

Lisa Langdon Koch
Curriculum Vitae
(Updated August 2026)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Government Department
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Claremont, CA 91711

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Claremont McKenna College	
Associate Professor of Government	2024-present
Assistant Professor of Government	2016-2024
Arizona State University	
Visiting Scholar, School of Politics and Global Studies	2014-2016

EDUCATION

Ph.D.	University of Michigan, Political Science, 2014
M.P.P.	University of Michigan, Gerald R. Ford School of Public Policy, 2004
B.A.	Boston College, International Studies, <i>summa cum laude</i> , 2001

PUBLICATIONS

Book

Lisa Langdon Koch. 2023. *Nuclear Decisions: Changing the Course of Nuclear Weapons Programs*. Oxford University Press.

- **Award:** Robert Jervis Best International Security Book Award (American Political Science Association, International Security section)
- Reviewed in *H-Diplo*, *The Nonproliferation Review*, *Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament*, *Arms Control Today*, *Journal of Nuclear Materials Management*, *Read Listen Watch*, and *Choice*

Peer-Reviewed Articles

Lisa Langdon Koch, Kristyn L. Karl, and Matthew S. Wells. 2026. "Testing the Firebreak: Experimental Evidence on Low-Yield Nuclear Weapons and Deterrence in India and Pakistan." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. [Link](#).

Lisa Langdon Koch. 2024. "Punishment and Blame: How Core Beliefs Affect Support for the Use of Force in a Nuclear Crisis." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* vol. 41, no. 6: 649-669. [Link](#).

Lisa Langdon Koch. 2023. "Military Regimes and Resistance to Nuclear Weapons Development." *Security Studies* vol. 32, no. 2: 239-270. [Link](#).

Lisa Langdon Koch. 2022. "Holding All the Cards: Nuclear Suppliers and Nuclear Reversal." *Journal of Global Security Studies* vol. 7, no. 1: 1-21. [Link](#).

Lisa Langdon Koch and Matthew Wells. 2021. "Still Taboo? Citizens' Attitudes toward the Use of Nuclear Weapons." *Journal of Global Security Studies* vol. 6, no. 3: 1-18. [Link](#).

Lisa Langdon Koch. 2019. "Frustration and Delay: The Secondary Effects of Supply-Side Proliferation Controls." *Security Studies* vol. 28, no. 4: 773-806. [Link](#).

- Featured in the special online collection "A Decade of Nuclear Scholarship in *Security Studies*," edited by Nicholas L. Miller, August 2023.

Under Review

Lisa Langdon Koch. "Atoms and Attitudes: Outcomes from Teaching about Nuclear Weapons in International Politics."

Work in Progress

"'The First Two Moves': British and American Public Attitudes toward Low-Yield Nuclear Weapons in a Russia-NATO Crisis." Working paper. With Kristyn L. Karl and Matthew S. Wells.

"Motivations and Mechanisms: Examining Public Reasoning about Nuclear Weapons Use in the United States and United Kingdom." Working paper. With Kristyn L. Karl.

"Horizontal Proliferation – Drivers and Pathways." Invited chapter in *Handbook on Nuclear Ordering: Politics and Perspectives*, ed. by Carmen Wunderlich and Martin Senn. Edward Elgar.

Book and Article Reviews

Lisa Langdon Koch. October 2, 2024. Review of "Atoms for Peace, Nuclear Technology, and the Cold War," Special Edition, *Journal of Cold War Studies* 25, no. 3 (2023): 6-141. *H-Diplo* Article Review 1221. [Link](#).

Lisa Langdon Koch. September 13, 2024. Review of *Volatile States in International Politics*. By Eleonora Mattiacci. *H-Diplo* / *Robert Jervis International Security Studies Forum* Roundtable Review 16-2. [Link](#).

Lisa Langdon Koch. 2022. Review of *All Options on the Table: Leaders, Preventive War, and Nuclear Proliferation*. By Rachel Elizabeth Whitlark. *Perspectives on Politics* vol. 20, no. 3: 1148-1149. [Link](#).

Essays and Other Publications

Lisa Langdon Koch. Summer 2020. "Memory, Imagination, and the Use of Nuclear Weapons." Roundtable: Remembering Hiroshima and Nagasaki at 75, *International History and Politics Newsletter* 6, no. 1: 5-8. [Link](#).

Lisa Langdon Koch and Matthew Wells. August 13, 2019. "Do Americans Support Using Nuclear Weapons Because They Don't Understand the Consequences?" Blog post in *Political Violence at a Glance*. [Link](#).

