

# Hannah Elyse Sworn

George Washington University · Department of Political Science  
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## Education

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**PhD – Political Science**, George Washington University 2022 – Present

Dissertation: “Ask and You Might Receive: Borrower Agency and US-China Competition in Development Finance”

Committee: Stephen B. Kaplan, 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 2019 – 2020

Studies (RSIS), Nanyang Technological University, Singapore

Student Research Assistant Scholarship

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

Major: International Studies; Minor: Gender Studies

High Achiever’s Award Scholarship (2014)

Dean’s List 2012–2014

## Research Interests

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International political economy, official development finance, state capitalism, small state agency, great power competition, intellectual property, access to medicines.

## Peer-Reviewed Publications

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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* Online first. 1–29.

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

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“What Borrowers Want: Borrower Agency, Economic Ideology and Institutional Adaptation under Development Finance Competition.”

“Regionalism and Regulatory Resistance: ASEAN’s Governance of Falsified Pharmaceuticals.”

## Works in Progress

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

“Chinese Aid and Democracy in Recipient States.”

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

“China’s Unilateralism and the ‘Alliance Allergy’ of Rising Powers” (with Evan Resnick).

## Book Chapters

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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

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Sigur Center for Asian Studies Summer Research Grant, George Washington University (\$5,987)	Summer 2026
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

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American Political Science Association	2025, 2026 (Accepted)
International Studies Association	2024, 2026
International Political Economy Society	2023, 2026 (Accepted)
Southern Political Science Association	2025, 2026
Political Economy of Trade Graduate Papers Workshop, Institute for Humane Studies, George Mason University	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

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### George Washington University

PSC 1012W: Introduction to Politics II (Teaching Assistant)	Spring 2024, 2025
PSC 2994: Global Governance (Teaching Assistant)	Fall 2023
PSC 1003: Introduction to International Politics (Teaching Assistant)	Fall 2022, Spring 2023

## Service

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Reviewer: *International Politics*

Phi Sigma Alpha undergraduate conference discussant 2026

International Studies Association Theory Section, Graduate Student Representative	2025 – 2027
GWU Political Science Graduate Caucus, Secretary of Programming	2023 – 2024, 2025 – 2026

## Policy Publications

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“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).

## Other Experience

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

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

**Computing:** R, L<sup>A</sup>T<sub>E</sub>X, Stata, SPSS, Atlas.ti.

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