

## April A. Herlevi

<https://herlevi.weebly.com>

<https://www.linkedin.com/in/herlevi>

### RESEARCH AGENDA

I educate policymakers and scholars on China's political economy, focusing on industrial and technology policies. My research examines the activities of China's commercial, military, and government entities globally, with a particular focus on US-China strategic competition and its impacts on East Asia, Southeast Asia, and the Pacific Islands. Employing multi-method approaches and direct engagement with relevant communities, I analyze the impacts of US-China strategic competition on international security.

### EDUCATION

- PhD, Foreign Affairs* 2018  
Department of Politics, University of Virginia, Charlottesville, VA  
Subfields: International Relations, Comparative Politics  
*Competition for Investment: Causes and Consequences of the Rise of the Special Economic Zone*  
Dissertation Committee: David Leblang, Brantly Womack, Sonal Pandya, Syaru Shirley Lin
- Master of Public Policy* 2007  
George Mason University, Arlington, VA  
Concentration in International Governance and Institutions
- BA, Political Science and Economics, Summa cum laude* 2001  
North Carolina State University, Raleigh, NC

### PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Senior Research Scientist, Center for Naval Analyses (CNA) Feb 2021 – present
- Direct analysis of China's economic statecraft and technology-related policies, drawing from original language source materials and incorporating new analytic methods into the research program.
  - Evaluate US government policy responses in the Indo-Pacific region and offer recommendations for addressing complex military, policy, and regulatory issues.
  - Functioned as an onsite subject matter expert at Third Marine Expeditionary Force, Okinawa, Japan (2020-22). Served as project representative to Marine Forces Pacific (2022-23).
- Nonresident Fellow, National Bureau of Asian Research (NBR) Jan 2022 – present
- Conduct research on China's technology strategies and digital architecture and participate in seminars and workshops addressing China's strategic imperatives.
  - Organize Track 1.5 dialogues, represent the organization at official delegations, present research findings, and prepare tailored reports for policy and public audiences.
- Research Scientist, Indo-Pacific Security Affairs Program, CNA Nov 2017 – Jan 2021
- Steered projects and applied innovative analytic methodologies to address research inquiries aligned with US Navy and USMC requirements; actively engaged individual project sponsors.
  - Utilized original language source materials (Mandarin) to analyze China's foreign, economic, and security policies. Effectively communicated complex, technical analysis to government partners.
- Surface Warfare Analyst, Office of Naval Intelligence, US Navy 2012
- Conducted analysis of military technology and capability developments in Asia, delivering tailored assessments to US Navy, US Pacific Command, and interagency partners.
  - Specialized in doctrine, capabilities, readiness, and tactics, leveraging original language sources to formulate research plans and address intelligence gaps.

- Senior Intelligence Analyst, Asia-Pacific Branch, US Marine Corps (USMC) 2007 – 2012
- Provided substantive direction for all analytic production related to the Asia-Pacific Branch including military order of battle and culture-related products.
  - Cultivated relationships with operational forces, represented the USMC in national-level working groups, and served as an area expert for Department of Defense wargames.
- Research Fellow, Long-Range Analysis Unit, National Intelligence Council 2009 – 2011
- Executed research plan examining China’s relations with Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) for Director of National Intelligence Exceptional Analyst Program.
  - Presented analytic findings at academic conferences and intelligence community events, including publication of a futures analysis examining trajectories for China-ASEAN relations.
- Interagency Liaison, US Agency for International Development (USAID) 2006 – 2007
- Conducted counterterrorism screening, maintained partnerships with interagency partners, engaged with Congressional committees, and ensured policy compliance with US laws and regulations.
  - Coordinated security-related training courses for overseas personnel, including participants from Bangladesh, Moldova, Nepal, Nigeria, and Serbia.
- International Relations Specialist, Joint Warfare Analysis Center, US Navy 2002 – 2006
- Developed innovative analytic methodologies for leadership, military, political, and economic analysis, delivering insights and recommendations to Combatant Commands and DOD leaders.

## PUBLICATIONS

### *Journal Articles and Book Chapters [Peer Reviewed]*

“China’s Technology Acquisition for Military Innovation: Spectrum of Legality in Strategic Competition,” co-authored with Rose Rodgers, *Asian Security*, Volume 19, no. 2 (2023): 169-185.

“China’s Tourism in the Middle East and North Africa: Trends and Outlook,” in *Routledge Companion to China and the Middle East and North Africa* (London and New York: Routledge, 2023).

