

Dr. Tara J. Maller
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Education

Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Ph.D. in Political Science, 2006-2011 (Dissertation defended: August 2011)

- GPA: 4.90/5.00. Examination Fields: International Relations and Security Studies.
- Dissertation: *Diplomacy Derailed: The Consequences of U.S. Diplomatic Disengagement on Sanctions and Foreign Policy*
- Teaching Assistant for American Foreign Policy course & Research Assistant for MIT Political Science faculty focused on counterinsurgency & nuclear proliferation; Editor of *Précis*, Center for International Studies, 2009-2010; Student affiliate of MIT's Security Studies Program and Women in International Security.

Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Research Fellow, September 2010-August 2011

- Research Fellow in the International Security Program at the Belfer Center for Science and International Affairs

University of Chicago, Master of Arts in International Relations, with Honors, 2004

- GPA: 3.89/4.00. Thesis: "Weapons of Mass Destruction: The Genealogy and Construction of the WMD Threat"

Dartmouth College, Bachelor of Arts in Government, *Cum Laude*, 2003

- GPA: 3.64/4.00. Concentration: International Relations
- Honors Thesis: "A Quantitative Assessment of the Role of Technology as a Determinant of War Outcomes"
- Research Assistant, Dartmouth Institute for Security Technology Studies, Fall 2001.
- Accepted into Dartmouth's Department of Government program in Washington DC (Spring 2001) and served as Legislative Intern, Office of Senator Hillary Rodham Clinton, DC Office (Spring/Summer 2001, Summer 2002).

Oxford University, Visiting Student at Keble College through Dartmouth exchange program, Winter 2002

- Tutorials in Comparative Government and Political Theory

Work Experience

McKinsey & Company, September 2018-present

Assoc. Director of Client Service Risk, Public & Social Sector (U.S.) Senior Risk Advisor, Public & Social Sector (U.S.) (December 2021-present), Risk Manager (U.S.) (September 2018-December 2021)

- Serves as our U.S. lead on managing risk and approvals for all U.S. government work related to defense & security.
- Advises Global Director of Risk and Senior Partners on wide range geopolitical topics & crisis response efforts.
- Provides ongoing guidance and support to Senior Partners and Partners on all U.S. government defense & security work across an extensive range of topics including, but not limited to, industrial base resilience/supply chain, AI/GenAI, cybersecurity, IT/cloud, defense data & analytics, veterans, organizational strategy, & talent work.
- Coordinates and work closely with Firm Communications and Firm Legal to provide guidance to consultant teams prior to the initiation of work and throughout the course of defense-related engagements.
- Provides thought leadership for Risk team and Firm leaders on identifying critical risk issues, mitigating risk issues, and working on horizon scanning exercises to identify potential future political & geopolitical scenarios & risks.
- Assists others on Risk team to advise on a wider range of U.S. federal, state, & nonprofit work given broader experience advising on wider range of topics prior to specializing in defense & geopolitics.

The Counter Extremism Project, May 2016-August 2018

Spokesperson and Senior Policy Advisor

- Served as spokesperson and policy advisor for CEP, a not-for-profit, non-partisan, international policy organization formed to combat the growing threat from extremist ideology.
- Responsible for communications and media appearances as well as serving as organization's liaison with Capitol Hill.
- Worked congressional offices on both sides of the aisle in the House & Senate and conducted hundreds of House and Senate briefings on Capitol Hill with members' offices and committee staffers regarding technology and countering extremism.

**The Franklin Project at The Aspen Institute, Jan 2014-May 2016 (Merged into Service Year Alliance in Jan 2016),
Director of Strategic Communications (Jan. 2016), Assoc. Director of Strategic Communications (until Jan. 2016)**

- Part of the original team that worked to build the Franklin Project, which was an initiative focused on the expansion of civilian national service for young Americans.
- Organized & led the Franklin Project's entire media & communications strategy and coordinated with our partners.
- Coordinated Franklin Project-related media opportunities for General (RET) Stan McChrystal, Chair of Franklin Project and the project writ large.
- Responsible for ongoing outreach to Franklin Project Leadership Council members and staff regarding media related to the Franklin Project. Leadership Council members who have written for the project included: Madeleine Albright, Condoleezza Rice, Robert Gates, Stephen Hadley and Michèle Flournoy.

New America, September 2012-September 2018

Research Fellow, International Security Program

- Areas of expertise include: diplomacy, sanctions, cybersecurity, counterinsurgency, intelligence, conflict resolution, terrorism, proliferation, and the Middle East.

Ergo, January 2013-April 2013

Consultant on short-term Global Terrorism Risk Assessment Project

- Responsible for comprehensive monthly global terrorism risk assessment reports for a large insurance company.
- Created original terrorism risk assessment surveys & conducted qualitative interviews with terrorism experts on terrorist groups, cybersecurity, attack tactics & counterterrorism strategy.

BrightWire Inc. (formerly Coverago Inc.), August 2011-October 2012

Managing Editor, March 2011-October 2012; Managing Director of Operations, August 2011-March 2011

- BrightWire is a media/tech startup that tracks global news in a variety of languages and delivers coverage on events around the world to clients in the form of English language summaries.
- Managed a 25 person team of bilingual Global Media Analysts and contractors who cover global economic and political topics for banks, hedge funds, law firms and a general online audience.
- Member of BrightWire's management team and was responsible for content production and editorial process.

Central Intelligence Agency, 2004-2006 (returned summer 2007 & held TS/SCI clearance until 2011 on LWOP)

Military Analyst, Office of Iraq Analysis

- Wrote research papers on the Iraq insurgency for inclusion in briefs to the White House, senior policymakers and the wider intelligence community.
- Conducted briefings for senior U.S. policymakers, U.S. military officials and members of the intelligence community.
- Responsible for identifying new trends and methods of analysis for assessing a wide range of insurgent activity.

Media Appearances & Publications (complete list available upon request)

- Have done hundreds of TV appearances on major networks (CNN, MSNBC, Fox, Bloomberg, etc.) on wide range of topics including, but not limited to terrorism, sanctions, the Middle East, cybersecurity, intel, & nuclear weapons.
- Have published articles in peer-reviewed journals, mainstream media outlets like CNN & Bloomberg, & more foreign policy-focused publications like Defense One and Foreign Policy.
- Have spoken on panels on a wide range of national security and defense topics for audiences across government, the private sector, & academia.