

# Jonathan D. Askonas

askonas@cua.edu  
+1 (202) 319-5961  
<http://www.jaskonas.com>  
Washington, DC

## POSITIONS

### **U.S. Department of State**, Washington, DC

- ◆ Member, Policy Planning Staff Apr 2025 – Present
- ◆ Member of the Secretary of State's in-house think tank responsible for long-range strategic planning and policy formulation
- ◆ Draft policy memos, non-papers, and briefing materials on emerging technology, AI governance, and geopolitical strategy for senior Department leadership
- ◆ Contribute to interagency policy processes on technology competition, energy infrastructure, and regional peace and connectivity initiatives

### **Foundation for American Innovation**, Washington, DC

- ◆ Senior Fellow 2022 – Present
- ◆ Fellowship at Washington's leading technology policy think tank, conducting research and public engagement on AI, defense innovation, and technology governance
- ◆ Co-lead AI and Copyright for National Security project (with Tim Hwang); lead Defense Innovation portfolio; contribute to AI, Space, and Permitting Reform practices
- ◆ Advise legislators, policymakers, and researchers on AI policy, with a focus on national security, competition with China, and platform governance
- ◆ Co-host *The Dynamist*, a podcast at the intersection of technology, politics, and society

### **The Catholic University of America**, Washington, DC

- ◆ Assistant Professor of Politics, Tenure Track 2018 – Present
- ◆ Fellow, Center for the Study of Statesmanship (2018–Present)
- ◆ Director of Programs, Center for the Study of Statesmanship (2021–Present)
- ◆ National Security and AI Ethics Project Lead (2020–Present)
- ◆ Organized Generative AI and National Security Conference with speakers from DoD, CDAO, and private enterprise; keynote by Michael Kratsios
- ◆ Taught in the Constitutional Fellows Program for congressional staffers and policy professionals

### **Aletheia AI LLC** (formerly Gladstone AI), Washington, DC

- ◆ Senior Consultant 2022 – 2023
- ◆ Led the historical research team that produced a ground-breaking deliverable shaping U.S. AI policy for the State Department, Office of the Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund
- ◆ Participated in strategy and business development on artificial intelligence safety and military innovation

### **US Army Asymmetric Warfare Group**, Fort Meade, MD

- ◆ Senior Analyst (Contractor) 2020 – 2021
- ◆ Led the organization's History and Lessons Learned Project (\$250,000+ program) in advance of the Group's 2021 discontinuance
- ◆ Conducted interviews of current and former Group members and external stakeholders; reviewed extensive documentation to produce a military history and lessons learned report preserving the Group's unique history, missions, and capabilities

### **The Clements Center for National Security**, Austin, TX

- ◆ Predoctoral Fellow 2017 – 2018

- ♦ Research and writing fellowship at the University of Texas at Austin’s premier national security research center; contributed to a top Grand Strategy program within the Texas National Security Network
- ♦ Conducted research workshops and professional development seminars for undergraduate and graduate fellows

**Council on Foreign Relations**, New York, NY

- ♦ Research Intern, European Studies Summer 2012
- ♦ Contributed primary and secondary-source research on religion, American self-perceptions, and foreign policy for Senior Fellow Charlie Kupchan’s American Isolationism project

**U.S. Department of State, Embassy Moscow**, Moscow, Russia

- ♦ Intern, Economics Section Fall/Winter 2011
- ♦ Researched Russia’s innovation policies and oil and gas industry; established connections critical to planning the first meeting of the Bilateral Presidential Commission–Innovation Working Group
- ♦ Created the first English translation of the CIS Trade Agreement for policymakers; drafted cables on Russian oil investments in Libya and money laundering

EDUCATION

**University of Oxford** (St. Cross College), Oxford, UK

- ♦ DPhil in Politics (International Relations) Sep 2015 – May 2019
  - ♦ Dissertation: *A Muse of Fire: Why the U.S. Military Forgets What It Learns in War*
  - ♦ Advisor: Prof. S. Neil MacFarlane; Committee: Dr. Rob Johnson, Prof. Terry Terriff
- ♦ MPhil (*with Merit*) in Politics (International Relations) Sep 2013 – Jun 2015
  - ♦ Thesis: *Great Expectations: Continuity in Russian Foreign Policy since the End of the Cold War*
  - ♦ Advisor: Prof. S. Neil MacFarlane

**Georgetown University**, School of Foreign Service, Washington, DC

- ♦ B.S.F.S. *Summa Cum Laude*, International Politics (Security Studies) Aug 2009 – May 2013
  - ♦ GPA: 3.958 / 4.00 (4<sup>th</sup> of 404); Certificate: Russian and Eastern European Studies
  - ♦ Senior Honors Thesis: *Republics of Science: Comparative Nanoscience Development in China and Russia*; Advisor: Prof. Harley Balzer, Dept. of Government

PUBLICATIONS

BOOK MANUSCRIPTS IN PREPARATION

- ♦ *A Muse of Fire: Why the U.S. Military Forgets What It Learns in War*. Manuscript completed; in conversation with publishers.
- ♦ *The Shot in the Dark: A History of the U.S. Army Asymmetric Warfare Group (2006–2021)*. Under contract with the U.S. Army; to be published by the Center of Military History or Army University Press.

