

Members

Forum for Private Security Research

Robert Parr MBE - FSPR Administrator

Bio: Robert (Bob) Parr is a PhD Student with the Defence Studies Department of King's College London, currently researching the ethical legitimacy of uptake from the private security sector in the context of support to national military power. In addition to being an Administrator of the Centre for Private Security Research, he has established the FSPR Ethics Working Group. He is a former career member of UK Special Forces and National Intelligence, holds a Master's Degree in Security and Risk Management from the University of Leicester (awarded with Distinction), and has more than a decade and a half of experience as a private security contractor. His research interests include:

- The private security/military industry
- The history of private military operations
- UK national defence doctrine
- The role of ethics in the utilisation of national military power
- Global human rights

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Prof Eugenio Cusumano

Bio: Eugenio Cusumano is an assistant professor in International Relations at the University of Leiden. He obtained his PhD in 2012 from the European University Institute and was previously a Fulbright Scholar at the Korbel School of International Studies in Denver and a lecturer at the Baltic Defence College.

His research covers the outsourcing of security and military support both on land and at sea, with a focus on the study of the reasons underlying the preference for public or private providers of security and their variations across countries and over time.

His work has been published in leading international relations and security studies journal such as the Journal of Strategic Studies, International Relations, Armed Forces & Society, and International Peacekeeping.

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Prof Luciano Vaz Ferreira

Bio: Luciano Vaz Ferreira is an assistant professor in International Relations at the Federal University of Rio Grande, Brazil. He was previously an officer at the Secretary of Justice and Human Rights and the Secretary of Public Security in Southern Brazil. He has also been a visiting fellow at the School of International Service in the American University, USA. He holds a PhD in International Strategic Studies awarded by the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul.

Luciano's current research interests are related to security and strategic studies, international law, the private security sector, maritime security and the South Atlantic Security Complex. Specifically, he is researching the use of private maritime security companies (both in ports and on-board) and the expansion of this market, including its regulation and its relationship with national navies. This research is funded by the Brazilian Ministry of Education.

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Prof Paul Higate

Bio: Professor Paul Higate has worked on the gendered culture of military and militarised masculinities over the last two decades. He has published on the transition of military personnel to civilian life, UN and NATO Peacekeeping Operations and gendered relations with female members of the local population, and most recently, masculinity and Private Military and Security Companies. He is currently looking at militarisation in the UK context.

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Assistant Professor Ori Swed

Bio: Assistant Professor Ori Swed is the Director of the Peace, War & Social Conflict Laboratory at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, USA. He is a political sociologist, interested in the role of organisations from a global perspective, particularly as they relate to peace, war and human security issues. Ori is particularly interested in the privatisation of aid and security, and recently co-authored the book "The Sociology of the Privatization of Security", published by Palgrave Macmillan.

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Dr Joakim Berndtsson

Bio: Joakim Berndtsson is an Associate Professor with the School of Global Studies at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. Berndtsson has a background in International Relations and Peace and Development Research.

His primary field of research is in private security studies, focusing on themes such as state control, professional identities and the relationship between military organisations and private security actors. Additionally, Berndtsson works on civil-military relations and public opinion of the armed forces in Sweden. Together with Chris Kinsey at KCL, Berndtsson is the co-editor of The Routledge Research Companion to Security Outsourcing (Routledge, 2016).

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[School of Global Studies Bio page](#)

Dr Molly Dunigan

Bio: Molly Dunigan is a senior political scientist and associate director of the Defense and Political Sciences Department at the RAND Corporation, as well as a lecturer in Carnegie Mellon University's Institute for Politics and Strategy. Her research interests center on international security, with a focus on private military and security contractors, civil–military relations, irregular warfare, counterinsurgency, maritime security, and civilian deployment.

She is the recipient of numerous awards, including a U.S. Institute of Peace Jennings Randolph Peace Fellowship, a U.S. State Department Foreign Language Areas Studies Fellowship, and an International Studies Association Catalytic Research Grant. An internationally recognized expert on private security contracting, Dunigan's work on this topic has been cited in USA Today, Time Magazine, Washington Post, U.S. News & World Report, and Forbes. Dunigan's publications have been favorably reviewed in Military Review, The Journal of Military and Strategic Studies, The Journal of Military History, Survival, Parameters, and The Boston Globe, and her op-eds have appeared in The National Interest, USA Today, The Hill, U.S. News & World Report, and The Christian Science Monitor. She received her Ph.D. in Government from Cornell University.