“China’s Activities in the Pacific Island Countries: Laying the Foundation for Future Access in Oceania?” co-authored with Christopher Cairns, in *Enabling a More Externally Focused and Operational PLA*, Roger Cliff and Roy D. Kamphausen (eds.), (Carlisle, PA: US Army War College Press, July 2022).

“Competing or Colluding Commercial Interests? Ports and Free Zones along China’s Maritime Silk Road in Africa,” *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, November 2021.

“Economic Growth or Sowing the Seeds of Destruction? The Role of Economic Development Zones in China,” *Journal of Chinese Political Science*, Volume 22, no. 4 (2017): 675-689.

### *Policy-Oriented Reports*

“China’s Strategic Space in the Digital Undersea,” *Mapping China’s Strategic Space*, National Bureau of Asian Research (forthcoming).

Editor and contributor to [Intersections: Technology, National Security, and US-China Strategic Competition](#), CNA, November 2022 - present. *Media Interviews*: Mercy Kuo, “China-US Subsea Sparring and the Global Internet: Insights from April Herlevi,” *The Diplomat*, July 19, 2023. Anna Gross, Alexandra Heal, Chris Campbell, Dan Clark, Ian Bott, and Irene de la Torre Arenas, “Subsea Cables: How the US is Pushing China Out of the Internet’s Plumbing,” *The Financial Times*, June 12, 2023.

Editor, [Charting a New Course for the Pacific Islands: Strategic Pathways for US-Micronesia Engagement](#), National Bureau of Asian Research, March 2023.

“[Beyond Presence: What Can the United States Do Better in the Pacific?](#)” in *Charting a New Course for the Pacific Islands: Strategic Pathways for US-Micronesia Engagement*, NBR, March 2023.

*The PRC’s National Innovation System for AI: Exploring PRC Goals*, September 2022. [Peer Reviewed]  
Contributor to the [China AI and Autonomy Report](#), CNA, March - August 2022.

*International Arms Exports in the Era of Great Power Competition*, CNA, 2020. [Peer Reviewed]

- Executive Summary Version: “[China’s Defense Exports: Small Volume, but Room for Growth](#),” 2021.
- “[China as a Niche Arms Exporter](#),” *CNA In-Depth*, August 31, 2021.
- Policy Impact: Testimony for US-China Economic and Security Review Commission Hearing on China’s Foreign Military Sales and Technological Acquisition, January 26, 2023. [Video](#), [Written testimony](#).

[Economic Statecraft: How China Legally Accesses Foreign Technologies to Build Military Capabilities](#), CNA, co-authored with Rose Tenyotkin, Alison Kaufman, and Anthony Miller, June 2020. [Peer Reviewed]

*Advancing the US-Australia Alliance*, CNA, February 2020. [Peer Reviewed]

*Challenge for the Pacific: China’s Activities in the Pacific Island Countries*, co-authored with Christopher Cairns, CNA, 2019. [Peer Reviewed]

*China’s Expanding Maritime Presence*, co-authored with Thomas Bickford, Tamara Hemphill, Amanda Kerrigan, and David Wallsh, CNA, June 2019. [Peer Reviewed]

*Full Spectrum Operations: PLA Army Transformation in the 21st Century*, co-authored with Kevin Pollpeter, Timothy Ditter, Brian Waidelech, Patrick deGateno, and Dennis Blasko, CNA, 2019. [Peer Reviewed]

*China’s Publicly-stated Goals in the Pacific Islands*, co-authored with Christopher Cairns, CNA, 2019.

#### *Articles and Book Reviews*

Review Essay of *Sovereign Funds: How the Communist Party of China Finances Its Global Ambitions*, H-Diplo (forthcoming).

[The United States Advances its Pacific Partnership Strategy in Micronesia: Foundational Work Continues](#), *CNA In-Depth*, June 12, 2023.

[China and the Solomon Islands: Drivers of Security Cooperation](#), co-authored with Christopher Cairns, *CNA In-Depth*, April 13, 2022.

[Pacific Connectivity and Tonga’s Volcanic Eruption](#), *CNA In-Depth*, February 3, 2022.

“[Book Review: Land Wars: The Story of China’s Agrarian Revolution](#),” *Journal of Indo-Pacific Affairs*, February 9, 2021.

[Fighting the Battle for the Pandemic Narrative: The PRC White Paper on Its COVID-19 Response](#), *China Brief*, Volume 20, Issue 11, June 24, 2020.

[Disposing of ‘Zombies’: Why the Reform of Non-Performing State-Owned Enterprises Has Gotten Even Harder](#), *China Brief*, Volume 20, Issue 5, March 16, 2020.

[Many Contenders Eye the Pacific Island Countries](#), *CNA In-Depth*, October 29, 2019.