PEER-REVIEWED ARTICLES & CHAPTERS

- [10] Jonathan Askonas. “From the Passion to the Hydrogen Bomb: René Girard and the Eschatological Problem of Technology”. In: *Be Not Conformed: René Girard at the Nexus of Athens, Jerusalem, and Silicon Valley*. Ed. by Luke Burgis. Washington, DC: Catholic University of America Press, 2026, pp. 252–272. URL: <https://www.cuapress.org/9780813240381/be-not-conformed/>
- [9] Jonathan Askonas. “The Abolition of the Division of Labor in the Work of Karl Marx”. In: *The Concept of Work in the History of European Philosophy: By the Sweat of Your Brow*. Ed. by Gene Callahan. Cham: Palgrave Macmillan, 2025. DOI: 10.1007/978-3-031-96547-0\_11. URL: [https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-96547-0\\_11](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-96547-0_11)
- [8] Jonathan Askonas. “A World of Amusement: Entertainment, Sacrifice, and the Possibility of Politics”. In: *Politics and Poetics* (). Forthcoming

- [7] Jonathan Askonas and Paul Scherz. “Introduction to Special Section on Virtue in the Loop: Virtue Ethics and Military AI”. in: *Journal of Military Ethics* 23.3–4 (Oct. 2024), pp. 245–250. ISSN: 1502-7570. DOI: 10.1080/15027570.2024.2441050. URL: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15027570.2024.2441050>
- [6] Jonathan Askonas and Joshua Hastey. “Atomic Signaling: Exploring Likelihood of Success and Military Necessity through the Bargaining Model of War”. In: *The Review of Faith & International Affairs* 22.2 (Apr. 2, 2024), pp. 73–87. ISSN: 1557-0274. DOI: 10.1080/15570274.2024.2335065. URL: <https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/15570274.2024.2335065>
- [5] Jonathan Askonas et al. “Digital Voodoo Dolls”. In: *Proceedings of the 2021 AAAI/ACM Conference on AI, Ethics, and Society*. AIES’21. New York, NY: Association for Computing Machinery, July 30, 2021, pp. 967–977. ISBN: 978-1-4503-8473-5. DOI: 10.1145/3461702.3462626. URL: <https://doi.org/10.1145/3461702.3462626>
- [4] Jonathan Askonas and Katherine Withy. “Thinking Failure in the War in Iraq: The Cultural Turn and the Concept of “World””. In: *Why Philosophy?* Ed. by Diego Bubbio and Jeff Malpas. Berlin: De Gruyter, 2019. ISBN: 978-3-11-065099-0. DOI: 10.1515/9783110650990-008. URL: <https://www.degruyter.com/view/books/9783110650990/9783110650990-008/9783110650990-008.xml>
- [3] Jonathan Askonas and Harley Balzer. “The Triple Helix after Communism: Russia and China Compared”. In: *Triple Helix* 3.1 (Dec. 1, 2016), p. 1. ISSN: 2197-1927. DOI: 10.1186/s40604-015-0031-4. URL: <https://link.springer.com/article/10.1186/s40604-015-0031-4>
- [2] Jonathan Askonas and Harley Balzer. “Innovation in Russia & China Compared”. In: *Russian Analytical Digest* 155 (2014), pp. 2–10
- [1] Jonathan Askonas. “From Soviet Revolution to Socialist Realism: The Historical Context of Zamyatin’s *We* and Platonov’s *The Foundation Pit*”. In: *Troika* 2.1 (2012), pp. 37–40

