

Fourth Annual New Faces Conference Biographies

Michael Allen, Resat Bayer, Brett Benson, Giacomo Chiozza, Jamie Morin, Gregory Koblentz, Alexander Statiev, and Kevin Sweeney.

Michael Allen (B.A. University of Chicago, M.A. Northwestern) has just assumed a position as Assistant Professor of History at North Carolina State University. His doctorate (Northwestern University, completed in the summer 2003, was supported by numerous grants and fellowships including the Gerald R. Ford Foundation Research Grant (2000) and the Dirksen Congressional Center Research Award (2001). His dissertation explores the origins and influence of the historically unprecedented effort to recover American remains from Southeast Asia after the Vietnam War through a detailed examination of political culture. Dr. Allen argues that body recovery was perpetuated after the Vietnam War due to the inability of state and military authorities to control the process as they had in the past. The POW/MIA movement furthermore challenged patriotic culture by its insistence on “the fullest possible accounting” for missing Americans and placed strict constraints on military action in the post-Vietnam era.

Resat Bayer (B.A. and M.A. Bilkent University, Turkey) is a doctoral candidate at Pennsylvania State University. Fluent in Turkish, English, and French, Mr. Bayer was the winner of a Forrest Crawford Dissertation Fellowship on Ethical Inquiry (2002-03). He has presented numerous papers at professional meetings and several manuscripts are currently under review. His dissertation research concerns post-war reconciliation, and the stages through which states progress as they move from a state of enmity to one of normal relations. Mr. Bayer develops three levels of peace for post-war dyads: pre-peace, negative peace and positive peace. He argues that each stage represents a qualitatively different period in the evolution of peace after war and that the dyad may become stuck or even fall backwards in any given stage. He hypothesizes that different independent variables will have different causal effects depending on where in the stages they occur.

Brett Benson (B.A. Brigham Young University) is a doctoral candidate at Duke University in Political Science. He earned his BA in Philosophy and Mandarin Chinese and was appointed an Earhart Fellow (1998-2001). He has produced a number of papers, two of which have been published. Mr. Benson’s dissertation examines variations in the scope and form of deterrence commitments, focusing specifically on commitments that vary in strength and transparency. The analysis identifies and demonstrates the conditions under which some weak and/or transparent deterrence commitments manage to preserve the status quo while stronger and more transparent alternatives would, contrary to their intentions, likely promote conflict.

Giacomo Chiozza (M.A. University of Milan, Italy) is a doctoral candidate at Duke University. He has published an article in the Journal of Peace Research and two more will appear shortly in the Journal of Conflict Resolution. He won the Alona Evans International Relations Award in 1999 and is receiving support for his dissertation research from the Carnegie-sponsored TISS project on Wielding American Power. His research focuses on Anti-Americanism – the popular opposition to the United States, criticism of its policies and dislike of its symbols. He asks two questions. First, how can we account for the variation in popular attitudes towards the United States across countries and over time? And second, how consequential are anti-American attitudes for state behavior in the international arena.

Jamie Morin (B.A. Georgetown University, M.A. London School of Economics, Ph.D. Yale) is a lecturer in the Department of Political Science at Yale University. His doctoral dissertation (Yale, 2003) identifies areas of continuity and change in the politics of defense budgeting and policymaking in the United States at the end of the Cold War. Dr. Morin concludes that congressional intervention played a significant role in shaping the programmatic details of post-Cold War retrenchment. Using an innovative test, Dr. Morin also finds support for the hypothesis that congressional intervention was motivated by parochialism. Dr. Morin's research was supported by grants from the Miller Center for Public Affairs at UVa, the Smith-Richardson Foundation, the Dirksen Center, and Yale University. He has worked on the policy planning staff at the Department of Defense and as an economic development consultant to USAID and other international aid agencies.

Gregory Koblenz (B.A. Brown University, M.A. John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard) is a doctoral candidate in Political Science at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. He held a Pre-Doctoral Fellowship in National Security at the John M. Olin Institute for Strategic Studies, 2002-03 and between 1996-97 was a Junior Fellow at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, working on nuclear proliferation. In 1998 he was an intern in the office of undersecretary for arms control, and 1999/2000 he conducted research and wrote about organizational obstacles to preparing for terrorism at an Executive Session on Domestic Preparedness. He has published ten papers. Mr. Koblenz' dissertation examines the implications of ongoing spread of bioweapons technology to states and non-state terrorist groups. Mr. Koblenz argues that the biowar and nuclear revolutions have very important differences that have large policy relevance. He argues that biological weapons are in important ways much worse than nuclear weapons, that the spread of bioweapons is harder to limit by agreement and harder to defend against than nuclear weapons.

Alexander Statiev (BSc. Moscow Mining Institute, M.A. University of Calgary) is a doctoral candidate in History at the University of Calgary, Canada. He has published articles in the *Journal of Military History*, and the *Journal of Slavic Military Studies*. Before deciding to pursue a career in history, Mr. Statiev was an engineer, who, among other things worked on predicting earthquakes for the Soviet Academy of Sciences, Institute of Geophysics. He has been awarded a three-year doctoral fellowship from the Canadian Social Sciences and Humanities Research Council and a Guggenheim Ph.D. Fellowship and attended SWAMOS 2002. Mr. Statiev has researched in the archives of five countries and in five different languages. The topic of his doctoral dissertation is Soviet counter-insurgency in territories reoccupied from Nazi control between 1943-1947. He argues that Soviet counter-insurgency was based not on force alone but blended the punitive measures with social reforms, and relied largely on winning the majority of the population over to the government's cause.

Kevin J. Sweeney (B.A. University of Rochester, M.A. Ohio State University) is a doctoral candidate at the Ohio State University. He has given numerous presentations, one of which won the 2001 Francis R. Aumann Award, and several others of which are currently under review for publication. He has also been updating the Militarized Interstate Dispute Data Set, coding interstate disputes for the entire North American Region (1993-2001). Mr. Sweeney's dissertation, which is supported by a Professional Enhancement Research Grant, seeks to uncover the relationship between national power and interests – the two core elements of classical and neoclassical relationship. Mr. Sweeney argues that these two elements, depending on how they are combined, determine the severity of interstate disputes and the duration and formation of alliances. He argues that they can account for various levels of conflict and cooperation among pairs of nation states.