

Aaron M. Bateman

George Washington University
History Dept, Phillips Hall
801 22nd Street NW, office 321
Washington DC, 20052
abateman53@gwu.edu

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

George Washington University, *Washington DC*
Assistant Professor of History and International Affairs (August 2022 - present)

EDUCATION

Johns Hopkins University, Baltimore, MD
Ph.D. History of Science, 2022

Saint Mary's University, San Antonio, TX
M.A. International Relations (*summa cum laude*), 2016

Saint Joseph's University, Philadelphia, PA
B.A. Political Science (*summa cum laude*), 2013

Kazan State University, Kazan, Russia
Certificate in Russian Language, 2010

PUBLICATIONS

Books

Weapons in Space: Technology, Politics, and The Rise and Fall of the Strategic Defense Initiative (MIT Press, 2024) **Winner of the 2024 Air Force Historical Association Space History Prize**
Reviewed by *H-Net*, *Journal of Military History*, *Journal of Policy and Strategy*, *Choice*, *RUSI*,
China International Strategy Review, *Binding Hook*

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

2025. "The Weakest Link: The Vulnerability of U.S. and Allied Information Networks in the Nuclear Age," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 48, No. 1

2024. "Hunting the Red Bear: Satellite Reconnaissance and the 'Second Offset Strategy' in the Late Cold War," *International History Review* (published online, awaiting volume)

2024. "Information Security in the Space Age: Britain's Skynet Satellite Communications Program and the Evolution of Modern Command and Control Networks," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 47, No. 1 **Winner of the 2024 Amos Perlmutter Prize**

2023. "Secret Partners: The National Reconnaissance Office and the Intelligence-Industrial-Academic Complex," *Intelligence and National Security*, Vol. 38, No. 6
2022. "Trust but Verify: Satellite Reconnaissance, Secrecy, and Cold War Arms Control," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 46, No. 5
2022. "Keeping the Technological Edge: The Space Arms Race and Anglo-American Relations," *Diplomacy and Statecraft*, Vol. 33, No. 2
2022. "Mutually Assured Surveillance at Risk: Anti-Satellite Weapons and Cold War Arms Control," *Journal of Strategic Studies*, Vol. 45, No. 1
2021. "Intelligence and Alliance Politics: America, Britain, and the Strategic Defense Initiative," *Intelligence and National Security*, Vol. 36, No. 7
2020. "Technological Wonder and Strategic Vulnerability: Space Reconnaissance and American National Security during the Cold War," *The International Journal of Intelligence and Counterintelligence*, Vol. 33, No. 2
2019. "Science, Technology, and the 'Special Relationship': A Re-examination of Britain's Support for the Strategic Defense Initiative," *Journal of Science and Diplomacy*, Vol. 8, No. 1
2016. "The KGB and its Enduring Legacy," *Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, Vol. 29, No. 1
2014. "The Political Influence of the Russian Security Services," *Journal of Slavic Military Studies*, Vol. 27, No. 3

Chapters in Edited Volumes

2024. "A History of U.S. Space Security," in *Oxford Handbook of Space Security*, ed. P.J. Blount and Saadia Pekkanen (Oxford University Press)

Invited Reviews

2025. Book Review: *NATO and the Strategic Defence Initiative: A Transatlantic History of the Star Wars Programme*, Luc-Andre Brunet (ed), H-Diplo
2023. Book Review: Hugh Slotten, *Beyond Sputnik and the Space Race: The Origins of Global Satellite Communications*, H-War
2022. Book Review: *The INF Treaty of 1987: A Reappraisal*, Philipp Gassert, Tim Geiger and Hermann Wentker (eds), *Journal of Contemporary History*
2022. Book Review: Sean F. Johnson, *Techno-Fixers: Origins and Implications of Technological Faith*, H-Sci-Tech-Med

Works in Progress

The Weakest Link: Information Networks and American Power in the Nuclear Age (book project)

A Promise of Survival: The International History of the Strategic Defense Initiative (volume co-edited with Anthony Eames that is under contract with Cornell University Press)

Policy Writing and Commentary (selected)

2024. “The New Struggle for Space,” *Engelsberg Ideas*, 17 December

2024. “Our Most Vital Assets”: Space Ground Infrastructure and U.S. Foreign Relations, in *Space Agenda 2025*, Aerospace Corporation, 24 October

2024. “Undersea Cables and the Vulnerability of American Power,” *Engelsberg Ideas*, May 7

2024. “Why Russia Might Put a Nuclear Weapon in Space,” *Foreign Affairs*, March 7

2023. “The Enduring Impact of Reagan’s Strategic Defense Initiative,” *Arms Control Today*, September 1

2023. “The Prospects for United States-China Space Cooperation are Limited,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 12 June

2022. “Anti-Satellite Weapons are Creating Space Hazards. Here’s a Way to Limit the Damage,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, 21 January

2020. “America Can Protect Its Satellites Without Kinetic Space Weapons,” *War on the Rocks*, 30 July

2020. “America Needs a Coalition to Win a Space War,” *War on the Rocks*, 29 April

