

ELIS VLLASI

The Baker School of Public Policy and Public Affairs
The University of Tennessee, Knoxville
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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENT

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE Senior Research Associate & Lecturer	2023 – Present
SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY Term Lecturer and NATO Field School Assistant Field Director	2021-2023
PURDUE UNIVERSITY Post-Doctoral Fellow, Purdue Policy Research Institute Associate Director, Purdue Peace Project Senior Fellow, FORCES Initiative	2019 – 2020
FULBRIGHT FELLOW (SPECIALIST)	2020

EDUCATION

PURDUE UNIVERSITY Ph.D. Political Science	2019
THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE M.A. Political Science M.S. Environmental Engineering	2009 2003
MICHIGAN TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY B.S. Civil Engineering	2000

FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

• Korea Foundation, \$40,000	2023
• U.S. Department of State, Embassy in Tokyo, \$42,000	2023
• Simon Fraser University, Faculty of Arts and Social Sciences Grant, \$5,000	2023
• Targeted Engagement Grant, Canada Department of National Defence, \$50,000	2022
• Fulbright Fellowship, U.S. Department of State, \$11,000	2020
• Scholars Strategy Network Graduate Fellow, \$1000	2018
• Promise Award, College of Liberal Arts, \$1500	2016–2018
• Conference Travel Grant, Department of Political Science, \$400/\$600	2015–2018
• Ludwig Kruhe Doctoral Fellowship, Purdue University, \$54,188	2017
• Purdue Research Foundation Research Grant, \$50,645 (Declined)	2017
• Summer Dissertation Fellowship, Department of Political Science, \$4000	2017

- Purdue Institute for Civic Communication Graduate Instructor Fellowship, \$1500 2016
- “Paper 2 Publication” Travel Grant, Department of Political Science, \$1000 2016
- ICPSR Summer Program Grant, Department of Political Science, \$2300 2015
- Ross Fellowship, Purdue University, \$44,285 2013

POLICY PAPERS

- **Vilasi**, Elis. “[A Western-imposed peace deal in Ukraine risks feeding Russia’s hunger for land – as it did with Serbia.](#)” (January 25, 2024). The Conversation.
- **Vilasi**, Elis. “[Russia’s Revenge: Russian Information Operations and Proposed Countermeasures.](#)” (2021). FORCES Initiative, Purdue University. West Lafayette, IN.
- Kirchubel, R., Matei, S. A., Ellis, M., and **Vilasi**, E., “[2021 United States Strategy and Security Priorities.](#)” (2021). FORCES Initiative, Purdue University, Report. West Lafayette, IN.
- **Vilasi**, Elis. “[Russian Influence in Kosovo: In the Shadows of Myth and Reality.](#)” (2020). Kosovar Center for Security Studies. Prishtina, Kosovo.
- **Vilasi**, Elis. “[How Motherlands—Homes to Transnational Ethnic Groups—Can Sabotage the Democratization of Neighboring Countries.](#)” (2019). Scholars Strategy Network.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY

Lecturer

2021 – 2023

- Political Science 141 “War, International Cooperation and Development”
- Political Science 200W “Research Design and Qualitative Methods”
- Political Science 340 “Terrorism, Counterterrorism, and the Mass Media”
- Political Science 348 “Theories of War, Peace and Conflict Resolution”
- Political Science 349 “NATO at the Crossroads: The Eastern & Southern Flanks”
- Political Science 349 “Russia, NATO and the War in Ukraine”
- Political Science 422 “Grey Zone Warfare and Security in the Age of Disruptive Technologies”
- Political Science 846 “International Security”
- Political Science 880 “NATO Field School and Simulation Program”

PURDUE UNIVERSITY

Lecturer

2014 – 2020

- Political Science 223 “Introduction to Environmental Politics”
- Political Science 130 “Introduction to International Relations”
- Political Science 430 “Nation-Building and War”
- Political Science 235 “International Relations of Rich and Poor Nations”

RESEARCH AND ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

Interim Director, Center for National Security and Foreign Affairs, Baker School

2024

- Co-develop academic programs in National Security and Nuclear Policy.
- Lead/co-lead the writing of successful grants.

- Plan, organize, and deliver a Diplomacy Academy for university students in Japan.
- Establish and foster relations with strategic partners to grow the Center.
- Engage and publish in policy relevant research related to grey zone warfare.

Founder and Director, Hybrid Warfare Student Competition **2022-Present**

- Wrote a successful grant proposal for the competition.
- Established working relationships with federal agencies for academic engagement at SFU.
- Interviewed, hired, and onboarded two assistants to help with event organization.
- Recruited senior government and industry officials to speak at/judge the competition.
- Planned and directed the competition.

