

Leo J. Blanken

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Education:

- Ph.D. Political Science, 2006, University of California, Davis
 - Dissertation: “Rational Empires: An Institutional Theory of Imperialism”
 - Winner Best Dissertation Award (all fields), Western Political Science Association
 - Committee: Scott S. Gartner (chair), Emily O. Goldman, Daniel Y. Kono
 - Fields: International Relations, Methodology, Comparative Politics
- M.A. Political Science, 1997, Columbia University
- B.A. Politics, 1993, University of San Francisco (Magna cum Laude)

Employment:

- Associate Professor, Department of Defense Analysis, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA (2015-)
- Assistant Professor, Department of Defense Analysis, Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA (2008-2015)
- Post-Doctoral Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of California, Davis, CA (2006-2008)

Books:

- Leo J. Blanken, Jason J. Lepore, and Hy Rothstein (eds.) 2015. *Assessing War: The Challenge of Measuring Success and Failure* (Washington DC: Georgetown University Press)
- Leo J. Blanken. 2012. *Rational Empires: Institutional Incentives and Imperial Expansion* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press)
 - Reviewed in *Foreign Affairs*, Volume 91, Issue 5
 - Book is the subject of a symposium in *Global Discourse*, Volume 3, Issue 1
 - Symposium is reprinted in Russell Foster, Matthew Johnson, and Mark Edward, (eds.) 2014. *The Crisis of the Twenty-First Century: Essays on Empire in the Age of Austerity* (London: Routledge)

Peer reviewed articles:

- Leo J. Blanken. 2016. "Is It All Just a Bad Habit? Explaining NATO's Difficulty in Deterring Russian Aggression," in *Combating Terrorism Exchange* (Special Issue on Countering Hybrid Warfare: The Best Uses of SOF in a Pre-Article V Scenario) 6 (4): 54-60.
- Leo J. Blanken and Jason J. Lepore. 2015. "Performance Measurement in Military Operations: Information versus Incentives," *Defence and Peace Economics* 26 (5): 516-535
- Leo J. Blanken and Jason J. Lepore. 2015. "One Arm Tied Behind Our Backs? Assessing the Power of the United States to Combat Global Threats," in *Combating Terrorism Exchange* (Special Issue on the Net Assessment of Violent Non-State Actors) 5 (3): 47-52.
- Leo J. Blanken. 2013. "Defending the Empire: *Rational Empires* and the Study of Imperialism," *Global Discourse* 3 (1): 205-209
- Leo J. Blanken and Justin Overbaugh. 2013. "Are We Assuming the Worst about Assumptions? Induction, Deduction, and Military Intelligence in Counterinsurgency," *Inteligencia Y Seguridad* 13 (January-June): 193-220
- Leo J. Blanken. 2012. "Reconciling Strategic Studies...with Itself: A Common Framework for Choosing among Strategies," *Defense and Security Analysis* 28 (4): 275-287
- Leo J. Blanken and Justin Overbaugh. 2012. "Looking for Intel...or Looking for Answers? Reforming Military Intelligence for a Counterinsurgency Environment," *Intelligence and National Security* 27 (4): 561-577
- Leo J. Blanken and Jason J. Lepore. 2012. "Unpacking the Various Meanings of Redundancy: From Refining the Concept to Military Planning," *Defense and Security Analysis* 28 (4): 326-342
- Leo J. Blanken and Jason J. Lepore. 2011. "Slowing Down to Keep the Lead in Military Technology," *Defence and Peace Economics* 22 (3): 317-334

Peer reviewed book chapters:

- Leo J. Blanken and Jason J. Lepore. 2018. "Backseat Driving: What Happens When Technology Outpaces Strategy?" in Z.S. Davis and M. Nacht, eds., *Strategic Latency Red, White, and Blue: Managing the National and International Security Consequences of Disruptive Technologies*, Livermore, CA: Center for Global Security Research.
- Leo J. Blanken. 2016. "Forward Policies," in J. MacKenzie, ed., *Encyclopedia of Empire*, Oxford: Wiley Blackwell.
- Leo J. Blanken and Jason J. Lepore. 2015. "Principals, Agents, and Wartime Assessment," in L. Blanken, J. Lepore, and H. Rothstein, eds., *Assessing War: The Challenge of Measuring Success and Failure*, Washington DC: Georgetown University Press.
- Leo J. Blanken and Jason J. Lepore. 2015. "The Challenge of Assessment," in L. Blanken, J. Lepore, and H. Rothstein, eds., *Assessing War: The Challenge of Measuring Success and Failure*, Washington DC: Georgetown University Press.

