
The Courtroom of World Opinion: Bringing the International Audience into Nuclear Crises Centre for Science and Security Studies, King's College, London, United Kingdom	February 2019
The Courtroom of World Opinion: Bringing the International Audience into Nuclear Crises Centre de Recherche Internationales, Sciences Po, Paris, France	February 2019
Too Close to Call? L'Affaire Gulteri and the Kargil War Close Calls in History and Theory Workshop, Nuclear Knowledges, Sciences Po, Paris, France	November 2019
Perspectives from India, Brazil and China on the State of the Nuclear Order Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Washington, D.C.	June 2016
Nuclear Learning in South Asia Workshop Stability at Low Numbers: The South Asian Challenge, Washington, D.C.	April 2016

WORKSHOPS AND TRAININGS

<i>International Policy Summer Institute</i> Bridging the Gap, American University, Washington, DC	2022
<i>NEW Era Workshop</i> Bridging the Gap, Berkeley, CA	2019
<i>Bootcamp on Assessing Strategic Stability</i> The Rand Corporation, Washington, DC	2018
<i>SWAMOS -Summer Workshop on the Analysis of Military Operations and Strategy</i> Arnold A. Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, Columbia University	2017
<i>Nuclear History Boot Camp</i> Nuclear Proliferation International History Project, Wilson Center and University of Roma Tre	2017
<i>Asia-Pacific Nuclear History Institute</i> Nuclear Proliferation International History Project, Wilson Center and Kyungnam University, Seoul	2016
<i>Perspectives on the Evolving Nuclear Order</i>	2016

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace and Norwegian Institute for International Affairs	
<i>Deterrence Stability in South Asia Workshop</i>	2014
Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, Stimson Center and EDAM, Istanbul (Turkey)	
<i>ISODARCO – International School on Disarmament and Research on Conflicts</i>	2014
Italian Pugwash Group, Andalo (Italy)	
<i>Engaging Conflict Summer School</i>	2012
Torino World Affairs Institute and University of Turin, Turin (Italy)	

SERVICE

Member, <i>Korbel Curriculum and Program Committee</i>	2025-present
Josef Korbel School of Global and Public Affairs, University of Denver	
Member, <i>Korbel Research Committee</i>	2024-present
Josef Korbel School of Global and Public Affairs, University of Denver	
Co-facilitator, <i>Foundations of International Relations Success and Training (FIRST) program</i>	2023-present
Bridging the Gap, University of Denver	
Co-creator and Organizer, <i>Sié Simulations</i>	2022-present
Sié Chéou-Kang Center for International Security and Diplomacy, University of Denver	
Mentor, <i>CISAC Mentorship Program</i>	2022
Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC)	
Member, <i>Racial Equity, Diversity, and Inclusion (REDI) Taskforce</i>	2020-2022
Freeman Spogli Institute (FSI), Stanford University	
Co-facilitator, <i>Dept. First-Year Graduate Student Colloquium</i>	2015-2016
Department of Government, Cornell University	
Graduate Student Representative	2015-2016
Department of Government, Cornell University	
Reviewer: Cambridge University Press, <i>Critical Studies on Security, Defense & Security Analysis, Foreign Policy Analysis, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Strategic Security, India Review, International Interactions, International Studies Quarterly, International Relations of the Asia-Pacific, Political Science Quarterly, Security Studies, The Round Table: The Commonwealth Journal of International Affairs, Third World Quarterly.</i>	

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS AND AFFILIATIONS

Affiliate, Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC), Stanford University	2022-present
Research Affiliate, Le Centre de Recherches Internationales (CERI), Sciences Po, Paris, France	2022-present
Non-resident Fellow, Council for Strategic and Defense Research, New Delhi	2021-present
Member, American Political Science Association	2019-present
Member, International Studies Association	2015-present

LANGUAGES

English (native), Hindi (native), Bengali(native), Urdu (spoken), and French (advanced intermediate)
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