

Todd S. Sechser

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Current Positions

University of Virginia

- Professor of Politics
- Director, Politics Honors Program
- Faculty Senior Fellow, Miller Center of Public Affairs

Carnegie Endowment for International Peace

- Nonresident Scholar, Nuclear Policy Program

Education

Stanford University

- Ph.D., Political Science, 2007
- Winner of the Walter Isard Award for the Best Dissertation in Peace Science.

Drake University

- B.A., Economics, Political Science, International Relations, 1999
- *Summa cum laude* with University Honors
- Winner of the Oreon E. Scott Award, awarded to the top graduating senior.
- Harry S. Truman Scholarship, 1998

Previous Positions

University of Virginia

- Director, Democratic Statecraft Lab, Karsh Institute of Democracy, 2019-23
- Pamela Feinour Edmonds and Franklin S. Edmonds, Jr. Discovery Professor of Politics, 2018-23 (rotating chair)
- Associate Professor of Politics, 2014-18
- Assistant Professor of Politics, 2007-14

Council on Foreign Relations

- Stanton Nuclear Security Fellow, 2011-12

Harvard University

John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies

- Postdoctoral Fellow, 2007-08

Harvard University*Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs*

· Predoctoral Fellow, 2004–06

Stanford University*Center for International Security and Cooperation*

· Predoctoral Fellow, 2003–04

Books

Sechser, Todd S., Neil Narang, and Caitlin Talmadge, eds. 2022. *Emerging Technologies and International Stability*. New York: Routledge.

Sechser, Todd S. and Matthew Fuhrmann. 2017. *Nuclear Weapons and Coercive Diplomacy*. New York: Cambridge University Press.

Refereed Journal Articles

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16. Sowon Park, Todd S. Sechser, and Sunggun Park. Forthcoming. "Partisanship, Ideology, and Elite Cues in Foreign Policy." *American Journal of Political Science*.
 15. Post, Abigail and Todd S. Sechser. 2024. "Hand-Tying through Military Signals in Crisis Bargaining." *International Studies Quarterly* 62.
 14. Sechser, Todd S. and Abigail Post. 2023. "Mild Aggressive Behavior and Images of Real-Life Violence." *Journal of Experimental Psychology: Applied* 29:2, pp. 440–50.
 13. Sechser, Todd S., Neil Narang, and Caitlin Talmadge. 2019. "Emerging Technologies and Strategic Stability in Peacetime, Crisis, and War." *Journal of Strategic Studies* 42:6, pp. 727–35.
 12. Horowitz, Michael C., Philip B.K. Potter, Todd S. Sechser, and Allan C. Stam. 2018. "Sizing Up the Adversary: Leader Attributes, Credibility, and Reciprocation in International Conflict." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 62:10, pp. 2180–2204.
 11. Sechser, Todd S. 2018. "Reputations and Signaling in Coercive Bargaining." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 62:2, pp. 318–45.
 10. Caverley, Jonathan D. and Todd S. Sechser. 2017. "Military Technology and the Duration of Civil Conflict." *International Studies Quarterly* 61:3, pp. 704–20.
 9. Sechser, Todd S. 2016. "Sharing the Bomb: How Foreign Nuclear Deployments Shape Nonproliferation and Deterrence." *Nonproliferation Review* 23:3–4, pp. 443–58.
 8. Fuhrmann, Matthew and Todd S. Sechser. 2014. "Signaling Alliance Commitments: Hand-Tying and Sunk Costs in Extended Nuclear Deterrence." *American Journal of Political Science* 58:4, pp. 919–35.
 7. Fuhrmann, Matthew and Todd S. Sechser. 2014. "Nuclear Strategy, Nonproliferation, and the Causes of Foreign Nuclear Deployments." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 58:3, pp. 455–80.

6. **Sechser, Todd S.** and Matthew Fuhrmann. 2013. “Crisis Bargaining and Nuclear Blackmail.” *International Organization* 67:1, pp. 173–95.
5. Downes, Alexander B. and **Todd S. Sechser**. 2012. “The Illusion of Democratic Credibility.” *International Organization* 66:3, pp. 457–89.
4. **Sechser, Todd S.** 2011. “Militarized Compellent Threats, 1918–2001.” *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 28:4, pp. 377–401.
3. **Sechser, Todd S.** 2010. “Goliath’s Curse: Coercive Threats and Asymmetric Power.” *International Organization* 64:4, pp. 627–60.
2. **Sechser, Todd S.** and Elizabeth N. Saunders. 2010. “The Army You Have: The Determinants of Military Mechanization, 1979–2001.” *International Studies Quarterly* 54:2, pp. 481–511.
1. **Sechser, Todd S.** 2004. “Are Soldiers Less War-Prone than Statesmen?” *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 48:5, pp. 746–74.