#### OTHER WRITING

- [28] Jonathan Askonas. “The New Control Society”. In: *The New Atlantis* 79 (2025). Winter 2025, Reality: A Post-Mortem, Part V. URL: <https://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/the-new-control-society>
- [27] Jonathan Askonas and Michael Toscano. “Technology for the American Family”. In: *National Affairs* (2025). Winter 2025. URL: <https://www.nationalaffairs.com/publications/detail/technology-for-the-american-family>
- [26] Jonathan Askonas et al. “A Future for the Family: A New Technology Agenda for the Right”. In: *First Things* (Jan. 29, 2025). Co-authored statement. URL: <https://firstthings.com/a-future-for-the-family-a-new-technology-agenda-for-the-right/>
- [25] Jonathan Askonas and Jonathan Berry. “How to Free Elon Musk’s SpaceX From Federal Red Tape”. In: *Wall Street Journal* (Oct. 29, 2024). URL: <https://www.wsj.com/opinion/how-to-free-elon-musks-spacex-from-federal-red-tape-nepa-faa-3b4e9dbd>
- [24] Jonathan Askonas. “Building a Future in the Face of the Apocalypse”. In: *Comment* (Sept. 5, 2024). URL: <https://comment.org/building-a-future-in-the-face-of-the-apocalypse/>
- [23] Jonathan Askonas and Justin Litke. “How to Think and What to Love”. In: *Evangelization and Culture* 19 (2024). Special issue on Artificial Intelligence, Spring 2024, pp. 82–88
- [22] Jonathan Askonas. “Technological Stagnation Is a Choice”. In: *American Affairs* VII.4 (2023). Winter 2023. URL: <https://americanaffairsjournal.org/2023/11/technological-stagnation-is-a-choice/>
- [21] Alexander Falbo-Wild, Caroline Pitman, and Jonathan Askonas. *A Historical Survey of Technology Control Regimes*. Report. Funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of State. Gladstone AI, Oct. 30, 2023. URL: [https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/62c4cf7322be8ea59c904399/65e839572fd78453d57e0b20\\_Gladstone%5C%20Historical%5C%20Survey.pdf](https://cdn.prod.website-files.com/62c4cf7322be8ea59c904399/65e839572fd78453d57e0b20_Gladstone%5C%20Historical%5C%20Survey.pdf)
- [20] Jonathan Askonas. *Corporate Tyranny*. Review of Sohrab Ahmari, *Tyranny, Inc.* Plough. Aug. 14, 2023. URL: <https://www.plough.com/en/topics/life/work/corporate-tyranny>
- [19] Jonathan Askonas. *Piety, Technology, and Tradition*. Mere Orthodoxy. June 2023. URL: <https://mereorthodoxy.com/piety-technology-and-tradition>