[China's New Foreign Investment Law: Quick Passage after a Long Wait](#), *China Brief*, Volume 19, Issue 6, March 22, 2019.

[China and the United Arab Emirates: Sustainable Silk Road Partnership?](#) *China Brief*, Volume 16, Issue 2, January 25, 2016.

### TEACHING

Graduate Instructor, Politics Department, University of Virginia

2012 – 2017

- Chinese Politics [Fall 2013, Fall 2016]
- Political and Moral Dimensions of Public Policy (master's level course) [Fall 2017]
- Introduction to Comparative Politics [Fall 2014]
- Ethics and Human Rights in World Politics [Spring 2013, Spring 2014]
- US Foreign Policy [Fall 2012]

Taught approximately 65 students per semester in three discussion sections per week; prepared lesson plans, devised interactive learning assignments, and graded all course materials.

### GRANTS AND AWARDS

Funding Organization: Smith Richardson Foundation

Project Title: Politics in the Zone: How China Uses Industrial Enclaves to Reform, Upgrade Technology

Amount of Funding: \$60,000

Principal Investigator: April Herlevi, Strategy and Policy Fellow for single-author book project.

Period: 1 January to 31 December 2024

Funding Organization: Defense Threat Reduction Agency

Project Title: Pacific Islands Strategic Dialogues

Amount of Funding: \$388,000 (for two fiscal years)

Principal Investigator: April Herlevi for the National Bureau of Asian Research

Period: September 2021 to August 2023

2022–25. Nonresident Fellow, National Bureau of Asian Research.

2019. Fellow, National Asia Research Program (NARP), National Bureau of Asian Research.

2018. CNA CEO Teamwork Award for support to wargaming team.

2017. Hayek Fund for Scholars Award.

2016–17. P.E.O. Scholar Award, nationally-competitive dissertation grant.

2012–17. Departmental Fellowship, Politics, University of Virginia.

2015–16. David L. Boren Fellowship for China and Mandarin language study.

2015–16. Bankard Fund for Political Economy Pre-doctoral Fellowship.

2015–16. Dumas Malone Graduate Research Fellowship.

2015. Quandt International Research Fund Grant.

2015. APSA Travel Grant; Institute for Humane Studies conference travel grant.

2014. Center for Global Inquiry and Innovation Graduate Research Grant.

2014. Louise and Alfred Fernbach Award for Research in International Relations.

2013. Summer Foreign Language Fellowship, Graduate School of Arts and Sciences.

## INTERNATIONAL FIELD RESEARCH

- 2023. Research trip to Singapore.
- 2023. Organized Pacific Islands Strategic Dialogue on Melanesia, held in Nadi, Fiji.
- 2023. NBR delegation trip to Taiwan (Taipei, Kaohsiung).
- 2022. Organized Pacific Islands Strategic Dialogue on Micronesia, held in Guam.
- 2016. Archival research in Hangzhou and Ningbo, China.
- 2016. Hangzhou Normal University, Advanced Mandarin.
- 2016. Archival research in Shanghai and Shenzhen, China.
- 2015. Interviews and archival research in Jordan.
- 2014–15. Site visits and interviews in the United Arab Emirates.
- 2010. China-Southeast Asia relations: interviews in Beijing, Singapore, and Indonesia.
- 2009. Research trips to China (Nanjing, Jiangsu Province) and Taiwan.
- 2007. Research trip to Beijing, Shanghai, Hong Kong, and Japan.
- 2006. Chinese Entrepreneurship, George Mason and the University of Science & Technology Hefei.
- 2005. South Africa Study Abroad, George Mason and the University of Pretoria.

## LANGUAGE STUDY

- 2017. Inter-University Program Beijing, Tsinghua University, Advanced Mandarin.
- 2016. Hangzhou Normal University, Advanced Mandarin.
- 2016. Middlebury School in China - Hangzhou, Intermediate Mandarin.
- 2013. Johns Hopkins University, SAIS Summer Language Institute, Mandarin.

## SERVICE AND MEMBERSHIPS

Women in International Security  
American Political Science Association  
Omicron Delta Epsilon (Economics)

International Studies Association  
Pi Sigma Alpha (Political Science)  
Phi Beta Kappa, Phi Kappa Phi

Reviewer: Foreign Policy Analysis, International Studies Review, Journal of Chinese Governance, Parameters, Regional Science, Sustainability.

CNA: SupportHERS, Resident Advisor Mentor, Support to Diversity & Inclusion corporate initiatives.

