

IRINA A CHINDEA

AREAS OF EXPERTISE AND RESEARCH INTERESTS

International security; cooperation and conflict among violent non-state actors; illicit networks; organized crime; formal and informal governance structures; international relations theory; alliance politics; U.S. foreign policy; Latin America; Middle East. Other research interests: terrorism, irregular warfare, complexity, intelligence, technology, cyber crime.

EDUCATION and RESEARCH

Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School

Cambridge, MA

Post-Doctoral Research Fellow, International Security Program

August 2016/June 2018

Pre-Doctoral Research Fellow, International Security Program

July 2015/August 2016

The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Tufts University

Medford, MA

Doctor of Philosophy in International Relations

August 2016

- *Doctoral Research* focusing on the alliance behavior of criminal organizations in Mexico, Colombia, El Salvador and Montreal, Canada. *Dissertation title*: “*Power and Underworld Alliances: Understanding Cooperation Patterns among Criminal Groups*.” Chair: Robert L. Pfaltzgraff. Readers: Daniel W. Drezner, Robert J. Bunker.
- *Field Research*: Conducted over the span of seven consecutive months, 120 on-site interviews with law enforcement, academics, journalists, civil society leaders, former cartel/gang members on the US-Mexico border (including in Ciudad Juarez and Tijuana), Colombia, El Salvador, and gang areas in Los Angeles and Montreal.
- *Comprehensive Exams*: International Security Studies; Southwest Asia and Islamic Civilization.
- *Coursework*: Statistics; Research Methods; Politics of Modern Iran; Modern Standard Arabic.

Master of Arts in Law and Diplomacy

May 2008

- *Concentrations*: International Security Studies; Southwest Asia and Islamic Civilization.
- *MA Thesis*: “The Effectiveness of Energy Diplomacy and Security Cooperation as Russian Foreign Policy Tools Towards Central Asia, Iran and China.” *Advisor*: Prof. Richard H. Shultz, Jr.
- *Coursework*: Role of Force in International Politics; The Origins, Conduct, and Termination of War; US Intelligence, Terrorism and National Security; Iran, Afghanistan, and Pakistan; Islam and the West; Islam and Politics; Islamic Finance; International Finance; Petroleum in the Global Economy; Globalization of Central Asia and the Caucasus.
- *Research Assistant* for the *International Security Studies Program*, The Fletcher School: assisted Prof. Richard Shultz in developing and preparing a new course on non-state armed groups. **2007-2008**

Academy of Economic Studies

Bucharest, Romania

Bachelor of Science in Business Administration

1999 - 2003

- *Coursework*: Statistics; Calculus I and II; Financial Analysis; Financial Accounting; Management Accounting; Business Management; Economics I and II; Marketing. (All undergraduate courses conducted in French).
- *Study Abroad*: Erasmus scholarship, a European Union Undergraduate Exchange Program, at Institut Universitaire Professionnalis , Clermont Ferrand, France. **2000 - 2001**

OTHER TRAINING

The Fletcher School, Tufts University

Medford, MA

- “Systems Thinking” seminar organized in partnership with the Public Sector Consortium **April 2013**
- “Denial and Deception” seminar series organized by the Security Studies Program **2011/2012**

School of International Service, American University

Washington, DC

- Bridging the Gap – New Era Foreign Policy Conference **April 2012**

Maxwell School, Syracuse University

Syracuse, NY

- IQMR - Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research **June 2011**

International Language Institute

Cairo, Egypt

- 8 week intensive Arabic course (colloquial Egyptian) **Summer 2007**

Instituto Cervantes

Bucharest, Romania

Spanish language training

1999-2000; 2001-2006

WORK IN PROGRESS

- *Power and Underworld Alliances – Cooperation and Conflict Dynamics among Criminal Organizations*: Book manuscript based on PhD dissertation (in development)
- “The Strong Ally as They Will, The Weak as They Must: A Theory of Alliance Formation Among Criminal Groups” Draft article.
- “Democratization, Criminal Alliances and Protracted Internal Violence in Mexico: A Study of the Fox and Calderón Administrations” Draft article.
- Chapter on “Countering Violent Extremism in Central America,” contributing to the *Routledge Handbook on De-Radicalization*. The handbook is under contract and the chapter will be submitted for peer review in May 2017.
- “Redefining the Crime-Terror Nexus,” article in progress. Co-author: John P. Sullivan, LASD.
- “NATO’s Eastward Expansion: Achieving Security Through Primacy or A Fool’s Errand?” Working Paper.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

University at Albany, State University of New York Albany, NY

Visiting Assistant Professor – College of Emergency Preparedness, Homeland Security and Cybersecurity

- Homeland Security; Research Methods **Fall 2017**

Visiting Assistant Professor – Rockefeller College

- Introduction to World Politics; Criminal Groups: Threats to International Security? **Spring 2017**
- International Relations Theory; Comparative Public Policy **Fall 2016**

Tufts University

Medford, MA

GMAP Thesis Coordinator – The Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy

