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**BOSTON UNIVERSITY**  
**FREDERICK S. PARDEE**  
**SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES**

**2026 CONVOCATION**

Saturday, May 16, 2026

9:00 a.m.

Walter Brown Arena

285 Babcock Street

Boston, Massachusetts

A convocation is a ceremony that celebrates the academic achievements of graduating students. The convocation serves as a prelude to the official university-wide commencement ceremony, where degrees are conferred upon students who have successfully completed their academic programs.

*The students who meet the requirements for graduation will receive degrees at the Boston University graduation on Sunday, May 17, 2026.*

## PROGRAM

Procession

Opening Remarks from the Dean

Awards and Recognition

Student Address  
Jacob Bolutife Rivelli

Presentation of Candidates  
for Degrees and Certificates

Dean's Charge to the Graduates

Recession

Reception

## **FREDERICK S. PARDEE SCHOOL OF GLOBAL STUDIES AT BOSTON UNIVERSITY**

The Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies at Boston University is a community of scholars and students dedicated to advancing human progress through rigorous, interdisciplinary, problem-driven research and education that addresses the great global challenges and opportunities of our time. We are a 21st-century school committed to the education of problem-solvers, agents of change, and leaders of tomorrow. We seek a future with peace that lasts, development that works, and knowledge that transforms.

Established in 2014 out of the vision of BU alumnus and benefactor Frederick S. Pardee, the Pardee School builds upon the foundation of several of BU's oldest and proudest traditions while maintaining a fiercely 21st-century approach. We are committed to being global, to cutting edge scholarship that helps our faculty and students understand global challenges, to engaging cross-culturally in productive ways, and to preparing a generation of globally engaged and intellectually influential leaders who are motivated to make our world a better place.

Today, the Pardee School is home to BU's long-established International Relations program, a range of degrees both international and regional in focus, as well as 7 affiliated research centers: the African Studies Center, the Center for the Study of Asia, the Center for the Study of Europe, the Center for Latin American Studies, the Global Development Policy Center, the Institute on Culture, Religion, and World Affairs (CURA), and the Frederick S. Pardee Center for the Study of the Longer-Range Future. These programs have produced more than 11,000 alumni spread across the globe.

**SHARAT KUMAR NAMBIAR  
MEMORIAL FOUNDATION PRIZE**

The Sharat Kumar Nambiar Memorial Foundation Prize recognizes academic excellence for students across all graduate and undergraduate programs at the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies. These recipients have demonstrated the highest levels of academic excellence in courses taken at the Pardee School and Boston University.

**GRADUATE PRIZE**

*Madison Larae Keefer*

*MA in International Affairs*

*BA in International Relations and Spanish*

**UNDERGRADUATE PRIZE**

*Grace Leslie Catlin*

*BA in International Relations*

*Jasmine Hsiaowei Lee*

*BA in International Relations*

# AMBASSADOR HERMANN FREDERICK EILTS THESIS AWARDS

The Eilts Awards go to the best undergraduate and graduate theses written by students at the Frederick S. Pardee School of Global Studies. The prize recognizes the value of good research and policy analysis at the Pardee School and celebrates the contribution of Ambassador Hermann Frederick Eilts, the founder of the International Relations programs at BU.

## BEST GRADUATE MA PAPER

*Jacob Bolutife Rivelli*

*MA in International Affairs*

*with Specialization in Global Economic Affairs and  
Graduate Certificate in African Studies*

MA Paper Title: Linking the Chain Through Flexibility: Global Value Chains and Job Security in Africa

## BEST UNDERGRADUATE THESIS

*Mia Isabela Knezevic*

*BA in International Relations*

Thesis Title: From Silence to Speaking Out: The Evolution of Victim Support and Public Reckoning with Conflict-Related Sexual Violence during the Yugoslav wars in Bosnia & Herzegovina (1993-2025)

## CAROLE A. CHANDLER CITIZENSHIP AWARD

The Chandler Award recognizes the spirit of citizenship and a commitment to the values and mission of the Pardee School of Global Studies. The award is given to graduate and undergraduate students who have demonstrated exemplary leadership and commitment to the School's mission while maintaining academic excellence. The award celebrates the spirit of community and citizenship that was exemplified by Carole A. Chandler, the administrative co-founder and first Executive Assistant of the Center for International Relations.

