

## RHIANNON NEILSEN, Ph.D.

### Cyber Security Postdoctoral Fellow

Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC)

Stanford University

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## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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International security; cyberspace and AI; mass atrocities; conflict; disinformation; ethics; Just War Theory; qualitative research methods (semi structured interviews)

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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<b>Stanford University</b>	Cyber Security Postdoctoral Fellow Center for International Security and Cooperation (CISAC) (Sept. 2022 – present)
<b>Australian National University</b>	Postdoctoral Fellow Coral Bell School of Asia Pacific Affairs (Oct. 2021 – Aug. 2022)

## EDUCATION

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**PhD. in International Relations, University of New South Wales, Australia** (Jul. 2017 – Dec. 2021)

- Highest Distinction (ie. no revisions required)
- Title: “‘Cyber Humanitarian Interventions’: the viability and ethics of using cyber-operations to prevent atrocities”
  - o *Winner of Dean’s Award for Outstanding PhD Thesis*
  - o *Winner of Ria de Groot Prize for Best Dissertation by female PhD student*
- Supervisor: Prof. Toni Erskine; Examiners: Prof. Anthony F. Lang, Prof. James Pattison

**Visiting Fellowship, University of Oxford** (Sept. 2019 – Mar 2020)

**MPhil. in Politics, University of New South Wales, Australia** (Jun. 2014 – Dec. 2015)

- Highest Distinction (ie. no revisions required)

**BA. in International Relations, University of Queensland, Australia** (Mar. 2011 – Dec. 2013)

- Visiting Program, School of International Service (SIS), American University (2013)

## BOOK PROJECT

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- *Algorithms and Atrocities: Genocide and ‘Cyber Humanitarian Interventions’ in the Digital Age* [in preparation]

## PUBLICATIONS

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- Cyber Intelligence and Influence: In defence of “cyber manipulation operations” to parry atrocities’ *Ethics & International Affairs*, 37/2 (2023): 161 – 176.
- ‘Coding Protection: “Cyber humanitarian interventions” for atrocity prevention’ *International Affairs*, 99/1 (2023), 299 – 319.
- ‘Reluctant to Protect? The role of moral reputation in joining “coalitions of the willing”’ *Journal of Intervention and Statebuilding* (2022)
- ‘Limited force and the return of reprisals in the law of armed conflict’, *Ethics and International Affairs*, 34/2 (2020), 175 – 188 (with Eric Heinze).
- “‘They will rot the society, rot the Party and rot the army.’ Toxicification as perpetrator motivation in the Khmer Rouge genocide’, *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 31/2 (2019), 494 – 515) (with Timothy Williams)

- ‘Toxification as a more precise early warning sign for genocide than dehumanization? An emerging research agenda’, *Genocide Studies and Prevention*, 9/1 (2015), 83 – 95

#### Under Review & Works in Progress

- ‘“Hoping and Praying”: NATO militaries’ (un)involvement in defending civilian critical infrastructure from cyber-attacks in war’ (with Karine Pontbriand) (*under review*)
- ‘Reasonable Prospect of Success’ (with Scott Sagan)
- ‘The Responsibility to Deceive? The Responsibility to Deceive? Using online ‘fake news’ to prevent atrocities.’
- ‘Reciprocal Rescue Duties’
- Special Issue, ‘Cyberspace and atrocity prevention’, *Global Responsibility to Protect* [invited editor] (demonstrating my commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion, all contributors are women)

#### Op-Eds

- ‘Revising, or Rejecting, “Reasonable Prospect of Success” in Just Wars? Lessons from Ukraine’, *Lawfare*, 23 March 2023.
- ‘“Honey, I’m Hacked”: Ethical Questions Raised by the Ukrainian Cyber-Deception of Russian Military Wives in War’, *Just Security*, 18 May 2023.

#### Book Chapters

- ‘An overview of political approaches to human rights’, in Tom Campbell and Kylie Bourne (eds.), *Political Approaches to Human Rights* (New York: Routledge, 2017), 229 – 239 (with Tom Campbell).
- ‘Dents in the Soul?’ in Tom Frame (ed.), *Moral Injury: Unseen Wounds in an Age of Barbarism* (Kensington: UNSW Press, 2015), 135 – 147.
- ‘Perfidy and means *mala in se*’, in Deane-Peter Baker (ed.), *Key Issues in Military Ethics* (Kensington: UNSW Press, 2015), 167 – 173.