2019. “The Vatican’s Nuclear Diplomacy from the Cold War to the Present,” *War on the Rocks*, 6 December

2019. “Russia’s Doomed Quest to Lead the World in AI,” *DefenseOne*, 12 June (this article was also translated into Russian by state media outlet *Rossiya Segodnaya* and posted on its website on 14 June)

Media

Quoted in and/or interviewed by *BBC*, *The Atlantic*, *The Economist*, *Lanfare* (Podcast “Chatter”), *Associated Press*, *BreakingDefense*, *Voice of America*, *Gizmodo*, *ABC Australia*

INVITED PRESENTATIONS (selected)

2025. Global Space Infrastructure and U.S. Grand Strategy, MIT Security Studies Program, 9 April

2025. "Hunting the Red Bear: Satellite Reconnaissance and the 'Second Offset' Strategy," Naval War College, 24 March
2025. "Information-Age Weapons in Asia: Implications for Regional Security and Alliances," Asia New Zealand Foundation and Victoria University (Wellington), 3 February
2024. "In Pursuit of Global Connectivity: Secure U.S. and Allied Information Networks during the Cold War," Macquarie University (Australia), 19 June
2024. "Weapons in Space: Technology, Politics, and the Rise and Fall of the Strategic Defense Initiative"
 British International Studies Association, 11 November
 Prague Security Institute, 4 November
 Office of the Secretary of Defense Red Team, 25 October
 RAND Corporation, 2 October
 Washington History Seminar, 30 September
 Office of the Secretary of Defense History Office, 26 September
 The Aerospace Corporation, 23 September
 American University, 19 March
2024. Space Arms Control: Lessons from the Cold War, ETH (Zurich), 6 May
2024. "The Evolution of U.S. National Security Space Strategy from the Cold War to Today," Japanese National Institute for Defense Studies, 16 February
2024. "The Enduring Impact of the Strategic Defense Initiative on Space Security," Japanese National Institute for Defense Studies, 15 February
2024. "Cold War Lessons for Space Competition Today," U.S. Embassy Tokyo, 12 February
2023. "Trust but Verify: Satellite Reconnaissance, Secrecy, and Arms Control during the Cold War," Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania, 28 March
2023. "The Role of Space in NATO's Defense Strategy from the Cold War to the Present," Norwegian Defense University, 1 February
2023. "Transatlantic Cooperation in Space," Norwegian Space Agency, 31 January
2023. "Trust but Verify: Satellite Reconnaissance and Cold War Arms Control," University of Oslo, 30 January
2022. "Mutually Assured Surveillance at Risk: Anti-Satellite Weapons and Cold War Arms Control," University of Oslo, 1 June
2022. "U.S. National Security Space Policy: From the Cold War to the Present," National Geospatial Intelligence Agency, 10 May
2021. "Changes in Space Security since the Outer Space Treaty," United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, 27 September

2021. "Anti-Satellite Weapons and American Foreign Relations," Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, 20 September
2021. "A History of Anti-Satellite Weapons," Secure World Foundation, 21 June
2021. "Keeping the Technological Edge: Britain and the Strategic Defense Initiative," University of Oslo, 12 May
2021. "Keeping the Technological Edge: The Strategic Defense Initiative and Anglo-American Relations," Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum, 22 March
2021. "India in the Evolving Space Security Domain," Sandia National Laboratories, 11 March
2021. "Anglo-American Military and Intelligence Cooperation in Space," University of Leicester, 25 February
2020. "American National Security Space Strategy from the Cold War to the Present," Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory, 19 October
-

FELLOWSHIPS, GRANTS, and AWARDS

2024. Smith Richardson Foundation Strategy and Policy Grant (\$60,000)
2024. Stanton Foundation Nuclear Security Grant (\$90,000)
2024. Air Force History Association Space History Prize for my book *Weapons in Space: Technology, Politics, and the Rise and Fall of the Strategic Defense Initiative*
2024. Amos Perlmutter Prize for the best article published in the *Journal of Strategic Studies* by a junior faculty member
2023. American Institute for Aeronautics and Astronauts history manuscript award (2023) for my dissertation, "A Space Renaissance: The Strategic Defense Initiative and the Arms Race"
2022. Stanton Nuclear Security Fellowship, Stanford CISAC (declined)
- 2021-2022. Guggenheim Predoctoral Fellow, Smithsonian National Air and Space Museum
-

TEACHING

- Outer Space and International Security, undergraduate lecture, Fall 2024
- Science, Technology, and Espionage, undergraduate lecture, Fall 2022-24
- Science, Technology, and Global Statecraft, graduate seminar, Spring 2023-24

SERVICE

Reviewer for *Intelligence and National Security*, the *Journal of Strategic Studies*, the *Journal of Politics*, *Security Studies*, and the *Hague Journal of Diplomacy*

2024 – present, Cold War History Conference organizing committee (annual conference that rotates between George Washington, London School of Economics, and UC Santa Barabara)

2024- present, Society of Intelligence History board member

2022 – present, Colloquium organizer, George Washington University History Department

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

United States Air Force intelligence officer (2013-2019): honorably discharged at the rank of captain

RESEARCH LANGUAGES

Russian