Associate Director, Purdue Peace Project/Post-Doctoral Fellow **2019–2020**

- Co-lead the writing of strategic external grants (\$5+ million).
- Co-developed strategic plans for the Space Policy, and Engineering Policy certificate programs.
- Established and maintained working relationships with stakeholders and international partners.
- Developed programming in space, defense, and national security strategic thrusts.
- Organized and/or conducted extensive research and support activities.
- Mentored select PPRI Undergraduate/Graduate Student Fellows.

Research Assistant to Department Head Rosalee A. Clawson **2015–2019**

- Reviewed manuscript for key terms and formulated exam questions for authored book.
- Prepared various department surveys for graduate student teaching.
- Wrote a successful grant proposal for conference room renovations.
- Assisted in document preparation for faculty promotion.

Research Assistant to Professor Laurel S. Weldon **2016-2016**

- Collected and coded data on environmental justice bills.
- Analyzed data on state legislature diversity and environmental justice.
- Performed quality assurance/quality control on dataset.
- Prepared the dataset codebook.

TEACHING AWARDS AND CERTIFICATES

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| • Graduate School Excellence in Teaching Award (Department's Nominee) | 2019 |
| • Outstanding Independent Instructor, Political Science | 2019 |
| • Purdue Teaching Academy Graduate Teaching Award | 2018-2019 |
| • Outstanding Graduate Student Mentor (Nominated by Prof. Rosie Clawson) | 2018-2019 |
| • Graduate Teacher Certificate, Center for Instructional Excellence | 2018 |
| • Outstanding Independent Instructor (runner-up), Political Science | 2015–2016 |

UNIVERSITY AND DEPARTMENT SERVICE

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| • SFU NATO Field School Team Advisor, Model NATO Competition | 2022–2023 |
| • SFU NATO Field School Newsletter, Editor | 2021–2022 |
| • SFU NATO Field School Student Policy Brief Editor | 2022 |

- Judge, WMGIC x NATO ACT Countering Disinformation Challenge 2022
- Judge, WMGIC x NATO ACT Cybersecurity Challenge 2021
- Discussant for Graduate Student Papers, Political Science Research Workshop 2020
- Mentor PPRI Undergraduate Student Fellows 2019–2020
- Lecturer, Benjamin Franklin Transatlantic Summer Institute 2019
- Judge, Graduate Student Composition, Ethics, Technology & the Future of War 2019
- Judge, Purdue Undergraduate Research Conference 2019
- Jury Member, Undergraduate Student Competition, “Hacking Human Trafficking” 2019
- Policy Brief Writing Co-teacher for Pi Sigma Alpha Honor Society, Purdue Chapter 2018
- Future of Undergraduate Education, College of Liberal Arts Representative 2018
- UN Debate Team Undergraduate Student Selection Committee 2017
- Political Science Graduate Student Representative 2014–2016
- International Relations Faculty Hiring Committee 2015
- Social Sciences Mechanics, Lecture Series Coordinator 2013–2015
- Graduate Student Recruitment Committee 2013

INVITED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

- *“Securing the Open Science and Technology Ecosystem from Hostile Influence.”* U.S. Technology Leadership Council, Washington D.C. 2024
- *“Defence Policy Update.”* MINDS Program, Canada Department of National Defence. 2023
- *“The Black Sea Region 2030.”* Defence and Security Foresight Group, University of Waterloo, Ontario. 2021
- *“The Geopolitical Context of the Kosovo-Serbia EU-led Normalization: The Role of Other Players”* Council for Inclusive Governance. 2021
- *“Russian Influence in Eastern Europe.”* Presented (virtual) at East Tennessee State University, Johnson City, Tennessee 2020
- *“The Changing Roles of Key International Actors in the Western Balkans Amidst the COVID-19 Crisis.”* Presented (virtual) at Aspen Institute Germany. 2020
- *“Deconstructing Russian Influence in Kosovo.”* Presented at the Kosovar Center for Security Studies, Prishtina, Kosovo. 2020
- *“US Peacebuilding: Future Challenges.”* Presented at the Rotary International, Lafayette, Indiana. 2020
- *“War, Reconstruction and Establishment of Peace”* Workshop. The European Centre of Peace, Science, Integration and Cooperation, Tirana, Albania 2016
- *“Cyber 9/12 Strategy Challenge”* Competition. Atlantic Council, Washington DC. 2015

CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION

- 25th Anniversary of NATO Intervention in Kosovo Conference
Presentation: 2024. “From Kosovo to Kyiv: President Clinton’s Final Foreign Policy Sins?”
- International Conference on Communication and Media Studies
Presentation: 2022. *“China’s Information Warfare in the Liberal West.”* (Remzie Shahini-Hoxhaj and **Elis Vllasi**)
- United States Strategic Command Academic Alliance Conference and Workshop

- Presentation: 2021. “*Conflict Disguised as Competition and its Possible Solution: Cascading Realism.*” (Sorin Adam Matei, Robert Kirchubel, Matthew Ellis, **Elis Vilasi** and Barry Scott)
- American Political Science Association, Annual Convention
Presentation: 2021. “*Politicized Spaces and the Media as a Performer of the State: Studying the Venezuelan Migratory Crisis in Colombia.*” (Catalina Vega, **Elis Vilasi**, and Stacey Connaughton).
 - American Political Science Association, Annual Convention
Discussant: 2020. “*Economics as a Tool of Power.*”
 - International Studies Association, Annual Convention
Presentation: 2019. “*Transnational Ethnic Kin as Democracy Spoilers 1946 – 2015.*”
 - International Security Studies and International Security and Arms Control
Presentation: 2018. “*Ethno-national Homelands and Strategies of Democracy Spoiling.*”
Presentation: 2017. “*How Motherlands Spoil Western Democratization Projects.*”
 - International Studies Association, Midwest
Presentation: 2018. “*Ethno-national Homelands as Spoilers of Democracy: The Case of Serbia.*”
Presentation: 2016. “*Military Intervention as a Democracy Promotion Tool.*”
 - International Studies Association, Northeast
Presentation: 2017. “*The War on Democratization: Motherlands Strike Back.*”
 - Midwest Political Science Association
Presentation: 2017. “*Foreign Aid and Democratization of Central/Eastern Europe and Former Soviet Union 1992 – 2013.*”
Presentation: 2016. “*The Effect of 'Motherland' on Democratization of Central and Eastern Europe 1992 – 2012.*”

REVIEWER

- Canadian Foreign Policy Journal

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

- American Political Science Association
- International Studies Association
- Peace Science Society (International)
- Midwest Political Science Association
- US Department of State International Exchange Alumni

SUPPLEMENTAL TRAINING

Inter-University Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

- Certificate in Maximum Likelihood Estimation II: Advanced Topics 2015
- Certificate in Time Series Analysis II: Advanced Topics

NON-ACADEMIC EXPERIENCE

LEIDOS (Formerly SAIC) – McLean, VA

Environmental Engineer

2010 – 2014

- Performed advance calculations to determine air emissions for the F-35 aircraft.
- Assisted in project scheduling for a multi-million-dollar project involving installation of environmental equipment at Iowa Army Ammunition Plant.
- Provided regulatory and guidance support including preparation of regulatory briefs to private sector clients in the oil and gas industry.
- Conducted data analysis for Chromium (VI) in water systems in the States of California and Hawaii including permit reviews and database controls for pollutants present in water systems.
- Supported industrial facilities in complying with EPA reporting requirements.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE – Knoxville, TN

Research Coordinator (College of Engineering, Office of Research and Technology)

2009 – 2010

- Assisted the senior research coordinator with the strategic development of large multi-year, multi investigator projects in excess of \$5 million/year.
- Collected and analyzed research metrics data for College of Engineering as well as report data trends for internal use, and report data for national surveys conducted by the likes of U.S. News and World Report.
- Provided technical and editorial assistance to faculty in proposal preparation, budget development, and electronic proposal submission via agency-specific portals.

Project Manager (Department of Civil & Environmental Engineering)

2003 – 2009

- Led the State of Tennessee air emissions inventories collection, air quality analysis and the development of State Implementation Plans.
- Managed a team of 5 graduate students responsible for developing, implementing, and maintaining the software used to inventory air emissions in Tennessee.
- Designed an Environmental Management Program for developing and maintaining the State of Tennessee's air emission inventory.
- Served as liaison between Tennessee's Department of Environment and Conservation, local air quality agencies and the industry.
- Organized meetings with industry, local and state governmental officials to train users in use of inventory software and discuss state and federal air quality regulations.

REFERENCES

- Krista Wiegand, Professor, University of Tennessee, kwiegand@utk.edu
- Aaron Hoffman, Professor, Simon Fraser University, aaron_hoffman@sfu.ca
- Alex Moens, Professor, Simon Fraser University, alexander_moens@sfu.ca
- Jay McCann, Professor, Purdue University, mccannj@purdue.edu