Book Chapters

6. **Sechser, Todd S.**, Neil Narang, and Caitlin Talmadge. 2022. “Emerging Technologies and International Stability.” In *Emerging Technologies and International Stability*, edited by Todd S. Sechser, Neil Narang, and Caitlin Talmadge (New York: Routledge), pp. 3–18.
5. Fuhrmann, Matthew and **Todd S. Sechser**. 2019. “Nuclear Blackmail: The Threat from North Korea and Iran.” In *America’s Nuclear Crossroads: A Forward-Looking Anthology*, edited by Caroline Dorminey and Eric Gomez (Washington, D.C.: Cato Institute), pp. 69–80.
4. **Sechser, Todd S.** 2018. “A Bargaining Theory of Coercion.” In *Coercion: The Power to Hurt in International Politics*, edited by Kelly M. Greenhill and Peter Krause (New York: Oxford University Press), pp. 55–76.
3. **Sechser, Todd S.** 2017. “The Enduring Challenge of Nuclear Weapons.” In *Great Decisions*, edited by Karen A. Rohan (Foreign Policy Association), pp. 105–13.
2. **Sechser, Todd S.** 2010. “Should the United States or the International Community Aggressively Pursue Nuclear Nonproliferation Policies?” (Exchange with Scott D. Sagan and Josh Weddle.) In *Controversies in Globalization: Contending Approaches to International Relations*, edited by Peter M. Haas, John A. Hird, and Beth McBratney (Washington, D.C.: CQ Press), pp. 164–74.
 - Second revised edition, 2012.
1. **Sechser, Todd S.** “The Effects of September 11: A Rift between Europe and America?” In *Public Opinion and Polling Around the World*, edited by John G. Geer (ABC-CLIO, 2004), pp. 327–38.
 - Reprinted in *Paradoxes of Power: U.S. Foreign Policy in a Changing World*, edited by David Skidmore (Paradigm, 2007).

Non-Refereed Publications

Non-Refereed Articles

8. Sechser, Todd S. and Matthew Fuhrmann. 2020. [“Nuclear Weapons and Coercive Diplomacy.”](#) *H-Diplo/International Security Studies Forum Roundtable Series*.
7. Sechser, Todd S. 2018. [“Costly Signals, Coercion, and the Use of Force in U.S. Foreign Policy.”](#) *H-Diplo/International Security Studies Forum Roundtable Series*.
6. Sechser, Todd S. and Matthew Fuhrmann. 2017. [“The Madman and the Bomb: Nuclear Blackmail in the Trump Era.”](#) *Virginia Policy Review* 10:2, pp. 79–84.
5. Sechser, Todd S. 2017. [“Coercion, Survival, and War.”](#) *H-Diplo/International Security Studies Forum Roundtable Series*.
4. Sechser, Todd S. and Matthew Fuhrmann. 2017. [“The Madman Myth: Trump and the Bomb.”](#) *H-Diplo/International Security Studies Forum Policy Roundtable Series*.
3. Sechser, Todd S. 2016. [“A Pivotal Moment in Proliferation Research.”](#) *International Studies Quarterly Online*.
2. Sechser, Todd S. and Matthew Fuhrmann. 2014. [“Nuclear Weapons Are \(Still\) Poor Instruments of Blackmail.”](#) *H-Diplo/International Security Studies Forum Roundtable Series* 2, pp. 55–62.
1. Fuhrmann, Matthew, Matthew Kroenig, and Todd S. Sechser. 2014. [“The Case for Using Statistics to Study Nuclear Security.”](#) *H-Diplo/International Security Studies Forum Roundtable Series* 2, pp. 37–54.