- [18] Jonathan Askonas and Samuel Hammond. “Common Sense on AI”. in: *American Affairs* VII.2 (2023). Summer 2023. URL: <https://americanaffairsjournal.org/2023/05/common-sense-on-ai/>
- [17] Jonathan Askonas and Renée DiResta. “How Gamers Eclipsed Spies as an Intelligence Threat”. In: *Foreign Policy* (Apr. 15, 2023). URL: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2023/04/15/ukraine-leak-intelligence-discord-espionage-gamers-internet-online/>
- [16] Jonathan Askonas. *Elon Musk Doesn't Understand What He's Bought*. UnHerd. Nov. 2, 2022. URL: <https://unherd.com/newsroom/elon-musk-doesnt-understand-what-hes-bought/>
- [15] Jonathan Askonas. “Why Conservatism Failed”. In: *Compact Magazine* (Oct. 2022). URL: <https://compactmag.com/article/why-conservatism-failed>
- [14] Jonathan Askonas. *You Are Already in the Metaverse*. UnHerd. Sept. 1, 2022. URL: <https://unherd.com/2022/09/you-are-already-in-the-metaverse/>
- [13] Jonathan Askonas and Gil Barddollar. *With Finland and Sweden in NATO, the U.S. Can Finally Pivot to the Pacific*. Foreign Policy. July 12, 2022. URL: <https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/07/12/finland-sweden-nato-us-europe-pacific-military-pivot-strategy-geopolitics/>
- [12] Jonathan Askonas. *Reality: A Post-Mortem*. Eight-part media ecology series. Installments: “Reality is Just a Game Now” (Spring 2022); “How Jon Stewart Made Tucker Carlson” (Summer 2022); “What Was the Fact?” (Spring 2023); “An America of Secrets” (Summer 2023); further installments forthcoming. The New Atlantis. 2022. URL: <https://www.thenewatlantis.com/collections/reality-a-post-mortem>
- [11] Jonathan Askonas and Ari Schulman. “Why Speech Platforms Can Never Escape Politics”. In: *National Affairs* (2020). Winter 2020. URL: <https://www.nationalaffairs.com/why-speech-platforms-can-never-escape-politics>
- [10] Jonathan Askonas, Kyle Brown, and T. S. Allen. “How the Army Out-Innovated the Islamic State's Drones”. In: *War on the Rocks* (Dec. 21, 2020). URL: <https://warontherocks.com/2020/12/how-the-army-out-innovated-the-islamic-states-drones/>
- [9] Jonathan Askonas. *Empathize This: McMaster's Flawed Understanding of Restraint and “Strategic Empathy”*. Responsible Statecraft. June 26, 2020. URL: <https://responsiblestatecraft.org/2020/06/26/empathize-this-mcmasters-flawed-understanding-of-restraint-and-strategic-empathy/>
- [8] Jonathan Askonas. *Is “Surveillance Capitalism” the New Globalization?* The American Conservative. May 26, 2020. URL: <https://www.theamericanconservative.com/is-surveillance-capitalism-the-new-globalization/>
- [7] Jonathan Askonas. “All Activities Monitored”. In: *The New Atlantis* (2019). Summer 2019. URL: <https://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/all-activities-monitored>
- [6] Jonathan Askonas. “How Tech Utopia Fostered Tyranny”. In: *The New Atlantis* (2019). Winter 2019. URL: <https://www.thenewatlantis.com/publications/how-tech-utopia-fostered-tyranny>
- [5] Jonathan Askonas. *Bolshevik Hybrid Warfare: #Reviewing Russia in Flames*. The Strategy Bridge. July 23, 2018. URL: <https://thestrategybridge.org/the-bridge/2018/7/23/bolshevik-hybrid-warfare-reviewing-russia-in-flames>
- [4] Jonathan Askonas. *Trust, Confidence, and the Future of Warfare*. War on the Rocks. Feb. 2018. URL: <https://warontherocks.com/2018/02/trust-confidence-future-warfare/>
- [3] Jonathan Askonas. *Fuzzy Thinking about Drones*. War on the Rocks. Jan. 26, 2018. URL: <https://warontherocks.com/2018/01/fuzzy-thinking-drones/>
- [2] Jonathan Askonas. *A Vicious Entanglement*. Five-part essay series reviewing Ken Burns' *The Vietnam War*: “Elusive Responsibility for the Vietnam War”; “Idealism Chastened in Vietnam”; “The Asymmetries of Vietnam”; “If Only the North Vietnamese Had Read Galula”; “The Body Count Myth”. War on the Rocks. 2017. URL: <https://warontherocks.com/author/jon-askonas/>
- [1] Jonathan Askonas. *The Heroic Leader and the Better War from Vietnam to Afghanistan*. War on the Rocks. Aug. 30, 2017. URL: <https://warontherocks.com/2017/08/the-heroic-leader-and-the-better-war-from-vietnam-to-afghanistan>

**AWARDS &  
SCHOLARSHIPS**

- ◆ Emerging Public Intellectual (\$5,000), John Templeton Foundation 2024
- ◆ Ideas Challenge Winner (\$1,000), John Templeton Foundation 2020
- ◆ Hayek Fund for Scholars (\$2,000), Institute for Humane Studies 2020
- ◆ CEEISA Travel Grant (\$400) 2019
- ◆ Predoctoral Fellowship (~\$35,000), Clements Center for National Security 2017
- ◆ World Politics and Statecraft Fellowship (\$7,500), Smith Richardson Foundation 2017
- ◆ Adam Smith Fellowship (~\$10,000), Mercatus Center 2017
- ◆ Cyril Foster and DPIR Research Funding (£400), University of Oxford 2017
- ◆ ISA Travel Grant (\$240) 2017
- ◆ Rothermere American Institute Research Grant (£500), University of Oxford 2016
- ◆ St. Cross College Research Funding (£250), University of Oxford 2016
- ◆ Hertog Summer Institute, Iraq Advanced Seminar (~\$1,000) 2016
- ◆ Cyril Foster Research Funding (£250), University of Oxford 2015
- ◆ The Healy Scholarship (full tuition and stipend; ~\$45,000), Georgetown University 2015
- ◆ The Beinecke Scholarship (\$32,000), Sperry and Hutchinson Foundation 2014
- ◆ The Healy Scholarship (full tuition and stipend; ~\$45,000), Georgetown University 2013
- ◆ The Michael Krupensky Award (Georgetown Russian Studies Honor) 2013