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Dr Alison Hawks

Bio: Alison Hawks is currently an analyst on the Section 809 Panel, a congressionally mandated commission tasked with streamlining and codifying defense acquisition. She is also currently a Research Fellow at the Defence Studies Department (DSD), King's College London. Previously, she was a Lecturer at DSD, delivering professional military education to British and international military officers at a Masters level, and has lectured in American politics at Brunel University, as

well as numerous undergraduate courses in the Department of War Studies. Her doctorate thesis was in military sociology, examining how U.K. and U.S. military veterans transition to civilian life by become armed private security contractors. She has given numerous presentations on her work in the U.K., U.S., and Sweden. Alison was involved in the development of the PSC.1 Standard for the private security service provider industry as a member of both the Working Group and Technical Committee, and a contributing author of the UNODC Handbook for the Rules of Force for Private Security Companies. She has published on her research area and is currently working on two projects; mergers and acquisitions within the private security industry and private security contractors as epistemic communities. She received her PhD from the Department of War Studies, King's College London and her MA in Strategic Studies from the University of Leeds. She holds a BA in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego.

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Dr Hin-Yan Liu

Bio: Hin-Yan Liu is an Associate Professor at the Centre for International Law, Conflict and Crisis, Faculty of Law, University of Copenhagen. He is the author of *Law's Impunity* (Hart Publishing 2015) which argues that ordinary legal processes structure and maintain the situations of impunity enjoyed by the modern Private Military Company.

In the book chapter 'Contract Law as Cover' Hin-Yan sets out the divergent obligations stipulated by contractual provisions and the requirements mandated by human rights law. In an article with Christopher Kinsey, 'Challenging the Strength of the Anti-Mercenary Norm' forthcoming in the *Journal of Global Security Studies*, we critically re-examine the asserted strong international norm against mercenaries.

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Dr Yuriy Loboda

Bio: Dr. Yuriy Loboda graduated from Dnipropetrovsk National University in 2002 with the degree of Specialist in Linguistics. In 2007 he defended his PhD dissertation in the history of philosophy. From 2006 until 2017 he was a lecturer of philosophy in Ukrainian universities, and in 2008 started a new research project titled "Philosophy of War". He has developed and discussed this project during research visits to the Universities of Oxford (CCW conference in 2009), Cambridge (2010), Trondheim (2012-2013), PRIO (2013), York (UK, 2013), Greensboro (North Carolina, USA, 2015-2016, graduate course taught: "Understanding armed conflict").

Dr. Loboda has made presentations at conferences hosted by the Dutch Defence Academy (Breda, 2014), Fort Bragg (2016) and Ukrainian Defence universities. He is a current MA student in War Studies at KCL, and is seeking to improve his knowledge of intelligence gathering by private actors during armed conflicts; security enforcement in conditions of “hybrid war” in the homefront, battlefield and grey zones; and to clarify how private actors (in Ukraine known as "volunteer groups") can contribute to state security.

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Dr Sean McFate

Bio: Dr. Sean McFate is an author, novelist and expert in foreign policy and national security strategy. Currently, he is a Fellow at Oxford University and a Senior Fellow at the Atlantic Council, a think tank. He is also a professor of strategy at Georgetown University’s School of Foreign Service and the National Defense University in Washington DC.

McFate’s career began as a paratrooper and officer in the U.S. Army’s storied 82nd Airborne Division. He served under Stanley McChrystal and David Petraeus, and graduated elite training programs, such as the U.S. Army’s jungle warfare school in Panama.

After this, McFate became a private military contractor in Africa. Among his many experiences there, he dealt with warlords, raised small armies, worked with armed groups in the Sahara, transacted arms deals in Eastern Europe, and helped prevent an impending genocide in the Great Lakes region.

In the world of international business, McFate was a Vice President at TD International, a boutique political risk consulting firm with offices in Washington, Houston, Singapore and Zurich. Before this, he was a manager at DynCorp International, a consultant at BearingPoint (now Deloitte Consulting) and an associate at Booz Allen Hamilton. He was also a social scientist for the RAND Corporation.

McFate co-wrote the novels *Shadow War* and *Deep Black* (William Morrow), part of the Tom Locke series based on his military experiences. New York Times bestselling author Mark Greaney said: “I was blown away.... simply one of the most entertaining and intriguing books I’ve read in quite some time.”

He also authored the non-fiction book *The Modern Mercenary: Private Armies and What They Mean for World Order* (Oxford University Press) which details how war and world order are changing in the 21st century. *The Economist* called it a “fascinating and disturbing book.”

