Alexandra Chinchilla

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International security scholar with expertise in security cooperation, irregular warfare, and Eastern Europe. Experience leading research teams and funded projects, briefing policy audiences, and publishing in academic journals and public-facing outlets such as *Foreign Affairs*.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE & LEADERSHIP

Texas A&M University Aug. 2022 - Present
Assistant Professor, Bush School of Government and Public Service
Core Faculty, Albritton Center for Grand Strategy

- Leads a project funded by a **$218,000 Defense Security Cooperation University grant** examining when U.S. security cooperation produces influence over partner countries (principal investigator, 2025-27).
- Author of *Advising War: Great Power Influence through Boots on the Ground*, examining how military advisors enable great powers to influence wartime partners; **under contract**.
- Co-led a **$150,000 research project** on elite and public views of forward-deployed troops and U.S. national security policy, with Paul Poast and Dan Reiter (co-principal investigators, funded by Chicago Project on Security and Threats, 2023-25).
- Conducted more than **160 research interviews** with practitioners; **fieldwork in Germany, Poland, and Ukraine**.
- Supervises a graduate research assistant annually, advises students, and teaches courses on Russia, proxy war, and international relations.

Irregular Warfare Initiative Feb. 2026 - Present
Co-host, Irregular Warfare Podcast
A joint production of Princeton's Empirical Studies of Conflict Project and the Modern War Institute at West Point.

- Hosted and produced episodes bringing together scholars and practitioners such as GEN (ret.) Richard Clarke, Dr. Celeste Wallander, and Afghanistan War Commission experts.
- Podcast receives around **30,000 downloads per month**.

Dartmouth College, John Sloan Dickey Center Sept. 2021 - May 2022
Rosenwald Postdoctoral Fellow in U.S. Foreign Policy and International Security

Chicago Project on Security and Threats Apr. 2019 - Mar. 2021
Senior Data Research Fellow

- **Managed a 15-person data analytics team** producing publications on armed conflict and terrorism.
- Briefed policymakers, professionals, and academics.

RAND Corporation Jun. - Sept. 2017
Summer Associate

- Developed a game-theoretic model of Russian responses to potential U.S. force postures in Europe and briefed RAND experts on the findings.

U.S. Department of State, Warsaw, Poland Sept. - Dec. 2013
Political-Economic Section Intern

U.S. House Armed Services Committee Jan. - May 2013
Intern

SELECTED POLICY ENGAGEMENT

- Authored a policy brief and briefed practitioners and academics on escalation and U.S. support to Ukraine at a workshop organized by **Bridging the Gap** and the University of Pennsylvania's **Perry World House** (Jun. 2026).
- Briefed a policy and academic audience on Ukraine (Feb. 2025) and conducted research on behalf of the Pentagon's J5 (2025–2026), both in collaboration with **West Point's Department of Social Sciences**.

SELECTED POLICY PUBLICATIONS

***Foreign Affairs*.** "Would Americans Go to War Against China? How a Divided Public Thinks About Conflict."
With Paul Poast and Dan Reiter | March 2025

Modern War Institute. "The Polish Experiment in Military Advising: Improving the European Union Training Mission to Ukraine."
With Jahara Matisek and William Reno | October 2024

***Foreign Affairs*.** "Why America Should Send Military Advisers to Ukraine."
With Sam Rosenberg | September 2023
Cited in a September 2023 congressional letter to Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin.

***Lawfare*.** "Lessons from Ukraine for Security Force Assistance."
September 2023

***Foreign Affairs*.** "Ukraine's Hidden Advantage: How European Trainers Have Transformed Kyiv's Army and Changed the War."
With Jahara Matisek | May 2023

SELECTED SCHOLARLY PUBLICATIONS

"Balancing Acts: Why Great Powers Underprovide Security Assistance." *International Politics*, 2025.

"Irregular Warfare in Strategic Competition." *Defence Studies*, 2023.
With Kyle Atwell, Alexis Bradstreet, Catherine Crombe, and Luther Leblanc

"Warlord Coordination as State-Building in Post-Maidan Ukraine." *Studies in Conflict and Terrorism*, 2021.
With Jesse Driscoll

SELECTED FELLOWSHIPS

American-German Young Leaders Conference 2024
American Council on Germany

Young Strategists Forum 2024
German Marshall Fund of the United States

USIP-Minerva Peace and Security Scholar 2020-21
United States Institute of Peace

EDUCATION

University of Chicago, Ph.D., Political Science 2021

Georgetown University, B.S., Walsh School of Foreign Service 2015
Magna cum laude; Phi Beta Kappa; John Carroll Fellow

SKILLS

Languages: Polish (intermediate); Russian (beginner).
Research: mixed-method research design, quantitative analysis (R, Stata), archival and interview research.