Lisa Langdon Koch. Summer 2018. "The NPT at 50 and the NSG at 43: How the Global Control of Nuclear Exports Has Slowed Proliferation." Symposium on the 50th Anniversary of the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, *International History and Politics Newsletter* 4, no. 1: 8-10. [Link](#).

Lisa Langdon, Alexander J. Sarapu, and Matthew S. Wells. 2004. "Targeting the Leadership of Terrorist and Insurgent Movements: Historical Lessons for Contemporary Policy Makers." *Journal for Public and International Affairs* 15: 59-78.

Lisa Langdon, Alexander J. Sarapu, and Matthew S. Wells. 2004. "The Roots of Apocalyptic Terrorism." In R. Scott Moore and Christy Holley, eds., *Apocalyptic Terrorism: Understanding the Unfathomable*, United States Defense Threat Reduction Agency: 39-49.

GRANTS

Research Grants

The Stanton Foundation Nuclear Security Grant Program: \$82,600 research grant, 2022-23, with Matthew Wells

Reinventing Civil Defense: \$20,000 research grant funded by the Carnegie Corporation of New York, 2017-18, with Matthew Wells

Alfred Meyer Family Research Grant: \$3,000, University of Michigan, 2013

Non-Research Grants

International Studies Association, Travel Grant, 2017

AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS

Robert Jervis Best International Security Book Award (APSA International Security section) for *Nuclear Decisions*, 2023

Glenn R. Huntoon Award for Superior Teaching, Claremont McKenna College, 2023

Margaret Dow Towsley Scholarship Fund, Research Scholarship, 2013-2014

Center for the Study of the Presidency, Presidential Fellow and Homer A. Neal Fellow, 2003-2004

Arthur W. and Mary C. Bromage Fund, Bromage Fellow, 2002-2003

Phi Beta Kappa, Boston College, 2001

Alpha Sigma Nu, Boston College, 2001

Presidential Scholar, Boston College, 1997-2001

Harry S. Truman Foundation, Truman Scholar, 2000

Truman Scholarship interview panelist: Chicago, 2006 and Cincinnati, 2007

Senior Scholar at Truman Scholars Leadership Week, Liberty, MO, 2006, 2007

Beinecke Scholarship Program, Beinecke Scholar, 2000

National Merit Scholarship Winner, 1997

PRESENTATIONS

Invited Talks and Workshops

"Public Attitudes in Nuclear-armed States toward Nuclear Weapons Use: Does Nuclear Weapon Yield Matter?" Science & Global Security seminar talk, Princeton School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, April 8, 2026.

"Low-Yield Nuclear Weapons and Crisis Dynamics," Center for International Security and Cooperation seminar talk, Stanford University, March 3, 2026.

"Nuclear Threats," Security Studies Program Wednesday Seminar talk, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, February 12, 2025.

"Strategic Implications of Low-Yield Nuclear Weapons: Survey Experimental Evidence from India and Pakistan," Workshop, *Law and Ethics of Nuclear Deterrence and Use*.
Oxford University, March 2024.
Stanford University, September 2023.

"Presidential Decision Making: The American War in Vietnam, 1961-63," US Foreign Policy class, lecture, Political Science, Wabash College, March 2021.

"Nuclear Risk and Retribution," Workshop, *Atomic Experiments: Public Opinion, Political Psychology, and the Use of Nuclear Weapons*. Stanford University, November 2020.

“Nuclear Export Controls: Policies and Politics,” Nonproliferation class, lecture, Political Science, University of Southern Maine, March 2020.

“Investigating the Effects of Nuclear Knowledge on Citizen Attitudes toward the Use of Nuclear Weapons: Preliminary Findings,” Conference, *Reinventing Civil Defense: Leveraging the Past, Understanding the Present*, Brookhaven National Laboratory, April 2018. With Matthew Wells.

Conference Panel Presentations

International Studies Association	2025 (x2), 2023, 2021 (x2), 2020,* 2019 (x2), 2017
International Studies Association West	2018, 2016 (Emerging Scholars Forum)
Visions in Methodology Conference	2020*
American Political Science Association	2015

**Canceled: pandemic*

Internal Workshops

Keck Center for International and Strategic Studies at Claremont McKenna College:
Mar. 2024, Mar. 2023, Nov. 2020, Oct. 2019 (book workshop), Apr. 2019, Oct. 2018, May 2017

Rose Institute of State and Local Government at Claremont McKenna College: Sept. 2019

Claremont McKenna College Government Department: Feb. 2019, Apr. 2018.

Arizona State University School of Politics and Global Studies: Apr. 2015.