*Jack Henry Whitten*  
*MA in International Affairs*  
*with Specialization in Security Studies*

Jack Whitten is graduating from the Pardee School with a Master of Arts in International Affairs, specializing in Security Studies. He is the graduate recipient of the Pardee School's highest student honor – the Chandler Citizenship Award – in recognition of his outstanding leadership, community involvement, and academic excellence.

During his time at Pardee, Jack has built an impressive record of achievement. He has served as a Pardee Dean's Ambassador, Editor-in-Chief of the Pardee Atlas Journal of Global Affairs, Social Chair of the Pardee Graduate Council, and teaching fellow for over 100 total students in two of Pardee's undergraduate courses on the history of International Relations.

Jack also took full advantage of Pardee's experiential learning opportunities, participating in both the Washington D.C., and New York City trips. He led by example on those programs, representing the School with professionalism and enthusiasm. Since arriving at Pardee, he has helped build bridges across the community, and he will leave a lasting impact on the School and his peers.

## CAROLE A. CHANDLER CITIZENSHIP AWARD

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### *Isabella Simone Chaparro Will*

*BA in International Relations*

Isabella Chaparro Will is graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in International Relations. She is the undergraduate recipient of the Pardee School's highest honor—the Carole A. Chandler Student Citizenship Award—in recognition of her exceptional citizenship, leadership, and academic excellence. She is a dedicated student and community leader whose sustained contributions to the Pardee School have made her a valued presence in our community.

During her time at Boston University, Isabella served as a Pardee Dean's Ambassador, and worked as a Front Office Assistant at 121 Bay State Road throughout her four years as a student. She pursued global learning opportunities through study abroad in Madrid and gained public service experience as a Summer Intern in the U.S. House of Representatives. As Executive of Marketing for Pardee's Urban Refuge initiative, she helped redesign the project's mobile application into a more accessible website model, improving resource delivery for refugees and immigrants. This work reflects her strong commitment to advocacy and equitable access.

Isabella's warmth, positivity, and generous spirit have left a lasting impression on the Pardee School.

## THE GERALD AND DEANNE GITNER FAMILY PRIZE FOR FACULTY EXCELLENCE

The Gitner Family endowed the Gerald and Deanne Gitner Family Prize for Faculty Excellence at BU's Pardee School of Global Studies in 2014. The Gitner Prize honors teaching and mentoring excellence and is awarded each year to a faculty member who embodies the School's mission to advance human progress.

### ***PROFESSOR ALEXANDER DE LA PAZ***

*Professor of International Security*

In his short time at the Pardee School, Professor Alexander de la Paz has made an exceptional impact on student learning and the broader academic community. He has significantly enhanced the student experience, and his classes are in high demand.

In nominating Professor de la Paz, one student said: "his classes stood out... for the inclusive and thoughtful environment he creates. He encourages genuine discussion, engages students with care and respect, and makes a three-hour seminar somehow fly by, making it approachable and energizing."

Another shared: "he cares about his students beyond the course itself. He regularly checks in on how we're doing, ...and makes it clear that his office hours are a space for conversation and support – not just course-related questions." Moreover, Professor de la Paz's dedication to mentorship, student support, and active participation in recruitment and student engagement initiatives demonstrates a deep and sustained commitment to excellence in teaching and service.

Alexander de la Paz is an Assistant Professor of International Security at the Pardee School of Global Studies and a Graduate Faculty member in the Political Science Department at Boston University. His research interests span the political and moral psychology of war, international law, and international ethics. His current research agenda concerns the problem of human shields in war.

For his commitment to teaching, mentorship, and student success, we award Professor Alexander de la Paz the 2026 Gitner Family Prize for Faculty Excellence.

## THE ADIL NAJAM PRIZE FOR ADVANCING THE PUBLIC UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL AFFAIRS

The Adil Najam Prize for Advancing the Public Understanding of Global Affairs is a faculty prize at the Pardee School of Global Studies, named after the School's Inaugural Dean. It is awarded annually to a faculty member for excellence as a global public scholar and for advancing the public understanding of any international policy issue of major importance in world affairs.