- Scott Sigmund Gartner and Leo J. Blanken. 2012. "Beyond Victory and Defeat," In H. Rothstein and J. Arquilla, eds., *Afghan Endgames: Strategy and Policy Choices for America's Longest War*, Washington DC: Georgetown University Press
 - Reprinted in India on Cambridge University Press, New Delhi
- Emily O. Goldman and Leo J. Blanken. 2005. "The Economic Foundations of Military Power," In Peter Dombroski, ed., *Guns and Butter: The Political Economy of International Security*. Boulder, CO: Lynne Rienner

Guest edited journal issues:

- *Combating Terrorism Exchange* special issue on "Countering Hybrid Warfare: The Best Uses of SOF in a Pre-Article V Scenario," Volume 6, Issue 4. Guest edited by Frank Steder (Norwegian Defence Research Establishment) and Leo Blanken (Naval Postgraduate School)

Media items:

- Leo Blanken, Kai Thaxton, and Michael Alexander, "Shock of the Mundane: The Dangerous Diffusion of Basic Infantry Tactics," *War on the Rocks*, 27 February 2018
 - <<https://warontherocks.com/2018/02/shock-of-the-mundane-the-dangerous-diffusion-of-basic-infantry-tactics/>>
- Leo Blanken, Jason Lepore, and Stephen Rodriguez, "America's Military is Choking on Old Technology," *Foreign Policy*, 29 January 2018
 - <<http://foreignpolicy.com/2018/01/29/americas-military-is-choking-on-old-technology/>>
- Stephen Rodriguez, Leo Blanken, and Jason Lepore, "America Needs a New 'Dreadnought Strategy'," *Foreign Policy*, 28 July 2017
 - <<http://foreignpolicy.com/2017/07/28/america-needs-a-new-dreadnought-strategy-military-technology-rd/>>

Other items:

- Leo Blanken, Robert Burks, Iver Johansen, Paul Andrews, Timothy Conley, Allen Estrera, Michael Ferriter, Nathan Padgett, and Mike Rowland. 2017. *Human Built Operational Environments*. Monterey, CA: Naval Postgraduate School Technical Report
- "Assessing the Viability of Operational Deterrence in Norway's High North." 2017. Technical Report for *Forsvarets Forskningsinstitutt* (Norwegian Defense Research Establishment), Oslo, Norway
- Contributor to "Multi-Method Assessment of ISIL in Support of SOCCENT." 2015. Subject Matter Expert Elicitation Summary Report for Joint Staff/J39
- "Social Scientific Theories of Imperialism." 2015. *Oxford Bibliographies Online*
- "Interview with Afghan National Army Special Forces Officer" [conducted by Leo Blanken at Bagram Airfield, Afghanistan, October 2013]. 2014. *Combating Terrorism Exchange* 4 (2): 52-53
- "Does Imperialism Have a Future?" July 2012. *The Montreal Review* (invited)

- “Deterrence” in M. Freeman and H. Rothstein, eds., *Gangs and Guerillas: Ideas from Counterinsurgency and Counterterrorism*. 2011. Monterey, CA: Naval Postgraduate School Technical Report
- Multiple selections in *Magill’s Guide to Military History*. 2001. New York: Salem Press

Field research activities:

- Afghanistan (2017)
- Afghanistan (2016)
- Peru (2014)
- Afghanistan (2013)
- Colombia (2013)
- Mindanao and Jolo, Philippines (2012)

External Research Projects as Principal Investigator (Total: \$4,076,580):