COURSES TAUGHT

Claremont McKenna College

Introduction to International Politics

Foreign Relations of the United States

International Politics of Nuclear Weapons

U.S. National Security Policy

Washington Program Structured Independent Study

Honors Thesis Seminar

University of Michigan

Nuclear Weapons and the International System (Instructor of Record)

Introduction to American Government (Graduate Student Instructor)

Introduction to International Studies (Graduate Student Instructor)

Political Science Graduate Student Instructor Training (Graduate Student Mentor)

Paradise Valley Community College

U.S. and Arizona Constitution

Profession

Manuscript Reviewer:

- *American Political Science Review, The Journal of Politics, International Organization, International Security, Security Studies, International Studies Quarterly, World Politics, Journal of Global Security Studies, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Journal of Strategic Studies, The Nonproliferation Review, Foreign Policy Analysis, Public Opinion Quarterly, International Studies Review, International Interactions, Journal for Peace and Nuclear Disarmament, Nuclear Technology, Defense and Peace Economics, The Historian, Cold War History*
- Stanford University Press

Department, College, and University

Claremont McKenna College:

Faculty Advisor, Alexander Hamilton Society campus chapter, 2021-present
College Conduct Board, 2025-present
Faculty Research Committee, 2026-present
Committee on Religious Affairs (intercollegiate), 2025-present
Board of Trustees Student Affairs Committee, 2020-21
National Awards Committee, 2018-19, 2021-22, 2024, 2025-26
Service (ad hoc) to the Director of Fellowships Advising: 2017-18, 2020-2025
Global Education Committee Chair, 2023-24; Member, 2017-19, 2020-21, 2022-23
Assessment Committee, 2021-2024
Ad hoc College Review Committee, lateral tenure candidate, 2026
Ad hoc Curriculum Innovation Committee, 2020
Government Department Faculty Hiring Committee Chair, 2026
Government Department Faculty Hiring Committee Member, 2024
Government Department Faculty Promotion Committee, 2024
Ad hoc Government Dept. Committee on Non-Tenure Track Faculty Promotion, 2023
Ad hoc Government Department Honors Program Committee, 2021
Ad hoc Government Department Intellectual Community Committee, 2017
Keck Center for Strategic and International Studies Fellowship Reader, 2025, 2024, 2019
CMC Alumni Weekend talk on nuclear accidents, 2024
CMC Family Weekend "Faculty in Action" talk on nuclear threats, 2024
CMC Summer Research Program, 2020
Senior Thesis Reader, 2017-present

University of Michigan:

Scholarship/fellowship mentor and applicant interviewer, Literature, Science & Arts
(LS&A) Honors Program, 2006-13
LS&A Honors Program Director Search Committee member, 2012
Mentor, Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellows Program nominees, 2012-13
Selection committee, University nominees for Carnegie Endowment Junior Fellows
Program, 2012

Community at Large

Expert critic, California Round Robin, policy debate final round, at the College Preparatory School, Oakland, CA, Feb. 2026

Policy debate round judge, Chuck Ballingall Memorial Invitational at Damien High School, La Verne, CA, Sept. 2025 and Sept. 2026

Policy Engagement

Policy memo, "Strengthening Canada's Counter-Proliferation Framework," to the National Security Policy Directorate at Public Safety Canada, March 2019.

Media and Podcast Interviews

PolitiFact. On Iran and nuclear weapons. June 18, 2025.

New Books in World Affairs Podcast. On *Nuclear Decisions*. Interviewed by Eleonora Mattiacci, May 16, 2024. [Link](#).

New Scientist. On AI and military nuclear decision-making. February 1, 2024.

The Print (India). On missile defenses in Ukraine. May 26, 2023.

Information (Denmark). On Russian nuclear threats. September 26, 2022.

PolitiFact. On Iran and nuclear weapons. May 1, 2018.

PolitiFact. On Iran and nuclear weapons. October 6 and 13, 2017.

PolitiFact. On North Korea and nuclear weapons. August 9, 2017.

PolitiFact. On Iran and nuclear weapons. June 13, 2017.

PolitiFact. On nuclear arms control. September 15, 2016.

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association

International Studies Association

Peace Science Society

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Paradise Valley Community College	2016
Adjunct Professor, Department of Political Science	

Pearson E-Reader Project	2013-2015
Academic consultant on materials for use in college and high school history courses	

Greater Chicago Food Depository	2004-2006
Director of Public Policy	

American Institutes for Research	2001-2002
Research Assistant, Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA)	

US Department of State
Intern, Office of Regional Security and Arms Transfers
Intern, US Embassy Athens, Political Section

Summer 2001
Summer 2000