

Zenel Garcia

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ACADEMIC POSITIONS

Visiting Assistant Professor 2018–Present
Government Department, St. Lawrence University

Affiliate Faculty 2021–Present
Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies

Faculty Fellow 2017–2018
Honors College, Florida International University

EDUCATION

Florida International University

Ph.D. International Relations 2012–2018
Defended, with distinction, a dissertation titled:
“China’s Eurasian Foreign Policy:
Region-Building through State-Building since 1991”

Major Field: Foreign Policy & Security Studies
Minor Field: Comparative Area Studies
Graduate Certificate: Middle East and Central Asian Studies

M.A. Asian Studies 2012–2014
Defended, with distinction, an M.A. Thesis: “China’s Military
Modernization, Japan’s Normalization and its Effects on the
South China Sea Territorial Disputes”

Major Field: Politics of Asia
Graduate Certificate: Asian Globalization
Graduate Certificate: Japanese Studies

B.A. International Relations & Asian Studies 2005–2010
Certificate in Asian Studies
Certificate in Chinese Studies

Zhejiang University

Summer Chinese Language Program Certificate 2013

RESEARCH & TEACHING INTERESTS

Security & Strategic Studies
Regionalism

Critical Security Studies
East Asian Politics

Critical Geopolitics
Indo-Pacific Politics

PUBLICATIONS

Books

China's Western Frontier and Eurasia: The Politics of State and Region-Building
(New York: Routledge, 2021), *forthcoming*

China's Military Modernization, Japan's Normalization and the South China Sea Territorial Disputes
(Gewerbstrasse: Palgrave MacMillan, 2019)

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles

“Constituting the Indo-Pacific: Securitization and the Processes of Region-Making,” *International Quarterly for Asian Studies: Special Issue* 52(1-2), 2021 (with Bibek Chand), *forthcoming*

“Southeast Asian Hedging and Indo-Pacific Strategies for Regional Balance: Managing China’s Rise,” *The Air Force Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs* 1(2), 2019, 23–56 (with Bibek Chand & Kevin Modlin)

“Strategic Stability in the 21st Century: The Challenge of the Second Nuclear Age and the Logic of Strategic Interdependence,” *Comparative Strategy* 36(4), 2017, 354–365

“Power Politics and Securitization: The Emerging Indo-Japanese Nexus in Southeast Asia,” *Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies* 4(2), 2017, 310–324 (with Bibek Chand)

“Biting the Cow’s Tongue: Securitization and Capacity Building in the South China Sea,” *Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs* 3(3), 2016, 269–290 (with Thomas A. Breslin)

“Power Cycles and Security Complexes: Evolution of the East Asian Supercomplex,” *Asia Politics & Policy* 8(4), 2016, 538–558

“A ‘Normal’ Japan and the Externalization of China’s Securitization,” *Japan Studies Review* Vol. XX, 2016, 157–178

“Resistance and Assimilation: Transforming Security Roles of China’s Largest Muslim Minorities,” *Journal of Muslim Minority Affairs* 36(2), 2016, 282–293

Peer-Reviewed Book Chapters

“Southeast Asia,” in *Airpower in the Indian Ocean and Western Pacific: Understanding Regional Security Dynamics*, ed. Howard M. Hensel (New York: Routledge, 2020), 174–195 (with Maria C. Ortuoste)

Book Reviews

Review of James Manicom: *Bridging Troubled Waters: China, Japan and Maritime Order in the East China Sea*, *Asia Politics & Policy* 8(3), 2016, 502–504

Review of Christopher Davidson: *The Persian Gulf and Pacific Asia: From Indifference to Interdependence*, *Journal of Global South Studies* 32(2), 2015, 267–269

WORKS IN PROGRESS

Under review

“The Impact of Chinese History on its Perception of Maritime Law in the South China Sea,” *Review of International Studies* (with Christine Bianco)

“The Belt-Road Initiative and Southeast Asia: Linking the Eurasian Heartland and the Rimland,” in *Geopolitics of the Belt and Road Initiative: Creating a Chinese Eurasia-Pacific*, ed. Claudia Zanardi (London: Palgrave MacMillan)

Working Papers

“Xinjiang and Eurasia: The Co-Constitutive Politics of State and Region-Building”