### **PROFESSOR JEREMY MENCHIK**

*Professor of International Relations and Political Science*

Professor Menchik is an esteemed scholar whose work bridges comparative politics, religion, and global affairs, with a particular focus on how ideas, identities, and institutions shape political life. His 2026 book, *Protests and Radicalization in the Digital Age: The Reopen Movement*, offers a deeply collaborative and timely analysis of how social movements emerge and radicalize in an era shaped by digital media. His earlier book, *Islam and Democracy in Indonesia: Tolerance without Liberalism*, won the 2017 International Studies Association award for best book on religion and international relations.

He has won numerous awards and fellowships for teaching and research, most recently the Jewish Heritage Center's 2026 Genevieve Geller Wyner Research Fellowship. His scholarship has appeared in several leading academic journals as well as major public outlets including *The New York Times*, *The Wall Street Journal*, and *The Washington Post*.

As director of the Institute on Culture, Religion and World Affairs (CURA) since 2023, Professor Menchik has sought to engage both scholars and the general public more broadly, bringing more area faculty into the CURA Colloquium and serving as lead organizer of the Conference on the Jewish Left.

Today, we honor Jeremy Menchik with the Adil Najam Prize in recognition of his impactful contributions to Advancing the Public Understanding of Global Affairs.

# CANDIDATES FOR DEGREES AND CERTIFICATES

## MASTER OF ARTS IN GLOBAL POLICY

Simran Ashar\*  
Matey Babkin<sup>ø</sup>\*  
Amaris Greene\*  
Logan Elizabeth Hall\*  
Zainab Pawusu Kamara\*  
Wulan Okta Karunia\*  
Jenna Mary Landsman\*  
Breah Lyon\*

Joy Mushabe  
Mina Juliet Taylor  
Anna Trissa\*  
Yuhan Wang\*  
Haochen Yang\*  
Ewura Esi Yankah<sup>ø</sup>  
Xinyi Zhou\*

## MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Selen Alpas \*  
Erin Gable  
Sapana Joshi<sup>ø</sup>  
Simranjeet Kaur\*  
Kabir Hasan Khan<sup>ø</sup>

Hannah Grace Mefferd  
Jacob Bolutife Rivelli  
Suttisit Sertsuwangul  
Isabel Silagy\*  
Trissha Manivannan Sivalingam  
Jack Henry Whitten<sup>ø</sup>

## MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Paula Carolina Arellano Gonzalez  
Joseph Dorian Klam

Michael J. McCarthy\*  
Arman Tarverdyan

## BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS AND MASTER OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Tatiana Rita Azouri<sup>§</sup>  
Madison Larae Keefer<sup>§</sup>

Alia Destiny Rodriguez  
Mika Shengjia Yao<sup>§</sup>

*§Degree Earned with Honors ‡Pardee Honors Program  
øDean's Ambassador †Phi Beta Kappa Selected \*Graduated Jan 2026*

**CERTIFICATE IN AFRICAN STUDIES**

Ewura Esi Yankah<sup>ø</sup>

Jacob Bolutife Rivelli

**CERTIFICATE IN ASIAN STUDIES**

Mina Juliet Taylor

**CERTIFICATE IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**

Joseph Dorian Klam

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN ASIAN STUDIES**

Remi Miwa Hayashi  
Danna Isabel Hurwitz Saavedra

Jessica Young Lee<sup>‡</sup>  
Harmony Trinh\*

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN LATIN AMERICAN STUDIES**

Fabian Alejandro Salvador<sup>§‡ø</sup>

**BACHELOR OF ARTS IN MIDDLE EAST  
& NORTH AFRICA STUDIES**

Nadyan Pimentel

*§Degree Earned with Honors ‡Pardee Honors Program  
øDean's Ambassador †Phi Beta Kappa Selected \*Graduated Jan 2026*