A coveted speaker, he has spoken at the British House of Commons, top universities and popular audience venues. He has appeared in the *New York Times*, *Wall Street Journal*, *Washington Post*, MSNBC, Fox News, NPR, BBC, *Economist*, Vice/HBO, The Discovery Channel, American Heroes Channel and other outlets. He has published articles in *Foreign Policy*, *The Atlantic*, *Politico*, *The New Republic*, *Daily Beast*, *Vice*, *Salon*, *War on the Rocks*, *Military Review* and *African Affairs*. As a scholar, he has authored eight book chapters in edited academic volumes, and published a U.S. Army War College monograph on how to raise foreign armies.

McFate holds a BA from Brown University, a MPP from the Harvard Kennedy School of Government, and a PhD in international relations from the London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE). He lives in Washington, DC.

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Bryan Stinchfield

Bio: Bryan Stinchfield is an Associate Professor of Organizational Studies at Franklin & Marshall College where he conducts research in, and teaches courses focused on, strategy, innovation, and natural resource conflicts.

He earned his B.A. and MBA from the University of Pittsburgh; and his Ph.D. in business with a focus on strategy and environmental resources from Southern Illinois University. Prior to academia, he was an officer in the United States Army, a counter-terrorism officer, and worked in the private sector.

He has conducted research and/or business in Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan, Turkey, Bolivia, and throughout Europe.

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James Edwards

Bio: James Edwards is currently studying for an MA in National Security Studies at King's College London. His dissertation proposal is aimed at how the emergence of 'non-traditional' providers of private security, outside the Western hemisphere, will impact both the market and international security. The dissertation will likewise explore what international regulation and precedent exists for managing it.

James graduated from the University of Cambridge in 2016 having read history. He is now progressing through the National Security Studies MA with the additional elective modules 'Contemporary Conflict' and 'Past & Present British Intelligence'. He recently joined the Honourable Artillery Company as a 2nd Lieutenant, taking control of a soon-to-be-formed Troop within II Squadron whose role is Counter Intelligence, Surveillance and Reconnaissance (C-ISR), helping take forward the HAC's new role within the 1 ISR Brigade.

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Helene Olsen

Bio: Helene Olsen has an MA in War Studies awarded by King's College London, and is currently a Doctoral candidate and Graduate Teaching Assistant with the Department of War Studies. Her PhD research is focused on the moral objections towards mercenaries and private actors of war, and the perceived legitimacy of these actors. In addition to teaching and PhD research, Helene works in the educational charity The Brilliant Club, where she manages one of their outreach programmes.

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Frauke Renz

Bio: Frauke Renz is founder of IR.Asia and a Pacific Forum CSIS Fellow, researching Chinese private security companies (PSCs). She is serving as an expert in discussions within the Swiss government on training for PSCs, and has developed a training module on PSCs for the legal division of the American Red Cross.

Previously, she worked for Erik Prince's Frontier Services Group. Frauke is currently finalising her PhD in international law, focused on state responsibility for the acts of PSCs and analysing new trends in warfare. She has been interviewed by media outlets such as the Financial Times and has published internationally on PSCs.

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Tanmay Samajder

Bio: Tanmay Samajder holds a BA in Political Science and is currently studying for an MA in National Security Studies with the American Military University (AMU). He is a former officer cadet of the Bangladesh Military Academy, and works as a Close Protection Officer in Germany.

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Yamini Sharma

Bio: Yamini Sharma is a first-year master's candidate at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva, Switzerland. She is pursuing her specialisation in Global Security. She is deeply interested in the practices of private military and security

companies and their impact on security-market dynamics as well as the approach to foreign policies. She seeks to further explore the complexities that exist within the field of private security studies.

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Bryan Strawser

Bio: Bryan Strawser is a Senior Fellow at the Center for Cyber and Homeland Security at George Washington University where his focus is on public/private sector collaboration related to national security and cybersecurity issues. He was previously a Humphrey Policy Fellow at the University of Minnesota's Humphrey School of Public Affairs.

Bryan is also Founder, Principal, and CEO at Bryghtpath LLC, a strategic advisory firm based in Saint Paul, Minnesota, USA. He has more than twenty-five years of experience in the areas of global security, business continuity, crisis management and intelligence. He also holds a BS in Criminal Justice Administration from the University of Phoenix and a MBA from the University of Minnesota's Carlson School of Management.

Bryan completed the National Preparedness Leadership Initiative Executive Education Program at Harvard University's JFK School of Government & T.H. Chan School of Public Health in 2012.

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