“People’s War: The Evolution of Chinese Strategy and its Modern Application”

“The Philippines,” in *The South china Sea: Contemporary Dynamics*, ed. Howard M. Hensel (New York: Routledge) (with Maria C. Ortuoste)

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

St. Lawrence University

Visiting Assistant Professor

International Relations of China (Online Course)	Spring 2021
Introduction to International Relations: Writing Intensive (Online Course)	Spring 2021
International Security (Online Course)	Spring 2021, Fall 2020
Strategic Studies (Online Course)	Fall 2020
Introduction to International Relations (Online Course)	Fall 2020
Chinese Politics	Spring 2020
Comparative Politics	Spring 2020
Critical Security Studies	Fall 2019
International Relations Research Seminar: Eurasian Geopolitics	Fall 2019
Introduction to International Relations	Fall 2019, Spring 2019
International Relations of China	Spring 2019
International Security	Fall 2018
International Relations Research Seminar: Strategic Studies	Fall 2018
Introduction to International Relations: Writing Intensive	Fall 2018

Florida International University

Faculty Fellow, Honors College

Inhabiting Other Lives (Simulation: The Indian Partition)	Spring 2018
Ideas of Origin and Origin of Ideas (Epistemology)	Fall 2017

Instructor of Record, Department of Politics and International Relations

Contemporary International Problems (Hybrid Course)	Summer 2018
Introduction to Comparative Politics	Fall 2017
International Relations of Central Asia and the Caucasus (Online Course)	Spring 2017
International Relations of Southeast Asia	Fall 2016
Strategic Studies and National Security	Spring 2018, Spring 2016
Politics of the Far East	Fall 2015
International Relations of East Asia (online course)	Spring 2015
International Relations of East Asia	Fall 2014

Teaching Assistant, Department of Politics and International Relations

The Political Economy of China	Summer 2016, Spring 2014
International Political Economy (online course)	Summer 2015, Summer 2014
International Relations of China	Spring 2014, Spring 2013, Fall 2012
Judicial Process	Fall 2013
Conflict, Security and Peace Studies	Fall 2013
Theories of International Relations	Summer 2013

Teaching Assistant, Center for Women's and Gender Studies

LGBT and Beyond	Summer 2018, Spring 2017
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CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“China’s Frontiers: The Co-Constitutive Process of State and Region-Building,” to be presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention 2019, April 6-9, held virtually

“What is Innocent? Freedom of Navigation vs Coastal States Rights in the Law of the Sea,” to be presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention 2019, April 6-9, held virtually (with Christine Bianco and Bibek Chand)

Roundtable: “Going “Back” to Normal or Creating a New Normal: Pedagogical Lessons from the Pandemic,” presented at the Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2021, March 27, held virtually

“Constituting the Indo-Pacific: Securitization and the Processes of Region-Making,” presented at the International Studies Association Northeast Annual Conference 2020, November 5-7, held in virtually (with Bibek Chand)

“The Sino-Indian Rivalry and the Construction of the Indo-Pacific Region,” to be presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention 2019, March 25-28, cancelled for COVID-19

“Tracing the Belt and Road Initiative: The Process of State and Region-Building,” presented at the “China: Ways of Seeing” conference at the Joint Special Operations University, SOCOM, MacDill Air Force Base, February 11-13, 2019, held in Tampa, Florida

“Understanding China’s Evolving South China Sea Claims: Historiography, Nationalism, and International Law,” presented at the “China: Ways of Seeing” conference at the Joint Special Operations University, SOCOM, MacDill Air Force Base, February 11-13, 2019, held in Tampa, Florida

“Reconstituting Eurasia: Chinese Region-Building through State-Building,” presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention 2019, March 27-30, held in Toronto, Canada

“Interpreting International Maritime Law: The Evolution of Chinese Understandings of the Maritime Commons,” presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention 2019, March 27-30, held in Toronto, Canada (with Christine Bianco)

“The Security-Development Nexus and the Chinese Communist Party: Narratives on State and Region-Building,” presented at the International Studies Association Northeast Annual Conference 2018, November 2-3, held in Baltimore, Maryland

