Simon Frankel Pratt

Email: simon.pratt@unimelb.edu.au
School of Social and Political Sciences, 420 John Medley Building.
University of Melbourne, Parkville VIC 3010, Australia.

EDUCATION:
2017. **PhD**, University of Toronto;
2011. **MA**, King's College London;
2010. **BA**, Simon Fraser University.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
2021. Fellow of the Higher Education Academy, Advance HE.

POSITIONS HELD:

2024-present. **Senior Lecturer in Political Science**
School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne, Australia.

2022-2024. **Lecturer in Political Science**
School of Social and Political Sciences, University of Melbourne, Australia

2021. **Senior Lecturer in Politics and International Studies**
School of Sociology, Politics, and International Studies, University of Bristol, UK.

2019-2021. **Lecture in Politics and International Studies**
School of Sociology, Politics, and International Studies, University of Bristol, UK.

2017-2019. **Visiting Researcher (SSHRC postdoctoral fellow)**
Mortara Center for International Studies, Georgetown University, Washington DC.

2015-2018. **Course Instructor**
Department of Political Science, University of Toronto, Canada.

2015-2016. **Scholar in Residence**
School of International Service, American University, Washington DC.

REFEREED PUBLICATIONS:

Books

2022. *Normative transformation and the War on Terror: the evolution of targeted killing, torture, and private military contracting.* Cambridge University Press. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009092326

In preparation. *Private Intelligence and Modular Sovereignty in World Politics*.

Journal articles

2025. 'A pragmatist theory of power: understanding the EU's transformation and security response to Russia's war in Ukraine.' *Comparative European Politics* 23, 652–670 (2025). https://doi.org/10.1057/s41295-025-00417-8 (With Ana Juncos)

2025. 'Pragmatist Power Europe: Resilience and evolution in planetary organic crisis.' *Cooperation and Conflict*, *60*(3), 524-541. https://doi.org/10.1177/00108367241244958 (With Ana Juncos).

2024. 'Immunity Outsourcing and the Atlantic Conquest', *Security Studies,* 33(4): 549-572. https://doi.org/10.1080/09636412.2024.2434812 (With Mark Shirk).
2021. 'Pragmatism in IR: The Prospects for Substantive Theorizing', *International Studies Review* 23(4): 1933-1958. Includes 'To Be a Pragmatist in Explaining International Politics', pp. 2-5. https://doi.org/10.1093/isr/viab019 (Forum Editor with Sebastian Schmidt)
2020. 'Reification, practice, and the ontological status of social facts'. *International Theory,* 12(2), 231-237. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1752971920000081
2020. 'From Norms to Normative Configurations: A pragmatist and relational approach to theorising normativity in IR'. *International Theory*, 12(1), 59-82. https://doi.org/10.1017/S1752971919000095
2019. 'Norm transformation and the institutionalisation of targeted killing in the United States.' *European Journal of International Relation* 25(3): 723-747. https://doi.org/10.1177/1354066118812178
2018. 'Kenneth Waltz is Not a Neorealist (and why that matters).' *European Journal of International Relations* 24(1): 153-176. https://doi.org/10.1177/1354066117696561 (with Christopher David LaRoche).
2017. A Relational View of Ontological Security in International Relations'. *International Studies Quarterly* 61(1): 78-85. https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqw038
2016. 'Pragmatism as Ontology, Not (Just) as Epistemology: Exploring the full horizon of pragmatism as an approach to IR theory. *International Studies Review* 18(3): 508-527. https://doi.org/10.1093/isr/viv003
2015. 'Crossing Off Names: the Logic of Military Assassination.' *Small Wars and Insurgencies*, 26(1): 3-24. https://doi.org/10.1080/09592318.2014.959769
2013. 'Anyone Who Hurts Us': How the Logic of Israel's "Assassination Policy" Developed during the Aqsa Intifada. *Terrorism and Political Violence*, 25(2): 224-245. https://doi.org/10.1080/09546553.2012.657280

