

MIRCEA ALIN BARBANTAN

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EDUCATION

PhD in US Foreign Policy University College London	2018-2023
MA in United States History and Politics University College London	2014-2015
BA in History and Politics Queen Mary, University of London	2011-2014

RESEARCH INTERESTS

- Diplomacy
- Grand strategy
- Political theory
- Political ideology
- Comparative international relations
- Military history
- Security studies

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Assistant Researcher , Romanian Academy	2025-Present
• Academic articles on Romanian foreign policy, strategic culture, transatlantic alliance • Participation in national and international academic conferences • Web editing, wordpress	
PhD Research , UCL	2018-2023
• Thesis ‘Pacific Dream? The evolution of US strategic culture and alliances in the Indo-Pacific, 2001 – 2022’ • Supervised by: Dr. Tony McCulloch • The thesis looked at the evolution of US alliances in the Indo-Pacific and their effects on American strategic culture	
Junior Researcher , Romanian Academic Society (NGO)	2016-2018
• Published ‘Nations in Transit’ report for Romania as part of a team of researchers, on the <i>Freedom House</i> website, 2017 • Analysis of corruption in Romanian electoral politics	
Paid Intern , Romanian Ministry of Foreign Affairs	July-September 2016
• Summarised OECD reports for the Office of Romanians Abroad (ORS) as part of the Office’s goal of researching and understanding the OECD in order to better enable Romania’s own OECD application	

- Attended meetings with staff, took part in Ministry public awareness campaigns, had Q&A with staff at UK & US embassies, took part in mock NATO summits

MA Research, UCL 2014-2015

- Dissertation: 'The post-war American economy and its Keynesian turn: How the 1946 Employment Act and the Council of Economic Advisers shaped post-WW2 American economic thinking'
Supervised by: Professor Iwan Morgan
- The thesis looked at the impacts of a specific law – the 1946 Employment Act – on the way US policymakers understood Keynesianism

BA Research, Queen Mary, University of London 2011-2014

- Dissertation: 'The degree of success of President William J. Clinton's Foreign Policy Doctrine, considering the differences in perspective between the White House and Congress'
- The thesis analysed the debates between the US legislative and executive in the context of American foreign policy in the 1990s

OTHER RELEVANT EXPERIENCE

Assistant Editor, Romanian Journal of Political Science December 2023-August 2024

- Editorial decision support
- Editing and proofreading
- Journal administration

Seminar organisation 2019-2020

- Organised and led (with faculty and other graduate students): the UCL – IA Foreign Policy and National Security Seminar Series
 - *The Changing Nature of US Warfare in the 21st Century*, October 2019
 - *The Evolution of US Hegemony from Obama to Trump*, November 2019
 - *US Cold War Diplomacy in a Hostile Environment: From Indochina to Iran*, January 2020
 - *India-America Relations (1942-62) L Rooted in the Liberal International Order*, February 2020

Intern, Romanian Academic Society February – July 2016

- Managing Editor for the Romanian Journal of Political Science, Vol. 15, No.2, Winter 2015
- Event and conference organisation

PUBLICATIONS

Academic publications

- Monograph: *The Evolution of US strategic culture in the Indo-Pacific*, Palgrave Macmillan, August 2024

Other publications

- **Freedom House:**
 - Nations in Transit Country Report – Romania 2017, [Link](#)
- **The Geopolitics:**
 - *US Strategy for the Indo-Pacific Under the Biden Administration: A Return to Multilateralism?*, November 14, 2020, [Link](#)

- **Counterclaim** (personal blog): ○ Articles on Indo-Pacific affairs archive here [Link](#)

AWARDS AND FUNDING

- UCL Foreign Policy and National Security Seminar Series Funding (£1,500), 2019 – 2020
- UCL Institute of the Americas Fieldwork Travel Grant (£500), 2015

CONFERENCES

- APG Postgraduate and Early Career Conference, Rothermere American Institute, Oxford, United Kingdom, 23 June 2023, ‘Can the Pacific Dream prevail? The strategic culture of Trump and Biden compared’
- BISA American Foreign Policy Working Group Conference, Queen Mary, University of London, 14-15 September, 2023, ‘The other “competition of values”: Divisions in US Indo-Pacific foreign policy during the Trump administration’
- Cluj Academic Days, George Baritiu History Institute, Romanian Academy, Cluj-Napoca, 17-19 October 2024, ‘Romania’s Indo-Pacific strategy 2004-2024’
- BISA American Foreign Policy Working Group Conference, University College London, London, 5 September 2025, ‘Mission Accomplished? Comparing the Strategic Cultures of the U.S. and Romania, 1990–2024’
- Cluj Academic Days, Center for Transylvanian Studies, Cluj-Napoca, 22-23 October 2025, ‘A comparison of Romanian and American strategic cultures in the post-Cold War era’

COURSES

- ‘AUKUS in Context: Security and Strategy Implications for the Indo-Pacific and Globally’, King’s College London, PLuS Alliance, 15 – 18 May, 2023

SKILLS

- *Languages*: Romanian (native); English (fluent);
- *IT skill/web editing*: Microsoft Office, WordPress; R

REFEREES

- **Dr. Tony McCulloch**, (DPhil thesis supervisor)
UCL Institute of the Americas
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- **Dr. Mara Oliva**, (doctoral dissertation external examiner)
University of Reading
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