“The South China Sea and the Struggle for Regional Order,” presented at the Association for Asian Studies AAS-in-Asia Conference 2018, July 5-8, held in Delhi, Republic of India

“The South China Sea as the Pivot: Competing Visions of Regional Order,” presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention 2018, April 4-7, held in San Francisco, California

Roundtable: “China in the Post-American World,” presented at the Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2018, March 24, held in Ft. Myers, Florida

Roundtable: “Intersections of Political Theory and International Relations,” presented at the Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2018, March 24, held in Ft. Myers, Florida

“Development and Securitization of Transboundary Rivers: A Case Study of Central Eurasia,” presented at the Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2018, March 24, held in Ft. Myers, Florida

“Re-connecting the Sub-Regions: China’s Eurasian Foreign Policy,” presented at the International Studies Association Northeast Annual Conference 2017, November 3-4, held in Providence, Rhode Island

“People’s War at Sea and China’s Maritime Militia: From Strategy to Practice,” presented at the International Studies Association South Annual Conference 2017, October 20-21, held in Orlando, Florida

Roundtable: “Researching and Teaching International Relations during Politically Disruptive Times,” presented at the International Studies Association South Annual Conference 2017, October 20-21, held in Orlando, Florida

“Securitization and the Changing Dynamics of Strategic Stability in the Indo-Pacific Region,” presented at the Association for Asian Studies AAS-in-Asia Conference 2017, June 24-27, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea

“People’s War and China’s Maritime Peripheries: The Evolution of the Strategy and its Modern Application” presented at the International Studies Association International Conference 2017, June 15-18, held in Hong Kong

“Speech Acts and Securitization: Illocutionary and Perlocutionary Acts in the Study of Security,” presented at the Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2017, April 1, held in Orlando, Florida

“China and Eurasia: Evolving Policy and Regional Transformation,” presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention 2017, February 22-25, held in Baltimore, Maryland

“Securitization, Identity, and Role Dynamics: The South China Sea Territorial Disputes and the Struggle for Recognition,” presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention 2017, February 22-25, held in Baltimore, Maryland

“Strategic Stability in the 21st Century: The Challenge of the Second Nuclear Age and the Logic of Dilemma Interdependence,” presented at the International Studies Association Northeast Annual Conference 2016, November 4-5, held in Baltimore, Maryland

“Strategic (in)Stability in the Pacific: U.S.-Japan’s BMD Deployments and China’s Conventional Ballistic Missile Programs,” presented at the International Studies Association Asia-Pacific Conference 2016, June 25-27, held in Hong Kong

“Power Politics and Securitization: The Indo-Japanese Nexus in Southeast Asia,” presented at the Mid-West Political Science Association Annual Conference 2016, April 7-10, held in Chicago, Illinois (with Bibek Chand)

“Asia-Pacific Security and the Changing Nature of Strategic Stability in the 21st Century,” presented at the Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2016, March 28, held in Lakeland, Florida

“Biting the Cows Tongue: Strategic Options in the South China Sea,” presented at the International Studies Association South Annual Conference 2015, October 23-25, held in Tampa, Florida (with Thomas A. Breslin)

“The Eurasian Colosseum: The Sino-Russian Strategic Rivalry in the Caspian Region,” presented at the International Studies Association South Annual Conference 2015, October 23-25, held in Tampa, Florida (with Seyed Saeed Mousavi)

“Japan and the Republic of Korea: The Evolving East Asian Supercomplex,” presented at the ISSS-ISAC Joint Annual Conference 2015, October 8-10, held in Springfield, Massachusetts

“The Developmental State in East Asia and the Challenge of Globalization,” presented at the Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2015, March 28, held in Orlando, Florida

“Regional Security Complex Theory (RSCT) and the South China Sea Territorial Disputes: Evolution of the East Asian Supercomplex,” presented at the International Studies Association Annual Convention 2015, February 18-21, held in New Orleans, Louisiana

“Japan and the Republic of Korea: The Role of Great Powers in Securing the East Asian Supercomplex,” presented at the International Studies Association Northeast Annual Conference 2014, November 7-8, held in Baltimore, Maryland