## LECTURES, PRESENTATIONS, AND PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT

March 2024. “Economic Means for Security Ends: China’s Tools and Tactics for Technology Acquisition,” Daniel K. Inouye Center for Asia-Pacific Security Studies, Honolulu, Hawaii [Presentation].

Dec 2023. “Contending Visions for Digital Connectivity: US-China Technological Competition and Implications for the Rest,” *The Future of Security and Economic Competition in the Indo-Pacific* at the University of Hawaii at Manoa [Academic Conference].

Nov 2023. “China’s Engagement with the Pacific Islands,” University of Hawaii at Manoa, Center for Indo-Pacific Affairs [Public Seminar].

Sept 2023. “China’s Strategic Space in the Digital Undersea,” *Mapping China’s Strategic Space* hosted by NBR [Academic Conference].

July 2023. “Alliance Wedge Strategies: China.” [CNA Talks](#) [Podcast].

July 2023. “Economic Means for Security Ends,” US Embassy in Singapore [Presentation].

March 2023. “New Export Rules for Semiconductors.” [CNA Talks](#) [Podcast].

Feb 2023. US-Japan-South Korea Trilateral Cooperation at the East-West Center [Track 1.5 Dialogue].

Jan 2023. “The Art of Selection: Special Economic Zone Expansion in Zhejiang Province from 1984 to 1992,” Hawaii International Conference on Chinese Studies [Academic Conference].

Jan 2023. “China’s Foreign Military Sales and Technological Acquisition,” US-China Economic and Security Review Commission Hearing on China’s Military Diplomacy and Overseas Security Activities [Testimony].

Nov 2022. “Technology and the 20th Party Congress,” CNA National Security Seminar Series [Virtual Seminar].

Oct 2022. “China, the United States, and the Pacific Islands,” [CNA Talks](#) [Podcast].

Aug 2022. “Dire Strait? Escalating Tensions in the Taiwan Strait,” National Security Education and Boren Program Alumni Webinar [Virtual Seminar].

Professional Military Education (PME) Seminars on China or the People’s Liberation Army (2020-24):

- Third Marine Expeditionary Force Headquarters (including Commanding General)
- Third Marine Division
- 1st Marine Aircraft Wing
- 31st Marine Expeditionary Force (PME prior to every deployment)
- Third Reconnaissance Battalion
- Marine Corps Installations Pacific
- Marine Forces Pacific
- Third Radio Battalion

April 2021. China’s Laws, Policies, and Regulations Webinar [Virtual Seminar].

Dec 2020. “Economic Statecraft for Technology Acquisition,” US Embassy Paris [Virtual Seminar].

Nov 2020. “Economic Statecraft for Technology Acquisition,” US Embassy Beijing [Virtual Seminar].

Oct 2020. “Enabling a More Externally Focused and Operational PLA,” Annual People’s Liberation Army Conference, NBR [Academic Conference].

Sept 2020. “[Strategic Interests, Security Implications](#),” Annual China-Africa Research Initiative Conference [Academic Conference].

June 2020. “China’s Global Standing During the Pandemic,” Boren Forum Webinar [Virtual Seminar].

Feb 2020. “The US-Australia Alliance,” CNA Partners and Allies Community of Interest [Virtual Seminar].

2019. “China Goes Abroad,” Asia Policy Assembly, NBR [Academic Conference].

2019. “Shenzhen Model or Anomaly? China’s Special Economic Zones in Comparative Context,” International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention [Academic Conference].

2019. “China’s Expanding Global Presence,” Marine Corps University [Seminar].

2018-19. Oceania seminars for US Pacific Fleet and Marine Forces Pacific [Seminars].

- 2018. “China’s Message in the Pacific Island Countries,” Commandant, USMC [Presentation].
- 2017. ISA International Conference, Hong Kong. [Academic Conference]
- 2016. ISA-South Annual Conference [Academic Conference].
- 2016. ISA Asia-Pacific Conference, Hong Kong [Academic Conference].
- 2015. German Institute for Global and Area Studies (GIGA) [Academic Conference].
- 2014. Strategic Rivalry Conference, University of Virginia [Academic Conference].

### **SKILLS AND TRAINING**

English: native speaker

Chinese (Mandarin): professional proficiency (reading); working proficiency (speaking)

Finnish: elementary proficiency

Spanish: elementary proficiency

#### *Technical Training*

Proficient in L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, NVivo, MaxQDA, R, Stata.

2015. Empirical Implications of Theoretic Models (EITM) Certification.

2015. Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research (ICPSR) Program.

2015. Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) Summer Program.

2014. Quantitative statistical methods course sequence, University of Virginia.

Last updated March 11, 2024.