

International Relations Exam Summer 2023

Theory

- Bargaining models loom large over the way International Relations scholars study war. Describe prominent examples and summarize the evolution of game theoretic approaches to IR. How do these models explain 'inefficient' outcomes like war? How have they improved our understanding of why wars start and end? What are their shortcomings? What questions about war onset and war termination remain unanswered?
- Recently, there has been a great deal of discussion regarding the "liberal international order." To the extent that this order exists, which is the more likely source for the upending of this order: domestic politics in "liberal" states or the international rise of "illiberal" states?

Methods

- Is it possible for International Relations scholarship to be *both* methodologically rigorous *and* policy relevant? Are these goals in tension with one another? Should IR scholars aspire to influence real world policy with their work? In crafting your response, please reference and analyze prominent examples of scholarship that either demonstrate both methodological rigor and policy relevance or that tries—but fails—to meet both standards.
- Your dissertation seeks to understand the impact of emerging technologies on nuclear security. Some nuclear experts argue that emerging technologies, such as artificial intelligence, will disrupt nuclear deterrence and arms control. Others see emerging technologies as an improvement, positing they will enhance monitoring and verification. Outline a multi-method research design that may aid you in evaluating the impact of emerging technologies on nuclear security.

Topics

- Developing countries have historically defended the principles of self-determination and sovereignty, seeing them as a defense against abuses of force by great powers against them. Yet some developing countries have defended and justified the Russian aggression against Ukraine. How do you explain this apparent contradiction?

- Climate change is a multi-generational and critical threat to the world's population. To what extent is it possible or probable that major powers construct multilateral institutions, such as the WTO, that viably tackle or mitigate this threat?