### AWARDS AND FELLOWSHIPS (SELECTED)

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- 2023 – Visiting Fellowship, Institute of Philosophy, University of London [deferred]
- 2021 – Dean’s Award for Outstanding PhD Thesis, UNSW
- 2021 – Postdoctoral Research and Policy Fellowship (Atrocity Prevention), Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC), University of Oxford [declined]
- 2021 – Ria De Groot Prize (best thesis by a female postgraduate student), UNSW
- 2021 – Leo Mahony Bursary Award, Royal United Services Institute of Australia
- 2021 – Frances V. Harbour Award for Early Career Researcher Paper, International Ethics (ISA)
- 2019 – Research Fellowship, NATO Cooperative Cyber Defence Centre of Excellence, Tallinn, Estonia
- 2019 – Australian Federation of Graduate Women, Barbara Hale Award for Visiting Doctoral Programme at the University of Oxford
- 2018, 2020 – Best Presentation Award (Politics), UNSW, Canberra Higher Degree Research
- 2018 – International Network of Genocide Scholars Conference Grant, Marseille, France,
- 2017-2021 – University of New South Wales Doctoral Scientia Scholarship, 4 years scholarship
- 2014 – International Association of Genocide Scholars Conference, Manitoba, Canada
- 2014 – Summer Research Scholarship, UNSW
- 2014 – Advantage Travel Scholarship Award for Excellence, UQ
- 2011-2014 – Dean’s List for Academic Excellence, Faculty of Humanities & Social Sciences, UQ
- 2013 – ‘Top 50 Future Leaders’ of Graduating Class of 2013

### PRESENTATIONS (SELECTED)

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- **UCLA** film producers saloon on cyber operations in Russia-Ukraine conflict, forthcoming 28 November 2023 [invited]
- **University of Marburg**, Germany, key developments in the Responsibility to Protect forthcoming 6-9<sup>th</sup> November 2023 [keynote, invited]
- **Chatham House**, Multilateralism Conference, forthcoming 19-20<sup>th</sup> October 2023 [invited]
- **US Holocaust Memorial Museum** and Bridging the Gap, Briefing US State Department and other policy makers on ‘cyber humanitarian interventions’, forthcoming 28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup> September 2023 [invited]

- Interviewed for the **National Security College podcast** on ‘Cyber Humanitarian Interventions’ (with Cecilia Jacob), 25<sup>th</sup> June 2023, Australian National University [invited]
- **‘New Directions in Genocide Research’** (with fellow panellists Prof. Scott Strauss and Prof. Norman Naimark), 18<sup>th</sup> April 2023, Center for Human Rights and International Justice, Stanford University [invited]
- ‘Responsibility to Deceive? **Deploying online disinformation to prevent genocide**’, 7 March 2023, CISAC, Stanford University (recording available) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7z3xm7v3sJo&t=1s>
- **Fourth Global Forum Against the Crime of Genocide: Prevention of Genocide In the Era of New Technologies**, co-organised by the Armenian Government and the United Nations, 12<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> December 2022 (recording available) [invited] (minute 13) <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1s/k1sxshfev8>
- Briefed the **UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office** for ‘Acting Responsibly in Cyberspace’, Wilton Park, 14-17 November 2022 [invited]
- ‘Algorithms for Atrocity Prevention’, Interviewed for **Women in Security and Defence Program**, Australian Strategic Policy Institute, 18 November 2021 [invited]
- **UK Atrocity Prevention Working Group**, Protection Approaches, 21 July 2021 [invited]
- ‘On the limits of humanitarian technologies and the promise of ‘cyber humanitarian interventions’ **International Association of Genocide Scholars Conference (IAGS)**, 20 July 2021
- **The History Channel** documentary series ‘**How the Nazis Lost the War**’ (for expertise on dehumanisation during the Holocaust), 2 September 2020 [invited] [https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.51a2e9e2-a53a-49bd-b346-9aaffd117b36?ref=imdb\\_web&autoplay=1&ref\\_=imdbref\\_tt\\_wbr\\_fdv&tag=imdbtag\\_tt\\_wbr\\_fdv-20](https://www.amazon.com/gp/video/detail/amzn1.dv.gti.51a2e9e2-a53a-49bd-b346-9aaffd117b36?ref=imdb_web&autoplay=1&ref_=imdbref_tt_wbr_fdv&tag=imdbtag_tt_wbr_fdv-20)