Book Chapters

2022. 'Epistemology: Logic, Causality and Explanation', In eds. R. Joseph Huddleston, Tom Jamieson, and Patrick James, *Handbook of Research Methods in International Relations.* Edward Elgar. 25-40. https://doi.org/10.4337/9781839101014.00011
2021. 'The Phenomenology of Cognitive Evolution', In eds. Piki Ish-Shalom, Markus Kornprobst, and Vincent Pouliot, *Theorizing World Orders: Cognitive Evolution and Beyond.* Cambridge University Press. 81-106. https://doi.org/10.1017/9781009058193

Conference Proceedings:

2013. 'Detecting unfolding crises with Visual Analytics and Conceptual Maps: Emerging phenomena and big data,' *Intelligence and Security Informatics (ISI), 2013 IEEE International Conference*. https://doi.org/10.1109/ISI.2013.6578819 [First author. With PJ Giabbanelli and JS Mercier]
2012. 'Rebel with Many Causes: A Computational Model of Insurgency', *Intelligence and Security Informatics (ISI), 2012 IEEE International Conference*. https://doi.org/10.1109/ISI.2012.6284097 [First author. With PJ Giabbanelli, P Jackson, and VK Mago]

NON-REFEREED:

2026. "Israel's Government Is in Thrall to 'the Concept'". *Foreign Policy,* 5 October. Available online at https://foreignpolicy.com/2026/10/05/israel-security-concept-conceptzia-netanyahu-october-7-hamas/ (with Jamie Levin)

2026. 'Middle East Cease-Fires Matter Even When They're Broken'. *Foreign Policy,* 3 June. Available online at https://foreignpolicy.com/2026/06/03/iran-lebanon-israel-cease-fires-peace/ (with Avishay Ben Sasson-Gordis)
2024. "When AI Decides Who Lives and Dies". *Foreign Policy,* 2 May. Available online at https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/05/02/israel-military-artificial-intelligence-targeting-hamas-gaza-deaths-lavender/
2024. "Unsourced Allegations Feed Israel's 'Masada Complex'". *Foreign Policy,* 29 January. Available online at https://foreignpolicy.com/2024/01/26/unsourced-allegations-israel-masada-complex-palestine-hamas-gaza-war/
2022. "Ukraine's Refugees Are Close Enough for European Solidarity". *Foreign Policy,* 29 March. Available online at https://foreignpolicy.com/2022/03/29/ukraine-refugees-european-solidarity-race-gender-proximity/ (with Christopher David LaRoche)
2021. "U.S. Republicans Are Dangerously Close to Paramilitary Groups". *Foreign Policy,* 10 March. Available online at https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/03/10/fascism-republicans-paramilitary-trump-far-right-violence/ (with Lucas Dolan)
2021. "How Social Media Monopolies Broke the Public Sphere". *Foreign Policy,* 22 January. Available online at https://foreignpolicy.com/2021/01/22/social-media-broke-liberal-democracy-capitol-mob/ (with Joshua Foust)
2020. "Canada can't rely on other countries to supply our vaccines." *The Globe and Mail,* 20 November. Available online at https://www.theglobeandmail.com/opinion/article-canada-had-better-prepare-to-go-it-alone-on-vaccines/ (with Jamie Levin)
2018. "US killing by drone: continuity and escalation." *The Interpreter,* 11 December. Available online at https://www.lowyinstitute.org/the-interpreter/us-killing-drone-continuity-and-escalation
2018. "What's behind the rise in American political violence?". *Toronto Star,* 29 October. Available online at https://www.thestar.com/opinion/contributors/2018/10/29/whats-behind-the-rise-in-american-political-violence.html
2018. "What Should We Make of Elite American Mercenaries in Yemen?". *War on the Rocks,* 23 October. Available online at https://warontherocks.com/2018/10/what-should-we-make-of-elite-american-mercenaries-in-yemen/
2017. "Banning refugees harms U.S. national security". *Toronto Star*, 31 January. Available online at https://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2017/01/31/banning-refugees-harms-us-national-security.html (with Craig Damian Smith)
2016. "We must confront Omar Mateen's Homophobia'. *Toronto Star,* 15 June. Available online at https://www.thestar.com/opinion/commentary/2016/06/15/we-must-confront-omar-mateens-homophobia.html.

