

**Aki Nakai**

Department of Political Science  
Boston University  
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**EDUCATION:**

- 2016 **Boston University**, Department of Political Science, Boston, MA  
**Ph.D.**, Political Science, expected in May  
Fields of study: International Relations, Comparative Politics and East Asian Studies  
Dissertation: “A Theory of Alliance Restructuring – the Cases in East Asia, 1946-2000,”  
(Dissertation Advisors: Thomas U. Berger; William W. Grimes; Ivan Arreguin-Toft; and  
Rosella Cappella Zielinski)
- 2008 **Tufts University**, Fletcher School of Law and Diplomacy, Medford, MA  
**M.A.**, Law and Diplomacy  
Fields of study: International Security Studies and Pacific Asia  
Thesis: “Suits, Uniforms and Statesmen: Expanding Roles and Missions of the Japanese  
Self-Defense Forces and its Impact on the Civil-Military Relations,” (Advisor: Alan M.  
Wachman)
- 1994 **Waseda University**, School of Political Science and Economics, Tokyo, Japan  
**B.A.**, Political Science

**RESEARCH INTERESTS:**

U.S. alliances in East Asia, Japanese security policy, Alliance burden sharing, Alliance  
entrapment and entanglement, Territorial disputes and conflicts escalation

**WORKING PAPERS:**

- “Alliance Restructuring: How Does Capabilities Shift Matter?” (Under Review)  
“Rationalist Explanations for the Philippine Decisions in the 1990-91 US-RP Base Talks.”  
(Manuscript in preparation)  
“Why Did the DPJ Fail to Restructure the Alliance with the United States in 2009-2010?”  
“Alliance Adrift?: The Case of the U.S.-South Korea Alliance”

**PUBLICATIONS:**

- 2011 “China’s Naval Modernization: Reflections on a Symposium,” *Occasional Papers on*

*Asia*, No. 1 (Boston, MA: Boston University Center for the Study of Asia, 2011)

**Book Reviews:**

- 2010 Robert S. Ross and Zhu Feng, eds., *China's Ascent: Power, Security, and the Future of International Politics* (Ithaca, NY: Cornell University Press, 2008) in *Senryaku Kenkyu* [Journal of Strategic Studies], 8 (Tokyo: Fuyo shobo): 98-100.
- 2009 Takehiko Yamamoto, *Anzenhosho Seisaku: Keiseisaimin, Shin-Chiseigaku, Anzenhoshokyodotai* [Security Policy: Statecraft, New-Geopolitics, and Security Community] (Tokyo: Nihon Keizai Hyoronsha, 2009) in *Kokusai Anzenhosho* [Journal of International Security], 37, 3 (Tokyo: Naigai shuppan): 131-135.
- 2009 Thomas U. Berger, Mike M. Mochizuki, and Jitsuo Tsuchiyama, eds., *Japan in International Politics: The Foreign Policies of an Adaptive State* (Boulder, Colorado: Lynne Rienner Publishers, Inc., 2007) in *Senryaku Kenkyu* [Journal of Strategic Studies], 7 (Tokyo: Fuyo shobo): 200-202.
- 2008 Richard J. Samuels, *Securing Japan: Tokyo's Grand Strategy and the Future of East Asia* (Ithaca: Cornell University Press, 2007) in *Senryaku Kenkyu* [Journal of Strategic Studies], 6 (Tokyo: Fuyo shobo): 295-296.

**Op-ed:**

- 2009 "Futenma Mondai: Nihon wa Shidoryoku wo Shimese" [On Futenma, a Chance for Japan to Lead], *Seiron*, February 2010 Issue (Tokyo, Japan: Sankei Shinbun Sha, December): 313-314. (with James L. Schoff, Associate Director of Asia-Pacific Studies, Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis)

**GRANTS/FELLOWSHIPS/SCHOLARSHIPS:**

- 2014 Research Grant for the Summer Semester, Boston University
- 2013 Teaching Fellowship for the Fall Semester, Boston University
- 2013 Visiting Scholarship, Institute of Modern History, Academia Sinica (Taipei, Taiwan)
- 2012 Graduate Research Abroad Fellowship for the Spring Semester, Boston University
- 2012 Visiting Scholarship, Yuchengco Center, De La Salle University (Manila, Philippines)
- 2012 Young Scholars Research Grant, Japanese Society for Asian Studies, (Kyoto, Japan)
- 2011 Asiatic Research Institute Fellowship for Northeast Asian Studies, Korea University (Seoul, South Korea)
- 2007 National Chengchi University Scholarship for the 2007-08 Academic Year (Taipei, Taiwan)
- 2007 Fletcher School Scholarship for the 2007-08 Academic Year, Tufts University
- 2006 Fletcher School Scholarship for the 2006-07 Academic Year, Tufts University