- *Unlikely Partnerships and New Strategies*
 Sponsor: Office of the Secretary of Defense (EC&P): Rapid Reaction Technology Office
 Funding Level: \$100,000 FY18
 Description: Conducting and supervising research on the possibilities of engaging non-state communities and networks to achieve US national security objectives.
- *Emerging Technologies and Weapons of Mass Destruction*
 Sponsor: Office of the Secretary of Defense (AT&L): CWMD Systems
 Funding Level: \$200,000 for FY15, \$935,000 for FY16, \$400,000 for FY17, \$450,000 for FY18
 Description: Conducting and supervising research on the co-evolution of emerging technology and the strategic landscape of proliferation
- *Net Assessment for Combating Terrorism*
 Sponsor: National Counter Terrorism Center (NCTC)
 Funding Level: \$305,000 for FY14
 Description: Establishment of a Net Assessment Advisory Team, the development of a course on net assessment for low intensity conflict, direct a series of white papers on the challenges of assessing counter-terrorism policies
- *WMD-Elimination of Industrial Scale Facilities on the Korean Peninsula*
 Sponsor: US Army Training and Doctrine Command: Asymmetric Warfare Group (AWG)
 Funding Level: \$148,000 for FY14
 Description: Assemble a student/faculty team to look at the challenge of integrating general purpose forces (GPF) into the mission of securing and eliminating industrial-scale WMD facilities in a non-permissive operating environment on the Korean Peninsula
- *The Challenge of Strategic Assessment in Wartime*

Sponsor: Office of the Secretary of Defense (EC&P): Rapid Reaction Technology Office / US Army Training and Doctrine Command: Asymmetric Warfare Group (AWG)
 Funding Level: \$99,000 for FY12 and \$200,000 for FY13
 Description: Form a working group of scholars to analyze the challenge of assessing effectiveness and performance in wartime with particular attention paid to irregular conflicts

- *Combating Terrorism Archiving Project (CTAP)*
 Sponsor: Office of the Secretary of Defense: Combating Terrorism Fellowship Program (CTFP)
 Funding Level: \$481,580 for FY11, \$300,000 for FY12, and \$300,000 for FY13
 Description: Conduct and archive interviews of global special operators in order to share lessons, experiences, and best practices in special operations and low-intensity conflict
- *Risk Analysis of Alternative Tactical Mobility Platforms*
 Sponsor: US Army Training and Doctrine Command: Asymmetric Warfare Group (AWG)
 Funding Level: \$158,000 for FY12
 Description: Develop formal model of risk and behavior in relation to ultra-light tactical mobility platforms

Fellowships and awards:

- Harry Frank Guggenheim Dissertation Fellow (2005-06)
- University of California Washington Center Graduate Research Fellow (2005-06)
- Carnegie Foundation Grant (2005)
- Charles Hardin Emeriti Fund Fellowship Travel Grant (2004)
- University of California, Davis Department Travel Award to conduct primary research at Hong Kong University (2002)
- DAAD Goethe Institute Summer Fellowship (2001)
- University of California, Davis Block Grant Fellow (1999-2000)

Conferences organized:

- 2016. "Rethinking Engagement with Self-Regulating Communities: Implications for National Security." Conference held at Stanford University, Palo Alto, CA.
- 2015. "Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Practitioner Research Workshop." Workshop held at Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA.
- 2014. "The Challenge of Wartime Assessment: Phase 2." Workshop held at Georgetown University, Washington D.C.
- 2013. "The Challenge of Wartime Assessment: Phase 1." Workshop held at Naval Postgraduate School, Monterey, CA.

Invited talks and related activities:

- Led team of students to conduct research for Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan (SOJTF-A) leadership (November-December 2017)