## BACHELOR OF ARTS IN INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS

Amerah Tasneem Abderrazzaq <sup>§‡ø</sup>	Lorenzo De Gregorio
Aida Abraham	Bijou Ahn de Jong
Polina Aleksandrova	Charlie Joseph DeLuca
Nouf AlQahtani	Nicholas Vito DeMarco
Hailey Sarena Ancheta	Ava Catarina Doherty-Konczal <sup>§</sup>
Alexandra Katherine Angelos	Sofia Echenique
Viralika Arora	Victoria Elizabeth Erdman
Youssef Attieh*	Bryan Escobedo
Cristell Bacilio <sup>§‡ø</sup>	Maia Escobedo
Matthew Barsky	Cole James Fairweather <sup>§</sup>
Molly Lawren Bauernshub	Daniela Federich Rodrigues <sup>§</sup>
Lara Baykal <sup>§</sup>	Delfina Ferro <sup>§</sup>
Nora Bekkai <sup>§</sup>	Eliezer Fishman
Alyssa Bergo	Ella Flister
Finn Simon Cornelius Berkhout	Ella Froemelova <sup>§‡</sup>
Matthew Bernabe	William Fuller <sup>§ø</sup>
Anna Carolina Bianco <sup>§</sup>	Yemariam Kifle Gebeyehu
Andy Bogomolov <sup>§*</sup>	Andrea Germano
Emily Lucile Bowers*	Rebecca Jane Gish
Anastasia Bozhenova	Kerry McDonough Glynn
Zora Larae Brown	Yana Michelle Gokhman <sup>§ø</sup>
Jose Alexander Carrion Lugo	Divyata Govila <sup>§</sup>
Leslie Grace Catlin <sup>§ø</sup>	Smith Graninger <sup>§</sup>
Valeria Cavagliano*	Michael Benjamin Greene <sup>§</sup>
Jonah Levine Ceresney <sup>§ø</sup>	Jack Faulkner Grosberg
Isabella Simone Chaparro Will <sup>ø</sup>	Zhaoxi Guan
Sofia Isabel Chavez	Madeline Torres Hale*
Edward Cho	Alexa Justine Hankins*
Elise Choi <sup>ø</sup>	Callan Sweeney Harris
Carina Rose Ciampi	Cole Hecker
Banel Cisse	Rosemary Huang
William Clarke	Ezioma Igwe
Leilani Collado	Myla Beau Indigaro <sup>‡ø</sup>
Jaala Crenshaw <sup>§ø</sup>	Jasmine Jackson
Alexander Cruz	Richa Vijay Jindal <sup>ø</sup>
Graham Cummings <sup>§</sup>	

Armeen Lee Kazemi<sup>§</sup>  
 Charles Kehoe  
 Emily Valeria Romo Kelly  
 Aicha Kenani  
 Edward Khatchatrian<sup>§</sup>  
 Mia Isabela Knezevic<sup>§‡ø</sup>  
 Naomi Marie Knight  
 Theodore Sean Koay  
 Sky Lan  
 Maia Lane<sup>ø</sup>  
 Elizabeth Alexis Lanz  
 Isabella LeBlanc<sup>§‡</sup>  
 Hyewon Lee  
 Jasmine Hsiaowei Lee<sup>§‡</sup>  
 Kimberly Anne Leite  
 Jonathan Chung Hon Li\*  
 Aidan Patrick Long<sup>‡</sup>  
 Nadja Lopez Schmaeing  
 Evan Lou  
 Colin James Madara<sup>§</sup>  
 Ruhangiz Mamarasulova<sup>§</sup>  
 Dana Mansori  
 Elise Marnell  
 Gavin Marr  
 Joshua Marsh  
 Colin Sloan Marx  
 Iris Rane McColl<sup>§</sup>  
 Natalia Marie McNeil  
 Anabel Medina Gomez  
 Catia Sofia Mehring  
 Sofia George Metri  
 Rongan Mian  
 Miya Rose Mizuta  
 Rayna Elizabeth Vose Mook<sup>§</sup>  
 Bella Candalaria Moreno Enriquez<sup>‡</sup>  
 Kevin Alejandro Moscat  
 Alexia Christine Moutidis

Sinead Kiara Mulligan<sup>§</sup>  
 Martina Nacach Cowan Ros<sup>§</sup>  
 Hoai Co May Nguyen<sup>§</sup>  
 Iustinian Niculae  
 Farrah Anedi Ogelle  
 Margaret Elaine Olson<sup>§‡</sup>  
 Deniz Oray<sup>ø</sup>  
 Annabel Temiloluwa Owolabi  
 Krizia Pascuccio  
 Koel Rhea Bijal Patel  
 Jiajun Peng  
 Chi Nham Phan  
 Cindy Pino\*  
 Jessica Pearl Pratt  
 Olivia Price<sup>§‡ø</sup>  
 Bowen Ran<sup>§</sup>  
 Jasmine Richardson<sup>ø</sup>  
 Isaac Henry Robillard<sup>§</sup>  
 Nikolai Rodrigues  
 Jaime Saul Rodriguez-Estrada<sup>§</sup>  
 Daria Romaniuk<sup>§‡</sup>  
 Kathleen Sarah Renehan Rouse<sup>§ø</sup>  
 Malak Sadoumy  
 Sina Salehi  
 Fabian Alejandro Salvador<sup>§‡ø</sup>  
 Isabella Carolina Serrano\*  
 Margot Sevenants<sup>§</sup>  
 Sota Sezai  
 Sanishka Shah  
 Megan Butler Sheehan<sup>§‡</sup>  
 Tamerlan Shyngyssov<sup>§</sup>  
 Roshan Sivaraman<sup>§‡</sup>  
 Brent Skeete  
 Margaret Claire Smillie<sup>§</sup>