“China’s Military Modernization and Japan’s Normalization: The Effects on the South China Sea Territorial Disputes,” presented at the Western Conference for the Association for Asian Studies 2014, October 2-4, held in Tempe, Arizona

“China’s Military Modernization and Japan’s Normalization: The Effects on the South China Sea Territorial Disputes,” presented at the Asian Studies Association of Australia Biennial conference 2014, July 8-10, held in Perth, Australia

“Modernization of The People’s Liberation Army and Sino-Japanese Security Relations,” presented at the International Studies Association Northeast Annual Conference 2013, November 7-8, held in Providence, Rhode Island

“Modernization of The People’s Liberation Army and Sino-Japanese Security Relations,” presented at the International Studies Association West Annual Conference 2013, September 27-28, held in Pasadena, California

INVITED TALKS

“Regime Security and the Chinese Communist Party,” presented over Zoom for a Comparative Security course at the University of North Georgia, March 5, 2021

Roundtable: “Hong Kong Protests: When Civil Society Strikes Back” presented over Zoom for the Center for International and Intercultural Studies at St. Lawrence University, November 4, 2020, Canton, New York

Roundtable: “China’s Rise and its Implications” presented at the Center for International and Intercultural Studies at St. Lawrence University, April 2, 2019, Canton, New York

“Publishing your Graduate Research,” presented at Florida International University for a “Publishing Workshop” hosted by the Asian Studies Graduate Student Association, April 9, 2018, Miami, Florida

“Security and Development in 21st Century China,” presented at Florida International University for an introductory class on International Relations, January 29, 2018, Miami, Florida

“Sino-Indian Relations: Competing for Strategic Space,” presented at Florida International University for a class on the International Relations of South Asia, April 19, 2017, Miami, Florida

“The South China Sea Territorial Disputes: The Players and their Maritime Strategies,” presented at Florida International University for a class on Strategic Studies and National Security, March 8, 2017, Miami, Florida

“China: A Century of Revolution,” presented at Florida International University for a class on Political Violence and Revolution, February 28, 2017, Miami, Florida

“History of Revolution in China,” presented at Florida International University for a class on Political Violence and Revolution, November 2, 2016, Miami, Florida

“The Chinese Revolution: Causes and Effects,” presented at Florida International University for a class on Political Violence and Revolution, March 2, 2016, Miami, Florida

“Political Economy of China 1949-Present,” presented at Florida International University for a class on Political Violence and Revolution, November 20, 2015, Miami, Florida

“Political Transitions in China 1644-Present,” presented at Florida International University for a class on Political Violence and Revolution, November 18, 2015, Miami, Florida

“Regional Frameworks: Theory and Methodology” presented at Florida International University for a “Theory and Methodology” workshop hosted by the Asian Studies Graduate Student Association, October 15, 2015, Miami, Florida

“The Chinese Civil War,” presented at Florida International University for a class on Political Violence and Revolution, November 21, 2014, Miami, Florida

“Sino-Japanese Strategic Competition in Southeast Asia,” presented at Florida International University for a class on Modern Asia, March 24, 2014, Miami, Florida

“Theory and China’s Grand Strategy,” presented at Florida International University for a class on Theory in International Relations, June 12, 2013, held in Miami, Florida

AWARDS AND GRANTS

Awards & Honors

World’s Ahead Graduate (highest honor given by Florida International University)	2018
Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs Award for Best Dissertation	2018
Department of Politics & International Relations Award for Best Dissertation	2018
Department of Politics & International Relations Award for Best Graduate Paper	2017
Department of Politics & International Relations Award for Best Graduate Instructor	2015
Asian Studies Award for Best M.A. Thesis	2014
Asian Studies Award for Academic Achievement	2014

Scholarships & Grants

Pi Sigma Alpha Activity Grant	2020, 2019
Fu Foundation Scholarship Award	2017
Asian Studies Graduate Scholarship	2017

TRAVEL SUPPORT

Association for Asian Studies Travel Award	2018
Graduate and Professional Student Committee Travel Fund, Florida International University	2017
Conference Travel Grant, Steven J. Green School of International and Public Affairs, Florida International University	2017
Conference Travel Grant, Department of Politics and International Relations, Florida International University	2017, 2016