- Panel member for “Framing the Deterrence Problem” at “Cyber Endeavor 2017: Deterrence in and through Cyber Space 2022” conference at Carnegie Mellon University (June 2017)
- Worked with Special Operations Task Force (SOTF) Advanced Operating Base (AOB) South, Kandahar Air Field, Afghanistan (November 2016)
- Presented “Deterrence in American Strategic Thought” at Norwegian Defense Research Establishment (FFI), Oslo, Norway (October 2016)
- Presented “Metrics, Assessment, and War” at Royal Danish Defense Academy’s Institute for Strategy, Copenhagen, Denmark (October 2016)
- Presented “Emerging Technology and Counter-proliferation” at NATO Special Operations Headquarters (NSHQ), Mons, Belgium (October 2016)
- Presented “Metrics, Assessment, and War” at Swedish Defense University (FHS), Stockholm, Sweden (October 2016)
- Panel member for “Online Communities and the Future of National Security” roundtable at the Atlantic Council, Washington, DC (July 2016)
- Presented on *Assessing War* book at 92Y, New York City (April 2016)
- Led team of students to present research on fostering interagency collaboration for upstream counter-proliferation efforts to the National Security Council’s Senior Director of WMD Terrorism and Threat Reduction (February 2016)
- Presented to a delegation of Eastern European partner military and law enforcement personnel on the threat of non-state actors at the Marine Forces Europe/European Command (MARFOREUR/EUCOM) Annual Intelligence Symposium in Bucharest, Romania (September 2014)
- Presented to a delegation of Peruvian special operations military personnel on the challenge of campaign assessment (June 2014)
- Led a team of students to Camp Casey, South Korea to observe Second Infantry Division’s (2ID) table-top exercise on the elimination of WMD threats on the Peninsula (May 2014)
- Traveled to Joint Special Operations University (JSOU) to deliver a talk on the challenge of campaign assessment (February 2014)
- Traveled to Special Operations Command (SOCOM) to deliver a talk on the challenge of campaign assessment (February 2014)
- Traveled to Navy Special Warfare Development Group (NAVSPECWAR DEVGRU) to deliver a talk on the challenge of campaign assessment (December 2013)
- Traveled to Afghanistan to visit the Combined Joint Special Operations Task Force-Afghanistan (CJSOTF-A) at Bagram Airfield, the Special Operations Joint Task Force-Afghanistan (SOJTF-A) in Kabul, and Special Operations Task Force-South in Kandahar (SOTF-S) to discuss metrics and assessment issues (October-November 2013)
- Traveled to Bogota, Colombia to present on the challenge of wartime assessment, and to lead a roundtable discussion with their Ministry of Defense’s assessment team (June 2013)

- Led a student team working on the issue of subterranean operations in presenting at the “Terrorism and Border Security Workshop” held for visiting Egyptian officials from their Ministries of Interior and Finance (May 2013)
- Presented at University of California, Davis, “The Landscape of Conflict” (April 2013)
- Presented “World at War” at University of California, Davis (April 2012)
- Traveled to the Joint Special Operations Task Forces-Philippines (JSOTF-P) to assist in the composition of the commander’s end of tour report (April 2012)
- Presented “How Formal Empires Shaped the Modern World” at the Institute for World Politics, Washington DC (February 2012)
- Participated in 7th Special Forces Group’s workshop to prepare troops heading to Afghanistan to engage in Village Stability Operations (September 2011)
- Participated in the US Naval War College’s Center on Irregular Warfare and Armed Groups’ (CIWAG) “Teaching About Armed Groups” workshop, Annapolis, MD (July 2008)
- Presented on “Rational Empires” at the Triangle Institute for Security Studies’ “New Faces in Security Studies”, Duke University (September 2007)

Conference participation:

- 2017. (with Jason Lepore and Kai Thaxton) “Beyond Victory: Reconceiving Outcomes in Afghanistan.” Presented at the annual meeting of Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society, Washington DC.
- 2017. (with Jason Lepore and Kai Thaxton) “Beyond Victory: Reconceiving Outcomes in Afghanistan.” Presented at the annual meeting of ISAC/ISSS, Washington DC.
- 2017. (with Jason Lepore and Kai Thaxton) “Beyond Victory: Reconceiving Outcomes in Afghanistan.” Presented at Lethal Aid and Human Security Workshop, UNC Chapel Hill.
- 2017. “Emerging Disruptive Technologies and National Security.” Presented at the 43rd Asilomar Microcomputer Workshop, Pacific Grove, CA.
- 2017. (with Tricia Sullivan) “Foreign Military Assistance and the Quality of the Peace in Post-Conflict Countries.” Presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Baltimore, MD.
- 2016. (with Jason J. Lepore) “Wartime Assessment and War Termination.” Presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA.
- 2014. (with Jason J. Lepore) “Constructivism and Force Planning,” Presented at the annual meeting of ISAC/ISSS, Austin, TX.
- 2012. (with Jason J. Lepore and Justin Overbaugh) “Who Needs Culture? Optimal Division of Labor in Military Intelligence” Presented at the annual meeting of the British International Studies Association, Edinburgh, Scotland.
- 2012. (with Michael Freeman) “States of Anarchy: Using IR Theory to Understand Gang Violence” Presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, San Diego, CA.