Op-Eds, Commentary, Major Interviews

- Lawless, Jennifer L. and Todd S. Sechser. 2026. [“The Confidence Gap Keeping Women Out of Congress.”](#) *RealClearPolling* (January 27).
- Sechser, Todd S. 2022. [“Russia Risks Becoming ‘Isolated Pariah State’ If It Uses Nukes.”](#) *UVA Today* (October 10).
- Sechser, Todd S. 2022. [“Putin is Discovering that Overwhelming Military Power Can Be a Curse.”](#) *Washington Post* (March 29).
- Sechser, Todd S. 2022. [“How Worried Should We Be About Russia Using Nuclear Weapons?”](#) *UVA Today* (February 28). With Stephen Mull.
- Sechser, Todd S. 2022. [“Russia Invades Ukraine. What Does it Mean?”](#) *UVA Today* (February 24). With Allen Lynch and Kyrill Kunakhovich.
- Sechser, Todd S. 2021. [“Q&A: Long-Term Foreign Policy Effects of a Chaotic Withdrawal From Afghanistan.”](#) *UVA Today* (August 30). With Dale Copeland and John M. Owen.
- Sechser, Todd S. 2020. [“America Rejected Antipathy Toward the World.”](#) Miller Center of Public Affairs, *Election 2020 and its Aftermath* (November 5).

- Sechser, Todd S. 2020. [“Q&A: COVID-19 and American Foreign Policy.”](#) *UVA Today* (October 8).
- Fuhrmann, Matthew and Todd S. Sechser. 2019. [“Can the United States Protect its Nuclear Weapons in Turkey?”](#) *Washington Post* (October 18).
- Sechser, Todd S. 2020. [“Q&A: Denuclearization in North Korea?”](#) *UVA Today* (April 28).
- Sechser, Todd S. and Matthew Fuhrmann. 2017. [“Will Anyone Push the Button? The Credibility of Nuclear Threats.”](#) *Medium.com* (March 16).
- Fuhrmann, Matthew and Todd S. Sechser. 2014. [“To Help Allies, Send Security Guarantees, Not Nuclear Bombs.”](#) *USApp – American Politics and Policy*, a London School of Economics and Political Science blog (November 24).
- Sechser, Todd S. and Matthew Fuhrmann. 2014. [“Does Nuclear Blackmail Work?”](#) *Washington Post* (July 14).
- Saunders, Elizabeth N. and Todd S. Sechser. 2014. [“The New Defense Budget May Change Less Than You Think.”](#) *Washington Post* (February 27).
- Sechser, Todd S. and Matthew Fuhrmann. 2013. [“Debating the Benefits of Nuclear Superiority for Crisis Bargaining.”](#) *The Duck of Minerva* (March 25 and March 28).
- Sechser, Todd S. 2012. [“Ask the Experts: What Would Iran Do With a Bomb?”](#) *Politics, Power, and Preventive Action*, a Council on Foreign Relations blog (February 21).
- Sechser, Todd S. 2012. [“What Will Iran Do If It Gets a Nuclear Bomb?”](#) *TheAtlantic.com* (February).
- Fuhrmann, Matthew and Todd S. Sechser. 2011. [“Would a Nuclear-Armed Iran Really Be So Dangerous?”](#) *Christian Science Monitor* (January 12).
- Sechser, Todd S. 2000. [“Nuclear Stalemate in South Asia.”](#) *Boston Globe* (March 23).
- Sechser, Todd S. 1999. [“Pakistan Coup Underscores Nuclear Dimension.”](#) *Defense News* (November 15).
- Sechser, Todd S. 1998. [“How to Live With the Bomb.”](#) *Wall Street Journal* (September 1).
- Sechser, Todd S. 1997. [“Biological Terrorism: Don’t Panic Yet.”](#) *Des Moines Register* (November 25).

Honors and Awards

Research Awards

Pamela Feinour Edmonds and Franklin S. Edmonds, Jr. Discovery Chair, College of Arts and Sciences, University of Virginia, 2018–23 (College-wide rotating chair)

Faculty Sabbatical Award (inaugural winner), University of Virginia Quantitative Collaborative, 2016

Walter Isard Award for the Best Dissertation in Peace Science, 2008. Awarded every two years by the Peace Science Society.

Richard S. Goldsmith Writing Prize in Dispute Resolution, Stanford Center on Conflict and Negotiation, 2005

Richard S. Goldsmith Writing Prize in Dispute Resolution, Stanford Center on Conflict and Negotiation, 2004

Teaching Awards

All-University Teaching Award, University of Virginia, 2026

Mead Endowment Faculty Award, University of Virginia, 2014

Cory Family Teaching Award (inaugural winner), University of Virginia, 2013. \$25,000 prize for excellence and innovation in teaching.

Centennial Teaching Award, Stanford University, 2004

Award for Excellence in Teaching, Department of Political Science, Stanford University, 2002