Ava Smith<sup>§</sup>  
Leo Jacobo Solomon<sup>§‡</sup>  
Sophia Jacqueline Sorcigli<sup>‡ø</sup>  
Hannah Taheri<sup>§</sup>  
Saanvi Singh Thakur  
Arman Ticku  
Alexander Tom<sup>§</sup>  
Daniela Yaneth Torres  
Mikayla Torres  
Matthew L. Turner  
Uchenna Osigbeme Uba  
Harlow Cecelia James Uzarowicz  
Charlot Valerio  
Jennifer Isela Vega Mancia<sup>§</sup>  
Carolina Ozelame Viamonte\*

Aidan Wayne Vinciguerra\*  
Himat-Vir Singh Virdee  
Karina Wurtz  
Yifan Xie  
Haoqing Yang<sup>§‡</sup>  
Shangkun Yang  
Gabriella Zaff  
Alice L. Zaniewski<sup>§</sup>  
Maria Alejandra Zegarra Andrade<sup>§\*</sup>  
Bo Patrick Zhang\*  
Lai Wai Zhang  
Lechi Zhang\*  
Jason Zheng  
Juliana Zraick<sup>§</sup>  
Nedda Zsembery

# LEADERSHIP

**Scott Taylor**

Dean

Professor of International Relations

**Timothy Longman**

Associate Dean of Academic Affairs

Professor of International Relations and Political  
Science

**Kaija Schilde**

Associate Dean for Studies

Professor of International Relations

## 2026 FACULTY

**Thomas Berger**

Professor of  
International Relations

**Aimee Genell**

Assistant Professor of  
International History

**Rachel Brulé**

Associate Professor of  
Global Development Policy

**Benjamin Goossen**

Assistant Professor of  
International History

**Alexander de la Paz**

Assistant Professor of  
International Security

**Jonathan Greenacre**

Assistant Professor of  
Global Development Policy

**Kevin P. Gallagher**

Professor of Global  
Development Policy

**William Grimes**

Professor of  
International Relations and  
Political Science

**Vesko Garčević**

Professor of the Practice of  
International Relations

**Paul Webster Hare**

Master Lecturer in  
International Relations

**Noora Lori**

Associate Professor of  
International Relations

**Shamiran Mako**

Associate Professor of  
International Relations

**Zoliswa Mali**

Senior Lecturer

**Andrei Mamolea**

Assistant Professor of  
International Relations

**Perry Mehrling**

Professor of International  
Political Economy

**Jeremy Menchik**

Associate Professor of  
International Relations and  
Political Science

**Judith M. Mmari**

Master Lecturer of  
African Languages

**Zachary Mondesire**

Assistant Professor of  
International Relations

**Tsitsi Musasike**

Professor of the Practice of  
Global Development Policy

**Adil Najam**

Dean Emeritus; Professor of  
International Relations and  
Earth & Environment

**Rachel Nolan**

Assistant Professor of  
International History

**Solomon Owusu**

Assistant Professor of  
Global Economic Policy

**Henrik Selin**

Professor of  
International Relations

**Quinn Slobodian**

Professor of  
International History

**Jessica Stern**

Research Professor

**Mark C. Storella**

Professor of the Practice of  
Diplomacy

**Sanne Verschuren**

Assistant Professor of  
International Security

**Jack Weinstein**

Professor of the Practice of  
International Security

**Joseph Wippl**

Professor of the Practice of  
International Relations

**John D. Woodward, Jr.**

Professor of the Practice of  
International Relations

**Min Ye**

Professor of  
International Relations

**Rosella Capella Zielinski**

Associate Professor of  
Political Science