- 2011. (with Justin Overbaugh) “Are We Assuming the Worst about Assumptions? Deduction and Induction in COIN Military Intelligence” Presented at the “Threat from Below Conference”, King’s College, London, UK.
- 2010. (with Scott S. Gartner) “Beyond Victory and Defeat: Rethinking War Outcomes, Strategy, and Assessment in Afghanistan” Presented at the Afghanistan Endgames Workshop, Monterey, CA.
- 2010. (with Justin Overbaugh) “Looking for Intel...Or Looking for Answers? The Role of Military Intelligence in a COIN Environment” Presented at the annual meeting of ISAC/ISSS, Providence, RI.
- 2010. (with Jason J. Lepore) “Contracting for Victory: Distinguishing between Observable Benchmarks and Ultimate Goals in War” Presented at the annual meeting of ISAC/ISSS, Providence, RI
- 2009. “Reconciling Strategic Studies...with Itself: An Analytic Framework for Choosing among Strategies” Presented at the annual meeting of ISAC/ISSS, Monterey, CA.
- 2009. (with Jason J. Lepore) “The Impact of Imperfect Measures of Success on Force Structure and Force Employment” Presented at Afghan Theater Security Strategies Conference, Monterey, CA.
- 2009. (with Jason J. Lepore) “Slowing Down to Keep the Lead in Military Technology.” Presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, New York, NY.
- 2009. (with Jason J. Lepore) “Strategic Uses of Technological Leads in Conventional Force Structure Planning.” Presented at the joint international meeting of ISA-ABRI, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.
- 2008. (with Jason J. Lepore) “Redundancy in Military Bureaucracies.” Presented at the annual meeting of ISAC/ISSS, Aspen, CO.
- 2006 (with Michael T. Koch) “Deal Breakers: An Institutional Analysis of Bargaining Dynamics” Presented at the annual meeting of the Peace Science Society, Columbus, OH.
- 2005. “Conquest versus Commerce: Institutional Incentives and Formal Imperialism.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Washington, DC.
- 2005 “No Arm to Twist? Local Institutions and Formal Imperial Expansion.” Presented at the annual meeting of the Western Political Science Association, Oakland, CA.
- 2004. (with Scott S. Gartner) “Death and Taxes Abroad: Force and Revenue in the International System.” Presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.
- 2003. (with Emily O. Goldman) “The Economic Foundations of Military Power.” Presented at the Workshop on the Political Economy of the New Security Environment, Brown University.

Additional training:

- Asymmetric Warfare Group / Combat Survival Training Course: Qualified with M4 carbine (grade of “sharpshooter”) and M9 pistol, US Army Fort A.P. Hill, Virginia (2012)
- Institute for Qualitative Research Methods, Arizona State University (2006)
- Merriam Laboratories Junior-Master Class in Formal Modeling, University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign (2005)
- IGCC Biological Threats Training Program, University of California, San Diego and RAND Corporation (2005)
- National Science Foundation’s EITM (Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models) Program, Duke University (2004)
- SWAMOS (Summer Workshop for the Analysis of Military and Operational Strategy), Cornell University (2002)
- Goethe Institute Intensive Summer German Language Program, Dresden, Germany (2001)
- ICPSR (Interuniversity Consortium for Political and Social Research Summer Program in Quantitative Methods), University of Michigan (2000)

Membership:

- American Political Science Association
- International Studies Association
- Armed Forces and Society

Courses taught:

- The Use of Force in the International System
- Scientific Study of War
- National Security Policy
- Introduction to International Relations
- Research Design
- Politics of Global Interdependence
- Politics of Global Inequality

Reviewer:

- *African Journal of Political Science and International Relations, Combating Terrorism Exchange, Conflict Management and Peace Science, Foreign Policy Analysis, Global Discourse, International Security, International Studies Quarterly, International Studies Review, Journal of Defense Management, Stability: International Journal of Security and Development, Routledge Press*