**PRESENTATIONS:**

**Invited:**

- 2014 “Capabilities Shifts and State’s Decisions of Alliance Restructuring,” presentation at Ash Center for Democratic Governance and Innovation, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, February 11.
- 2012 “From Rhetoric to Reality: Foreign-Policy Making under the Democratic Party of Japan” presentation at Contemporary Japanese Politics Study Group, Reischauer Institute of Japanese Studies, Harvard University, Cambridge, MA, April 26. (with Weston S. Konishi, Associate Director of Asia-Pacific Studies, Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis)

**Academic Conferences:**

- 2013 “Capabilities Shifts and State’s Decisions on Alliance Dissolution,” presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, April 11.
- 2012 “Capabilities Shift, Regime Change, Level of Institutionalization and Alliance Dissolutions,” presentation at the Midwest Political Science Association Annual Convention, Chicago, IL, April 14.
- 2012 “State Leadership Change and Alliance Dissolutions,” presentation at the International Studies Association Annual Convention, San Diego, CA, April 1.
- 2009 “Sino-Japanese Relations during the Yasukuni Dispute: Was the Deterioration a Permanent Fixture or a Temporary Phenomenon?” presentation at the Annual Boston University Conference on East Asia, Boston, MA, February 14.
- 2008 “The Recent Trend in Japanese Defense Budget and Japan’s Grand Strategy: Has the Post-Yoshida Doctrine Emerged Yet?” presentation at the International Security Research Group regular meeting, Medford, MA, December 22.

**RESEARCH EXPERIENCE:**

- 2013-2015 Research Assistant for Professor Rosella Cappella Zielinski, Department of Political Science, Boston University, Boston, MA, research project: “Power and Economic Statecraft during the Wartime,” and “Alliance Dynamics in the Wartime”
- 2010 Research Assistant in charge of Japanese politicians for Professor John Gerring; and Ph.D. Candidate Erzen Oncel, Department of Political Science, Boston University, Boston, MA, research project: “The Global Leadership Project”
- 2008-2012 Research Assistant, Institute for Foreign Policy Analysis, Cambridge, MA,

research projects: “U.S.-Japan Alliance and Future of Extended Deterrence,” “In Times of Crisis: U.S.-Japan Civil-Military Disaster Relief Coordination,” and “Democratic Party of Japan and its Foreign and Security Policy”

## **TEACHING EXPERIENCE:**

### **Instructor:**

**Boston University**, Department of Political Science, Boston, MA

Introduction to Security Studies (Spring 2016) – Undergraduate lecture

Introduction to International Relations (Summer 2015) – Undergraduate lecture

**Tufts University**, Department of Political Science, Medford, MA

International Relations of East Asia (Fall 2015) – Undergraduate seminar

**U.S. Naval War College**, Electives Program, Newport, RI

International Relations of the Asia-Pacific (Spring 2013) – Graduate level

Japanese Security and Politics (Fall 2012) – Graduate level

### **Teaching Fellow:**

**Boston University**, Department of Political Science, Boston, MA

Introduction to International Relations (Fall 2013) – Undergraduate discussion section

## **PROFESSIONAL SERVICES:**

2009 Rapporteur, “Development of the Regional Architecture in East Asia,” Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Japan – Boston University Center for the Study of Asia Retreat

## **PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS:**

American Political Science Association, 2008 – present

International Studies Association, 2011 – present

Midwest Political Science Association, 2012 – present

Association for Asian Studies, 2014 – present

Japan Society of Strategic Studies, 2006 – present

## **LANGUAGES:**

English (Fluent), Japanese (Native), Mandarin (New HSK Level III – Intermediate (writing test, 2012, passed))

**COMPUTER SKILLS:**

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STATA (version 13), R, Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint

**REFERENCES:**

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Thomas U. Berger (First Reader)  
Professor of International Relations  
Department of International Relations  
Boston University  
156 Bay State Road, Room 303  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215  
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William W. Grimes (Second Reader)  
Professor of International Relations and Political Science  
Department of International Relations  
Boston University  
152 Bay State Road, Room 110  
Boston, Massachusetts 02215  
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Fax: (617) 353-9290  
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Ivan Arreguin-Toft (Third Reader)  
Assistant Professor of International Relations  
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Boston University  
156 Bay State Road, Room 305  
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Rosella Cappella Zielinski (Fourth Reader)  
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