LARGE GRANTS:
2017-2019. SSHRC Post-Doctoral Fellowship ($87,750 CAD)
2014–2017. Joseph-Armand Bombardier CGS Doctoral Award ($105,000 CAD)
2014–2017. [declined] SSHRC Doctoral Fellowship ($60,000 CAD)
2015. Michael-Smith Foreign Study Supplement ($6000 CAD)
2012-2013. University of Toronto Doctoral Fellowship ($47500 CAD)

INVITED TALKS and WORKSHOPS:
2025. Book Workshop: *Modular Sovereignty and the Evolution of the Extended Intelligence Community*. King's College London. 7 February.
2024. 'Use of Weapons', LUISS, 12 September.
2024. 'Intelligence Practices in Transition'. John Cabot University, 9 September.
2024. 'Mapping the Extended Intelligence Community'. Tel Aviv University, 24 June.

2023. 'Modularity Sovereignty and Intelligence Privatisation'. European University Institute. 31 October
2023. 'Book talk: *Normative Transformation and the War on Terror*'. John Cabot University. 30 October.
2023. 'A Twenty Years Crisis? Revisiting Realist Constructivism in International Relations'. Instituto Barcelona de Estudios Internacionales. 24-25 October.
2023. 'Modularity Sovereignty and Intelligence Privatisation'. Australia National University. 9 October.
2023. 'Book talk: *Normative Transformation and the War on Terror*'. Cambridge University. 7 February.
2023. 'Book talk: *Normative Transformation and the War on Terror*'. Queen Mary University. 8 February.
2023. 'Pragmatist IR'. Instituto Barcelona de Estudios Internacionales. 14 February.
2023. 'The field of private intelligence and the proliferation of intelligence practice'. Norwegian Institute of International Affairs. 16 February.
2022. 'Private Intelligence Contracting and its Normative Implications'. Joseph Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver. 19 May.
2021. 'Modular sovereignty and the case of the private intelligence industry'. Department of Political Science, University of Chicago. 4 February.
2020. 'How the Private Intelligence Industry Changed Sovereignty'. Department of Politics and International Relations, University of Cardiff. 4 February.
2019. 'International Relations: Stop using the term "material power"'. Department of International Relations, Central European University, Budapest. 27 September.
2018. 'The Phenomenology of Cognitive Evolution'. Workshop on Perspectives of Cognitive Evolution, Vienna, 25-26 May.
2018. 'The Evolution of Terrorism'. Canadian Forces College, guest lecture for the Advanced Joint Warfighting Studies Programme, Toronto, 21 February.
2018. 'Annotation for Transparent Inquiry Working Group.' Syracuse University, New York, 22-23 February.
2017. 'The Evolution of Terrorism'. Canadian Forces College, guest lecture for the Advanced Joint Warfighting Studies Programme, Toronto, 22 March.

SELECTED RECENT CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION:
2026. 'Fractured Israel in a World Not Only of its Making'. Central and Eastern European International Studies Association Conference, Sarajevo, 17-19 June.
2025. 'Ontological Insecurity and the Disinfo Internationale'. European International Studies Association, Pan-European Conference, Bologna, 26-29 August.
2024. 'Revisiting Realist Constructivism'. European International Studies Association, Pan-European Conference, Lille, 27-31 August.
2024. 'Mapping the Extended Intelligence Community'. International Association for Intelligence Studies-Europe, Annual Meeting, Valetta, Malta. 10-11 September.
2024. 'Relations Before States: Reflecting on a Quarter-Century of Relational Scholarship', 'Author Meets Critics: Jack Donnelly, Systems, Relations, and the Structures of International Societies' (roundtables), 'Normative Change and Change in Norms: When we have one without the other' (paper). International Studies Association, Annual Conference, San Francisco, 1-6 April.
2023. 'Between Ontological Security and Epistemological Insecurity', 'Author Meets Critics: Normative Transformation and the War on Terrorism', 'Pragmatism and the New Geopolitics', Access, Accessibility, Accessibilities' (roundtables), 'We Come to Bury

