

Marika Landau-Wells

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University of California, Berkeley

Department of Political Science

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ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

2021-2022 W. Glen Campbell and Rita Ricardo-Campbell National Fellow
Hoover Institution
Stanford University

2019- Assistant Professor
Travers Department of Political Science
University of California, Berkeley

2018-2019 Postdoctoral Research Fellow
Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences, SaxeLab
Massachusetts Institute of Technology

EDUCATION

2012-2018 PhD, Political Science
Massachusetts Institute of Technology
Dissertation: Dealing with Danger: Threat Perception and Policy Preferences
Winner: Lucien Pye Award for Best Dissertation in Political Science

2005-2006 MSc (with distinction), Global Politics
London School of Economics

1997-2001 AB (magna cum laude), Government
Harvard University

BOOK PROJECT

Landau-Wells, Marika, *Seeking Security: Threat Perception and Policy-Making in a Dangerous World* (in progress)

ARTICLES

- 2020 Landau-Wells, Marika and Rebecca Saxe, “Political preferences and threat perception: opportunities for neuroimaging and developmental research,” *Current Opinion in Behavioral Sciences*, Vol. 34 (August 2020): 58-63, doi:10.1016/j.cobeha.2019.12.002
- 2018 Landau-Wells, Marika, “High Stakes and Low Bars: How International Recognition Shapes the Conduct of Civil Wars” *International Security*, Vol. 43, No. 1 (Summer 2018): 100-137, doi:10.1162/ISEC_a_00321
Supplementary Materials Dataverse repository: doi:10.7910/DVN/72GCGD

REVIEWS and COMMENTARY

- 2023 Review of Reid B.C. Pauly and Rose McDermott’s “Psychology of Nuclear Brinkmanship”, H-Diplo, Robert Jervis International Security Studies Forum Policy Roundtable II-5, August 4, 2023. <https://issforum.org/to/jprII-5>
- 2021 Review of Dominic D.P. Johnson’s “Strategic Instincts: The Adaptive Advantages of Cognitive Biases in International Politics”, H-Diplo, Roundtable, Volume 13, No. 2 (2021), October 22, 2021. <https://issforum.org/roundtables/13-2>

IN PROGRESS

- Landau-Wells, Marika, “Building from the Brain: Advancing the Study of Threat Perception in IR,” February 2024 (under review)
- Landau-Wells, Marika, “Reading Hearts or Minds? Drivers of Accuracy in Understanding the Threats Perceived by Others,” January 2024 (under review)
- Jacoby, Nir, Marika Landau-Wells, Jacob Pearl, Alexandra Paul, Emily Falk, Emile Bruneau, and Kevin Ochsner, “Policy-based and Affective Partisanship Depend on Dissociable Neural Systems,” February 2024 (under review)
- Landau-Wells, Marika, Kirsten Lydic, Joachim Kennedy, Benjamin G. Mittman, Todd W. Thompson, Akhil Gupta, and Rebecca Saxe, “Inclusionary Preferences and the Brain: A Test of Three Cognitive Mechanisms,” February 2024 (in prep)
- Landau-Wells, Marika, “Evolution or Stability? Shifts in the Perception of the Communist Threat during the Early Cold War” (APSA 2023 version)

Landau-Wells, Marika, “Threat Perception and Citizens’ Preferences for Security” (working paper, December 2021)

Landau-Wells, Marika, “Telling Tales: Working with Narratives in Experimental Political Science” (working paper, June 2020)

AWARDS and FUNDING

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| 2021-2022 | W. Glen Campbell and Rita Ricardo-Campbell National Fellowship, Hoover Institution, Stanford University |
| 2018-2019 | Beyond Conflict Postdoctoral Innovation Fellowship (full-time salary to support cognitive neuroscience training and research) |
| 2018 | Lucian Pye Award for best dissertation, MIT Political Science |
| 2016 | Charles Koch Foundation Fellowship Grant (\$19,200 to support archival research and neuroimaging study extending the dissertation project) |
| 2016 | Beyond Conflict Innovation Fellow |
| 2016 | John K. Hulston Scholarship, Harry S. Truman Library and Archive (\$2,500) |
| 2015-2016 | Tobin Project Fellowship (\$2,000) |
| 2015 & 2016 | MIT Center for International Studies Summer Study Grant (\$3,500 each year) |
| 2012-2017 | MIT Political Science Department Fellowship (full tuition and stipend) |
| 2012-2013 | Ithiel de Sola Pool award for outstanding first year student, MIT Political Science |