## POLICY ENGAGEMENT

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### Reports and Parliamentary Submissions

- ‘Written Evidence for the **UK Parliamentary Inquiry on Security and Trade Relationship with China**’, 2021, on behalf of Oxford Programme for International Peace and Security at the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict (with Federica D’Alessandra, Henry Wu, and Kirsty Sutherland)
- ‘Written Evidence for the **UK Parliamentary Inquiry on Tech and Foreign Policy**’, 2021, on behalf of Oxford Programme for International Peace and Security at the Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law, and Armed Conflict (with Talita de Souza Dias)
- ‘The role of complementary disciplines and companion studies in understanding Moral Injury’, in Rhiannon Neilsen, Anne McDonald, Hugh White, and Tom Frame, *Moral Injury: From Conceptual Clarity to Practical Procedures*, 2016. **Report prepared for the Vice Chief of the Australian Defence Force**, Australian Department of Defence

### Consulting

- *US Holocaust Memorial Museum*, for ‘leveraging social media for atrocity prevention’ (Aug. 2023)
- *University of Oxford*, Oxford Institute for Ethics, Law and Armed Conflict (ELAC), Research Consultant (Jan. 2021 – May 2021; Jan. 2020 – May 2020).

## EXTERNAL TRAINING

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<b>Columbia University’s SWAMOS</b>	Summer Workshop on Analysis of Military Operations; two-week intensive on all aspects of military operations, sponsored by Columbia University’s Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies, convened at Cornell University (Jul. 2023)
<b>International Policy Summer Institute</b>	Bridging the Gap; week-intensive articulating research to policy-makers, American University (Jun. 2023)
<b>Harvard University Derek Bok School</b>	Higher Education Teacher Certificate (online, Jun. 2021 – Aug. 2021)

**Interviewing for Qualitative Research** Intensive course learning how to interview participants for research, University of New South Wales (Jun. 2018 – Nov. 2018)

**T.E Lawrence Program** On the Study of Conflict, Stathis N. Kalyvas and Andrea Ruggeri  
All Souls College, University of Oxford (Oct. 2019 – Mar. 2020)

## SERVICE

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### Journal Reviewer

- *International Theory; Third World Quarterly; Ethics & International Affairs*

### DEI

- Stanford University CISAC Mentor: Mentoring women (underrepresented in field of international relations and politics); mentees are focusing on the Uyghur genocide in Xinjiang, China Stanford University (Jan. 2023 – present)
- Women in International Relations: Contributing member, providing feedback on articles (Oct. 2021 – present)
- Women in Future Operations: Contributing member, providing feedback on articles (UNSW) (Jul. 2019 – Jul. 2020)

### Workshops

- Stanford CISAC Social Science Reading Group

### Leadership

- Social media coordinator, International Ethics Section (ISA), International Ethics

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Australian Defence College (Navy, Air Force Army officers)

- Guest Lecturer, Intensive Postgraduate Course, *Cyber Security* (May 2022 – Jul. 2022)

### Australian National University, Canberra

- Teaching Assistant, Masters Course, *Global Security* (Marking) May 2017 – May 2017

### Australian Defence Force Academy (ADFA) (Navy, Air Force Army officer cadets)

- Academic Tutor, Capstone Course, *Cyber Security* (Jul. 2016 – Dec. 2016).
- Teaching Assistant, Masters Course, *Delinquent Organisations* (Marking) (Mar. 2016 – Jul. 2016)
- Academic Tutor, Capstone Course, *World Politics*

## REFEREES

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### Professor Scott Sagan

Caroline S. G. Munro Professor of Political Science  
Co-director, Center for International Security &  
Cooperation  
Senior Fellow at the Freeman Spogli Institute for  
International Studies  
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### Professor Toni Erskine

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### Professor James Goldgeier

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### Professor Cécile Fabre

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