Norms, Not to Praise Them' (paper, with Sebastian Schmidt)'. International Studies Association, Annual Conference, Montreal, 15-18 March.
2022. 'Close to hand, close to the heart? Practices of Distancing and the Production of Global Proximities' (paper with CD LaRoche). European International Studies Association, Pan-European Conference, Athens, 1-4 September.
2022. 'Spies Like Us'. International Association for Intelligence Studies, Joint Meeting, Treviso. 19-22 June.
2022. 'Communities of Practice, Moral Progress, and Polity Relevance in International Politics', Roundtable: Of Puzzles, Problems, and Questions in Research Design'. International Studies Association, Annual Conference, 28 March-2 April.
2021. 'Experiments of Mass Destruction: the nature of nuclear devices and the origins of nuclear strategy' (with Sebastian M. Schmidt), 'Folk Theories of International Politics'. International Studies Association, Annual Conference, 6-9 April.
2019. 'The Stakes of Stratification'. European International Studies Association, Pan-European Conference, Sofia, 11-14 September.
2018. 'How the Private Intelligence Industry Changed Sovereignty: A story of epistemic needs and market wonts'. International Studies Association, Annual Conference, San Francisco, 7-10 March.
2017. 'Dereifying the Norm: Rule-following in a world without "Rules"', International Studies Association, Annual Conference, Baltimore, 22-25 February.
2016. 'Cartography and Navigation: Metaphors for Polity Relevance in IR'. International Studies Association, Annual Conference, Atlanta, 17-19 March.
2015. 'A Pragmatist View of Power.' American Sociological Association, Annual Meeting, Chicago, 22-25 August.
2015. 'A Pragmatist View of Ontological Security'. International Studies Association, Annual Conference, New Orleans, 18-22 February.
2014. 'A Game of Drones: Institutional Infighting, Innovation, and the Development of the US's Targeted Killing Programme'. APSA Annual Meeting, DC, 27-31 August.
2014. 'A Pragmatist View of Power in International Relations.' International Studies Association, Annual Conference, Toronto, Ontario, 26-29 March.

BROADCAST MEDIA APPEARANCES:

- BBC News (Television)
- BBC Radio 5 (Radio)
- Bloomberg TV Asia (Television)
- Bloomberg Radio (Radio)
- CNA (Television)
- CNA498 (Radio)

TEACHING:

- University of Melbourne: Terrorism and Counterterrorism (MIR subject, 2026), International Relations Key Concepts (BA subject, 2025-6), Cyberpolitics (MIR subject, 2023-5), International Relations Theories (MIR subject, 2023-4), International Security (MIR subject, 2022-6), United Nations (MIR subject, 2022).
- University of Bristol: Global Transformation (Core module: MRes Global Political Economy, 2020, 2021), International Relations Theory (Postgraduate/Masters 2019-21; Undergraduate: 2021).
- University of Toronto: International Security (300-level, Fall 2017; Winter 2018), Introduction to International Relations (200-level, Summer, Fall 2017), Terrorism and Counterterrorism. (300-level, Summer 2015)

ADMINISTRATIVE ROLES
2026-present: Research Integrity Coordinator
2022-present: Ethics Review Committee
2020-21: Programme director: MSc degrees in International Relations, Social Science Research Methods (Politics), and International Law and International Relations (LLM). MRes degree in Global Political Economy.
2019-21: Athena SWAN Bronze Award application committee member

SELECT SERVICE AS PEER REVIEWER:
International Studies Quarterly, American Political Science Review, European Journal of International Relations, Review of International Studies, Security Studies, Journal of Global Security Studies, Journal of International Relations and Development, International Theory, International Studies Review, Terrorism and Political Violence.

TEACHING AREAS:
International security, terrorism and counter-terrorism, international relations theories, cyberpolitics, historical and relational sociology, qualitative methodology, philosophy of social science