

McGregor faculty proposals #107

Faculty Name Westra, Joel

Dept. Political Science

Project Title Shaping the International Security Order: Global Security Governance in a Changing World

Project Abstract Since the close of World War II, states have undertaken efforts to shape the institutional architecture of the international security order by proposing to build and/or to rebuild institutions and associated institutional entities and agents pertaining to global security issues. These include formalized arrangements, such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW), and legalized arrangements, such as the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT) and the Conventional Forces in Europe treaty (CFE). Proposed institutional arrangements have varied, both in the design features they entail and in their subsequent acceptance and implementation by states. In seeking to explain such variation, the Faculty Mentor and Student Researcher will continue work on multiyear research project collecting data on (1) design features entailed within proposed institutional arrangements (including both successful and unsuccessful proposals), (2) subsequent acceptance and implementation of proposed arrangements by states, and (3) power asymmetries among eligible member states within proposed arrangements. These data will become part an original dataset that can be used to evaluate efficiency-oriented bargaining (i.e. rational institutional design), power-based bargaining (i.e. realist institutionalism), and integrative bargaining mechanisms as competing explanations for observed variation of institutional arrangements. The resulting dataset will be used to help answer questions regarding processes and outcomes of institutional design in security issue areas.

Project Outcome I am writing a book and several related journal articles, which will make extensive use of the data collected by the Student Researcher. The dataset also will facilitate research by other scholars studying institutional design and systems of international order by providing data necessary for large-n analysis of a sort that presently is impossible because such data has not yet been collected. I will be pleased to acknowledge the contributions of the Student Researcher in all of these outlets.