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE & TRAINING

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| 2018-present | Certified to lead magnetic resonance imaging scans at MIT’s Martinos Center and UC Berkeley’s Brain Imaging Center (100+ hours experience with Siemens 3T MR Scanner) |
| 2016-present | Affiliate, SaxeLab (Social Cognitive Neuroscience), Department of Brain & Cognitive Sciences, MIT |
| 2015 | Intern, Neuroendocrine Unit, Massachusetts General Hospital/Partners Healthcare |

INVITED TALKS & CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2022 “Advancing the Study of Threat Perception in International Relations: Conceptual and Methodological Challenges,” International Relations Workshop, UCLA
- 2022 “Threat Perception and Preferences for Security,” Security Policy Workshop at the Institute for Security and Conflict Studies, Elliott School of International Affairs, George Washington University
- 2022 “Advancing the Study of Threat Perception in International Relations: Conceptual and Methodological Challenges,” Political Science Guest Speaker Workshop, Stanford University
- 2021 “Danger is What We Make of It: How Threat Perception Shapes Policy Preferences,” International Relations Faculty Colloquium, Princeton University
- 2020 “Threat Perception and Preferences for (National) Security,” presented to APSA’s Elections, Public Opinion, and Voting Behavior Section and Political Psychology Section webinar series
- 2020 Panelist for the New York Academy of Sciences webinar “Is Your Brain Democrat or Republican?”
- 2019 “Through Another’s Eyes: Investigating Perspective-Taking Accuracy in the Domain of Threat Perception,” presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association (Washington, DC)
- 2019 “Danger is What We Make of It: How Threat Perception Shapes Policy Preferences,” Browne Center for International Politics, the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, PA)
- 2019 “Dealing with Danger: Threat Perception, Cognitive Processes & Policy Preferences”, Social and Cognitive Computational Neuroscience Lab, Boston College (Chestnut Hill, MA)
- 2019 “Danger is What We Make of It: The Role of Threat Perception in Shaping National Security Preferences”, presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, March 27-31 (Toronto, Canada)

- 2018 “Danger is What We Make of It: How Threat Perception Shapes Policy Preferences,” Workshop on International Politics, the University of Chicago (Chicago, IL)
- 2018 Panelist, “Climate Science in a Time of Political Disruption,” hosted by the Harvard Kennedy School Program on Science, Technology and Society (Cambridge, MA)
- 2017 Guest speaker, “The Future of War: Neuroscience, Conflict Resolution, and Imaginaries,” hosted by The Future Society & Beyond Conflict (Cambridge, MA)
- 2017 “Disaggregating Danger: Preferences for Immigration Reform in the United States,” presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, April 6-9 (Chicago, IL)
- 2017 “High Stakes and Low Bars: International Recognition of Governments during Civil War,” presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, February 22-25 (Baltimore, MD)
- 2017 “Bringing the First Image Back In: An Exposition of Threat-Heuristic Theory,” presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, February 22-25 (Baltimore, MD)
- 2016 “Reconciling the Very Long and the Very Short: Applying an Evolutionary Perspective to Contemporary Political Behavior,” presented to the Cambridge University Arts and Humanities Research Council Conference (Cambridge, UK)
- 2016 Discussant, “The Neurobiology of War and Peace,” International Studies Association Annual Meeting (Atlanta, GA)
- 2015 “Threat Perception as a Cause of War”, presented to the Evolution and Warfare Workshop at the National Institute for Mathematical and Biological Synthesis (Knoxville, TN)

TEACHING

- 2019-2020, PS-291IR Monday International Relations Theory series (Graduate)
 2020-2021,
 2023-2024
- Spring 2023 PS-191: Fiction & War (Undergraduate)

Fall 2020, PS-269: Experimental Design (Graduate) (with Gabe Lenz)
Fall 2022

Spring 2020, PS-123: Conflict, Security, and Political Psychology (Undergraduate)
Fall 2022

SERVICE

Reviewer *Comparative Political Studies, Cambridge University Press, Columbia University Press, International Organization, International Security, International Studies Review, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, Political Behavior, Politics and the Life Sciences, Security Studies, Social Cognitive and Affective Neuroscience (SCAN), Time-Sharing Experiments for the Social Sciences (TESS)*

Conferences 2022 International Society of Political Psychology Annual Meeting Section Chair *Biology, Genetics, and Neuroscience* and Section Co-Chair *Intergroup Relations*

NON-ACADEMIC PUBLICATIONS

2015 “Remote Operations,” winner of an Atlantic Council / Art of Future Warfare short story contest

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

2010-2012 AMSOLAR Corporation (San Diego, CA)

2006-2009 Bain & Company (London, UK)

2001-2004 Corporate Strategic Planning, The Walt Disney Company (Burbank, CA)