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

Pandemic Pedagogy, International Studies Association Innovative Pedagogy Conference 2020, August 3, held virtually

Pedagogy Workshop, International Studies Association Northeast Annual Conference 2019, November 8-9, held in Providence, Rhode Island

SERVICE TO THE PROFESSION

University Service

Student Advisor	2019–Present
Senior Thesis Review Committee	2019–Present
Senior Year Experience Independent Study	2019–Present
Faculty Advisor for Pi Sigma Alpha	2019–Present
Department Committee for the Pi Sigma Alpha Best Paper award	2019–Present
Diversity and Inclusion Discussion Group	2019–Present

Professional Associations Service

International Studies Association: Northeast Region Governing Council	2017–Present
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Conference Service

Chair, “Re-Constituting Asia: The Politics of Regional Formation and Transformation in the 21st Century,” at the International Studies Association Annual Conference 2021, April 6-9, held virtually

Chair and Discussant, “Securitization and the Construction of Military Strategy,” at the International Studies Association Northeast Annual Conference 2020, November 5-7, held virtually

Discussant, “Japan and Islam in Asia: Discovery Identity, and Perceptions” at the Southern Japan Seminar 2018, March 2, held in Miami, Florida

Discussant, “Asian Studies Graduate Student Conference and Alumni Reception” at the Florida International University Asian Studies Graduate Student Graduate Student Organization Research Conference 2017, November 6, held in Miami, Florida

Chair, “The Asia-Pacific Region and the Transnational Implications of Changing Security Dynamics” at the Association for Asian Studies AAS-in-Asia Conference 2017, June 24-27, held in Seoul, Republic of Korea

Discussant, “Re-conceptualizing ‘Securitization’: Theory and Its Applications” at the Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2017, April 1, held in Orlando

Discussant, “Understanding and Engaging China’s Rise in the 21st Century: China’s Military Expansion and Security Dilemma in the Asia-Pacific Region” at the International Studies Association Asia-Pacific Conference 2016, June 25-27, held in Hong Kong

Chair, “The Indo-Pacific Region and the Changing Nature of Security in the 21st Century” at the Florida Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2016, March 28, held in Lakeland, Florida

Discussant, “Power and Security: The Role of Great Powers in the Indo-Pacific Region” at the ISSS-ISAC Joint Annual Conference 2015, October 8-10, held in Springfield, Massachusetts

Chair and Discussant, “China as a Global Player” at the International Studies Association Northeast Annual Conference 2014, November 7-8, held in Baltimore, Maryland

Peer Review Service

Journals

All-Azimuth: Journal of Foreign Policy and Peace
Asia and the Pacific Policy Studies
Asia Politics & Policy
Asia Pacific Journal of Education
Journal of Asian and African Studies
Journal of Asian Security and International Affairs
Journal of Global Security Studies
Journal of Public Affairs

Presses

CQ Press

RELEVANT SKILLS

Languages

Fluent in English and Spanish (speaking, reading, and writing)
Basic proficiency in Mandarin and Japanese (speaking, reading, and writing)

Online Teaching

Proficient in Blackboard
Proficient in Canvas
Proficient in Adobe Connect
Proficient in Sakai
Proficient in Turn-It-In Originality Software
Proficient in Microsoft Office Suite
Proficient in Qualtrics Survey Tool

PROFESSIONAL ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIPS

Association for Asian Studies	2010–Present
International Studies Association	2013–Present
American Political Science Association	2016–Present

REFERENCES

Thomas A. Breslin (Advisor)

Professor of International Relations
Steven J. Green School of Politics and International Affairs
Florida International University
E-mail: breslint@fiu.edu

Kristin McKie

Associate Professor of Government & African Studies
Chair of the Government Department
St. Lawrence University
E-mail: kmckie@stlawu.edu

Mohiaddin Mesbahi

Associate Professor of International Relations
Founder and Director of the Middle East Studies Program
Director of the Mohsin and Fauzia Jaffer Center for Muslim World Studies
Steven J. Green School of Politics and International Affairs
Florida International University
E-mail: mesbahim@fiu.edu

Jin Zeng

Associate Professor of International Relations
Steven J. Green School of Politics and International Affairs
Florida International University
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