**PRESENTATIONS**

- [13] “Morality in Tech,” Invitation-Only Seminar, Princeton University, 17 November 2023.
- [12] “AI and the Problem of Military Judgment,” Virtue in the Loop Conference, The Catholic University of America, 5 April 2022.
- [11] “Money is Not a Weapons System: Inflation, Economic Distortion, and Counterinsurgency Failure,” Political Economy of Security Workshop, Boston University, 29 January 2020.
- [10] “Learning to Learn: The US Army Concept Team in Vietnam (ACTIV),” Asymmetric Warfare Group Speaker Series, Fort Meade, 22 November 2019.
- [9] “The Owl of Minerva Flies at Dusk: The Organizational Sources of Military Optimism,” APSA Annual Conference, Washington, DC, 31 August 2019.
- [8] “The Owl of Minerva Flies at Dusk: The Organizational Sources of Military Optimism,” Central and Eastern European International Studies Association Conference, Belgrade, Serbia, 18 July 2019.
- [7] “The Owl of Minerva Flies at Dusk: The Organizational Sources of Military Optimism,” British International Studies Association Annual Conference, London, UK, 14 June 2019.
- [6] “Finding the Common Good in the Age of the Infinite Self,” Citizenship in a Networked Age Conference (invited; Templeton World Foundation), 10–12 April 2019.
- [5] “How Tech Utopia Fostered Tyranny,” Hertog Foundation Free Speech and the Internet Seminar, Washington, DC, 15 February 2019.
- [4] “Money is Not a Weapons System: Inflation, Economic Distortion, and Counterinsurgency Failure,” ISA Annual Conference, 28 March 2019.
- [3] “Risk-Taking in Warfare: A Game Theoretical Challenge to Primary Group Cohesion Theory,” Midwest Political Science Association Annual Conference, 8 April 2018.
- [2] “The Modern System and the Logic of Battle: Weberian, Aristotelian, and Clausewitzian Cuts at Knowledge, Strategy, and Victory,” ISA Annual Conference, 22 February 2017.
- [1] J. D. Askonas and Alexandra Chinchilla, “Russia and NATO in Conflict: Strategic Culture and Hybrid War,” ISA Annual Conference, 24 February 2017.

CONFERENCES  
ORGANIZED

**Generative AI and National Security**, Organizer 2024

- ♦ Day-long conference bringing together engineers, policymakers, military leaders, and academics to examine the operational, organizational, and ethical implications of generative AI for American national security; keynote by Michael Kratsios
- ♦ Raised and managed a ~\$50,000 budget with multiple stakeholders

**The Machine Has No Tradition**, Organizer & Co-Instructor 2022 – Present

- ♦ Week-long intensive seminar on the philosophy of technology for twenty graduate students and young professionals, co-taught each summer with Nathan Pinkoski and Mary Harrington at Harvard
- ♦ Guest speakers have included Matthew Crawford, Andy Crouch, and Erica Bachiochi

**Virtue in the Loop: Military AI Ethics**, Co-Organizer (with Paul Scherz) 2022

- ♦ Day-long conference of academics, policymakers, and military leaders developing a virtue ethics framework for AI ethics and autonomous robotics in military contexts
- ♦ Raised and managed a ~\$50,000 budget with multiple stakeholders

**American Democracy in the Internet Age**, Organizer 2019

- ♦ Two-day event on digital technology's impact on American civic life: private seminar hosted on behalf of the Templeton World Foundation and public half-day conference in partnership with *The New Atlantis*
- ♦ Raised and managed a ~\$15,000 budget; conference lectures published as feature articles

**Peaceful Coexistence? Russian Grand Strategy beyond Putin**, Organizer 2018

- ♦ One-day interdisciplinary colloquium on Russian visions of world order
- ♦ Raised and managed a ~\$30,000 budget with multiple stakeholders

**Power & Regions in a Multipolar Order (PRIMO) Conference**, Coordinator 2016

- ♦ Coordinated logistics and communications for several dozen researchers from around the world; managed €36,000 budget with higher attendance and better feedback at lower cost than previous years

**The Return of Geopolitics?**, Coordinator 2016

- ♦ Coordinated logistics and communications for a dozen researchers from Europe and North America for a high-profile, endowed event; managed £10,000 budget

PROFESSIONAL  
SERVICE

**Director of Study Abroad**, Department of Politics, The Catholic University of America 2022 – 2024

**Director of Undergraduate Studies**, Department of Politics, The Catholic University of America 2020 – 2022

SKILLS &  
LANGUAGES

- ♦ Russian: Intermediate (speaking, reading, writing, comprehension)
- ♦  $\LaTeX$ , STATA, and R (data visualization, quantitative text analysis, social network analysis)

REFERENCES

- ♦ **Prof. Will Inboden**  
University of Florida  
inbodenw@ufl.edu
- ♦ **Prof. S. Neil MacFarlane**  
University of Oxford  
neil.macfarlane@politics.ox.ac.uk
- ♦ **Prof. Andrew Hurrell**  
University of Oxford  
andrew.hurrell@balliol.ox.ac.uk

[CV compiled on 2026-06-14]