Summer 2017

Lecturer – Political Science Department

- The Comparative Politics of the Middle East **Spring 2016**
- Transnational Security Challenges: EU versus U.S. Foreign Policy Responses **Spring 2016; Spring 2015**
- Criminal Groups: Threats to International Security? **Fall 2015, Spring 2012**

Teaching Assistant and Grader

2007 – 2015

- *Political Science Department*: Introduction to Comparative Politics (for Professors David Art and Oxana Shevel); Introduction to International Relations (for Professors Richard Eichenberg, Malik Mufti, Michael Beckley and Jeffrey Taliaferro); Building the European Union (for Professor David Art).
- *The Fletcher School*: Foreign Policy Leadership (for Dean Deborah Winslow Nutter); International Relations: Theory and Practice (for Professor Robert L. Pfaltzgraff); Seminar on Crisis Management and Complex Emergencies (for Professor Robert L. Pfaltzgraff).

PUBLICATIONS

"El Chapo's Escape from Prison: Good for Mexico?," Op-Ed in *The National Interest*, July 23, 2015, available at <http://nationalinterest.org/feature/el-chapo%E2%80%99s-escape-prison-good-mexico-13401>.

"Narcoterrorism," chapter in *Counterterrorism: Bridging Operations and Theory*, Robert J. Bunker (Editor), John P. Sullivan (Editor), Brian Michael Jenkins (Editor), Matt Devost (Editor), James T. Kirkhope (Editor). Terrorism Research Center. February 10, 2015.

"Responses and Reactions to the Threat of Organized Criminality Across Levels of Analysis," co-authored with Byron Ramirez for Small Wars Journal, July 10, 2014, available at <http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/responses-and-reactions-to-the-threat-of-organized-criminality-across-levels-of-analysis>.

"Threat Analysis and Spillover Effects of Organized Criminality," co-authored with Byron Ramirez for Small Wars Journal, July 6, 2014, available at <http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/threat-analysis-and-spillover-effects-of-organized-criminality>.

"Criminal Groups: Multifarious Threats to State Security, Regional Stability and Individual Wellbeing," co-authored with Byron Ramirez for Small Wars Journal, July 5, 2014, available at

<http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/criminal-groups-multifarious-threats-to-state-security-regional-stability-and-individual-we>.

"Coordination Failures Among Mexican Security Forces: How the Mexican Government Botched the War on Drugs," Small Wars Journal, June 16, 2014, available at <http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/coordination-failures-among-mexican-security-forces>.

"Fear and Loathing in Mexico: Narco-Alliances and Proxy Wars," Fletcher Security Review, May 22, 2014, Issue 2, Volume 1, available at <http://www.fletchersecurity.org/#!chindea/c113f>.

"Man, The State and War Against Drug Cartels: A Typology of Drug-Related Violence in Mexico," Small Wars Journal, March 19, 2014, available at <http://smallwarsjournal.com/jrnl/art/man-the-state-and-war-against-drug-cartels-a-typology-of-drug-related-violence-in-mexico>

"Paul Rexton Kan: Cartels at War," book review published in *Trends in Organized Crime*, June 2013, Volume 16, Issue 2, pages 251-254.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS and INVITED TALKS

- APSA Annual Meeting** August 29 – September 1, 2017 **San Francisco, CA**
- "The Strong Ally as They Will: A Theory of Criminal Group Alliance Formation" (*presenter*)
 - "Status, Primacy, and Rising Hegemons: The Politics of Great Power Competition" (*panel chair*)
- International Studies Association Annual Meeting**, February 22-25, 2017 **Baltimore, MD**
- "Democratic Transition and Armed Groups Alliance Behavior"
 - "NATO's Eastward Expansion and the U.S. National Interest: A Realist Perspective"
 - "'Zones of Contested Control" (*discussant*)
- Claremont Graduate University**, November 28, 2016 **Claremont, CA**
- "Narco-Alliances and Drug Violence in Mexico" (*Invited Talk*)
- Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard University**, October 20, 2016 **Cambridge, MA**
- "Power and Underworld Alliances: A Theory of Alliance Formation among Criminal Groups" (*Seminar Talk*)
- Asia-Pacific Center for Security Studies**, October 13, 2016 **Honolulu, HI**
- "Multinational Responses to Narcoterrorism" (*Invited Talk*)
- Providence Committee on Foreign Relations (PCFR)**, November 19, 2015 **Providence, RI**
- "Narco-Alliances and Drug-Related Violence in Mexico." (*Invited Talk*)
- International Studies Association Annual Meeting**, February 18-21, 2015 **New Orleans, LA**
- "Narco-Alliances and the Rise of Criminal Networks in the Americas: Reshaping the Intelligence Process for Complex Environments"
- International Studies Association Annual Meeting**, March 26-29, 2014 **Toronto, Canada**
- "Challenges to the Intelligence Process in Violent Border Settings: A Study of Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez under the Calderon Administration."
- APSA Annual Meeting** August 29 – September 1, 2013 **Chicago, IL**
- "A Tale of Two Cities: Understanding the Roots of Social Violence in Tijuana and Ciudad Juarez under the Calderon Administration."
- International Studies Association Annual Meeting**, April 3-6, 2013 **San Francisco, CA**
- "Governance by Non-State Actors: Exploring the Connections between State Capacity, Soft Power and Political Outcomes at Domestic and Transnational Levels."
- International Studies Association Annual Meeting**, April 1-4, 2012 **San Diego, CA**
- "Power and Underworld Alliances: Understanding Cooperation among Criminal Groups."
- Northeast Political Science Association Annual Meeting**, November 17- 19, 2011 **Philadelphia, PA**
- "Power and Underworld Alliances: An International Relations Theory Approach to Cooperation among Criminal Groups."
- International Studies Association – Northeastern Annual Meeting**, November 4-5, 2011 **Providence, RI**
- "Criminal Groups Cooperation Agreements: An International Relations Theory Perspective."

