Hannah Elyse Sworn

George Washington University · Department of Political Science
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Education

PhD – Political Science, George Washington University — 2022 – 2027 (Expected)

Dissertation: "Ask and You Might Receive: Borrower Agency and US-China Competition in Development Finance"
Committee: Stephen Kaplan (Chair), Michael Barnett, Michael Miller
Fields: International Relations, Political Methodology
Columbian Distinguished Fellow (2022 – Present)
PhD Student in Residence, Institute for Security and Conflict Studies (2025–2027)

MSc – International Relations, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore — 2019 – 2020

Student Research Assistant Scholarship

Bachelor of Arts & Social Sciences, Monash University (Malaysia Campus) — 2012 – 2015

Major: International Studies; Minor: Gender Studies
High Achiever's Award Scholarship (2014)
Dean's List 2012–2014

Research Interests

International political economy, development finance, state capitalism, small state agency, great power competition, intellectual property, Southeast Asia.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

Dean, Adam, Kenneth C. Shadlen, and **Hannah Sworn**. 2026. "Opening Markets, One Threat at a Time: How US Pressure Shapes Global Trade." *Review of International Political Economy* 33(6): 2683–2711.

Hoo, Tiang Boon and **Hannah Sworn**. 2020. "Strategic Ambiguity and the Trumpian Approach to China–Taiwan Relations." *International Affairs* 96(6): 1487–1508.

RSIS Award for Policy Relevant Journal Article

Working Papers

"What Borrowers Want: Borrower Agency, Economic Ideology, and Institutional Adaptation under Development Finance Competition." (Job Market Paper)

"Regionalism and Regulatory Resistance: ASEAN's Governance of Falsified Pharmaceuticals."

Works in Progress

"Does Chinese Development Finance Undermine Western Aid Conditionality? The Role of Regional Norms and Southeast Asia."

"Riel Politik: The Political Economy of De-Dollarization in Cambodia and Honduras."

"Chinese Aid and Democracy in Recipient States."

Book Chapters

Bukit, Mathew L and **Hannah Sworn**. 2021. "Brunei Darussalam as ASEAN's 2021 Chair." In *Cambodia's ASEAN Chairmanship in 2022: Priorities and Challenges*, edited by Leng Thearith, Cheunboran Chanborey, Lim Menghour, Kimly Nguon, Maurizio Paciello, and Lim Chhay. Phnom Penh: KAS & AVI.

Grants & Awards

Sigur Center for Asian Studies Summer Research Grant, George Washington University ($5,987)	Summer 2026
Mercatus Fellowship, George Mason University ($2,500)	2026 – 2027
Bradley Foundation Summer Research Grant ($10,000)	Summer 2025
Institute for Humane Studies Travel Grant, George Mason University ($1,700)	Spring 2025
George and May Shiers Memorial Fund Fellowship ($1,500)	2024 – 2025
Writing in the Disciplines TA Award, George Washington University	Spring 2024
Don Lavoie Fellowship, Mercatus Center, George Mason University ($1,000)	2024 – 2025

Presentations & Workshops

American Political Science Association	2024, 2025, 2026
International Studies Association	2024, 2026, 2027 (Accepted)
International Political Economy Society	2023, 2026
Brown Bag Series Lecture, Universitas Islam Internasional Indonesia (Jakarta)	2026
Southern Political Science Association	2025, 2026
Political Economy of Trade Graduate Papers Workshop, Institute for Humane Studies, George Mason University (Atlanta)	2026
Bridging the Gap New Era Workshop, University of Denver	2025
Graduate Students in IPE Pre-APSA Conference	2025
APSA-SMU Publishing Workshop for Southeast Asian Politics Research	2023
Authoritarianism Studies Workshop, George Washington University	2023

Teaching

IBUS 6202/PPPA 6085/IAFF 6198 (Master's Class): Business and the State, "Guest Lecture State Capitalism and Development Finance"	May 2026
PSC 1003: Introduction to International Politics (Teaching Assistant)	Fall 2022, 2025; Spring 2023
PSC 1012W: Introduction to Politics II (Teaching Assistant)	Spring 2024, 2025
Best TA Award, Writing in the Disciplines (Political Science), 2024	
PSC 2994: Global Governance (Teaching Assistant)	Fall 2023

Policy Publications

"China and the Alliance Allergy of Rising Powers." *War on the Rocks*, May 30, 2023 (with Evan Resnick).

"US–China Economic Competition Rests on Intellectual Property." *East Asia Forum*, June 29, 2022 (with Manoj Harjani).

"Global Power Shift with the Prick of a Needle." *360info*, December 8, 2021.

"COVID-19 is Reshaping Global Pharmaceutical Competition—to Asia's Benefit." *The Diplomat*, October 8, 2021.

"How will the Biden Administration Handle China-Taiwan Relations?" *International Affairs Blog*, November 27, 2020 (with Hoo Tiang Boon).

Service

Reviewer: *International Politics*

International Studies Association Theory Section, Graduate Student Representative	2025 – 2027
GWU Political Science Graduate Caucus, Secretary of Programming	2023 – 2024; 2025 – 2026
Pi Sigma Alpha undergraduate conference discussant	2026
Elliott School Global Capstone master's project discussant	Fall 2022

Professional Experience

Senior Analyst, S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore	2021 – 2022
Research Assistant, "How Generals Decide: Strategic Intuition and Military Effectiveness" (Professor Pascal Vennesson), RSIS, Singapore	2020
Data Analysis & Research Manager, Enduring Consultancy Cambodia	2016 – 2019
Communications Officer, USAID-funded Cambodia Countering Trafficking-in-Persons (CTIP) Project, Winrock International	2016 – 2017
Intern, Political, Press, and Information Section, EU Delegation to Cambodia	2013 – 2014

Skills & Fieldwork

Languages: English (native), French (intermediate), Khmer (intermediate), Chinese (beginner).

Computing: R, LaTeX, Stata, SPSS, Atlas.ti.

Fieldwork: Indonesia (2025, 2026), Cambodia (2025, 2026), the Philippines (2026), Thailand (2025), Singapore (2023).