New England Political Science Association, April 28-30, 2011

Hartford, CT

- “Criminal Organizations: Alliances and Partnerships.”

International Studies Association Annual Meeting, March 16-19, 2011

Montreal, Canada

- “Alliances and Partnerships across Types of Violent Non-State Actors: The Impact of Goals, Threat Perceptions and Relative Gains Considerations”

LANGUAGES

- Romanian (native); English, French, Spanish (fluent); Modern Standard Arabic (intermediate)
- German, Egyptian Colloquial Arabic (elementary)

COMPUTER LITERACY and INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY USE

- Microsoft Office Proficiency: Word, Excel, Power Point.
- EndNote.
- Regular use of information technology in the classroom.

HONORS and FELLOWSHIPS

<i>Research Fellow</i> , Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs, Harvard Kennedy School	2015-2018
<i>Scholarship Award</i> , International Security Studies Program, The Fletcher School (\$1,860)	Spring 2016
<i>World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship</i> , Smith Richardson Foundation (\$7,500)	2012-2013
<i>Bradley Fellow</i> , International Security Studies Program, The Fletcher School (\$10,000/year)	2010, 2011, 2012
<i>Doctoral Program Summer Research Funding</i> , The Fletcher School (\$3,000)	Summer 2012
<i>Doctoral Program Summer Research Funding</i> , The Fletcher School (\$1,000)	Summer 2011
<i>Doctoral Program Stipend</i> , The Fletcher School (\$5,000)	Summer 2010
<i>Summer Research Fellowship</i> , SW Asia Program, The Fletcher School (\$1,000)	Summer 2010
Scaife Foundation Award (\$1,000/semester)	2007 – 2009
<i>Summer Internship Award</i> , International Security Studies Program, The Fletcher School (\$2,000)	Summer 2007
<i>Summer Language Training Grant: Arabic</i> , SW Asia Program, Fletcher School (\$500)	Summer 2007
<i>Summer Language Training Grant: Arabic</i> , Fares Center for Mediterranean Studies (\$500)	Summer 2007
<i>Scholarship Award</i> , The Fletcher School (\$8,000/semester)	2006 - 2009

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Studies Association, American Political Science Association, New England Political Science Association
Women in International Security (WIIS) – Boston area chapter, Fletcher Global Women Student Club.

REVIEWER

- International Security; International Studies Perspectives.
- Sage Publications.

SERVICE

<i>Faculty Mentor UASRP (University at Albany Summer Research Program)</i>	Summer 2017
<i>Advanced Placement (AP) Reader</i> , Comparative Politics Exam	Summer 2017
PhD Student Representative on:	
▪ The Committee on Admissions: conducted evaluation interviews with prospective PhD applicants to The Fletcher School, Tufts University.	Fall 2014
▪ The Comparative Politics Search Committee, The Fletcher School, Tufts University.	Spring 2011
▪ The Student Council, The Fletcher School, Tufts University.	2008-2009
▪ The Committee on Admissions, The Fletcher School, Tufts University.	2008-2009

PRIOR PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Raiffeisen Investment Romania

Bucharest, Romania

Senior Analyst

August 2006

- Successfully completed Sell Mandate of one of the top 5 national media advertising companies; played an active role in all phases of the project by leading the due diligence process, designing the company valuation and report, representing the client during the deal closing negotiations.
- Interacted on a regular basis with private sector leaders during M&A mandates; performed market research; and drafted teasers and information memoranda for companies representing potential acquisition opportunities.

KPMG

Bucharest, Romania

Senior Assistant Analyst, Financial Advisory Services Department

December 2004

- Conducted on-site due diligence (DD) and delivered final report in a three week timeframe to US-based client (publicly traded food industry leader) towards its successful acquisition of the top Romanian food processor.
- Collected all financial data needed for DD engagements; conducted interviews with the CEO, CFO and all relevant middle-management personnel to understand company operations; performed analysis; drafted final reports.

Junior Auditor, Assurance Department

May 2004

- Performed data gathering and analytical tasks during company audit engagements on behalf of several national and European industry leaders; interacted on a regular basis with CFO-level personnel and department heads.
- Processed and analyzed the resulting data, and communicated findings to KPMG management.