

William Arnold

✉ warnold@american.edu | 🎓 [Google Scholar](#) | 🌐 [Website](#) | [LinkedIn](#)

Education

American University

(August 2023-June 2028 (expected))

- Doctor of Philosophy from the Department of Justice, Law, Criminology and Security (JLCS), School of Public Affairs.
- Dissertation: Explaining Variation in National Approaches to Counterterrorism. Committee: Tricia Bacon (chair), Jordan Tama, Joseph K. Young.
- Fields: Terrorism and Political Violence; International Security.
- Overall GPA: 4.0

University of St Andrews

(September 2021-September 2022)

- Masters of Letters (MLitt) in Terrorism and Political Violence: **Distinction**; Deans' List for academic excellence.

University of Warwick

(September 2018-July 2021)

- Bachelor of Arts (BA) in Politics and International Studies: **First Class with Honours**.

Peer-Reviewed Publications

- **Arnold, W.**, DaVisio, K., & Miller-Idriss, C. (2026). Playing with fire: The symbolic role of fire in political violence. *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism*, 1–14. <https://doi.org/10.1080/1057610X.2026.2683516>
- **Arnold, W.** (2025). Liberatory or predatory? Gendered perspectives on the role of women in the Weather Underground. *Behavioral Sciences of Terrorism and Political Aggression*, 17(2), 227–241. <https://doi.org/10.1080/19434472.2024.2404884>

Under Review

- Celebrities in Ukraine: Actor Impact and Legitimacy (under review).

Working Papers

- Student Memory of Terrorist Attacks: Measuring Threat Salience Over Time (with David Malet).
- Old Media and New(s) Influencers: TikTok and Conflict Narratives (with Kaitlyn DaVisio).

Other Public Writing

- Arnold, W., DaVisio, K., & Miller-Idriss, C. (2026, June 19). Why We Learned More When We Planned Less. *Active Learning in Political Science*. <https://activelearningsps.com/2026/06/19/why-we-learned-more-when-we-planned-less/>

Conference Presentations

- Understanding Variation in National Approaches to Counterterrorism, British International Studies Association, Brighton, UK. *5 June 2026*.
- Understanding Variation in National Approaches to Counterterrorism, International Studies Association, Columbus, USA. *24 March 2026*.
- Old Media and New(s) Influencers: Content Creators and Narratives of Political Violence on TikTok, IS-ISSS Annual Conference, Washington DC, USA. *18 October 2025* (with Kaitlyn DaVisio).
- Celebrities in Ukraine: Actor Framing and Legitimacy, European International Studies Association Pan-European Conference, Bologna, IT. *28 August 2025*.
- What Inspired ISIS-Inspired Attacks? Battlefield Success and Support for Violent Extremism, Oceanic Conference on International Studies, Sydney, AU. *9 July 2025* (with David Malet; non-presenting author).
- Liberatory or Predatory? Gendered Perspectives on the Role of Women in the Weather Underground, Society for Terrorism Research, Oklahoma City, USA. *5 September 2024*.
- Mainstreaming Male Supremacy, Terrorism and Social Media Conference, Swansea, UK. *18 June 2024*.

Workshops and Symposia

- New Era Workshop participant, Bridging the Gap, Denver, USA, *24-26 September 2026*.
- Invited Panellist, Division of International Criminology Workshop Panel, “Fresh Semester, Foreign Ground: Culture, Belonging, and the International Scholar Experience.”, August 2026.
- Playing with Fire: The Symbolic Role of Fire in Political Violence, American Sociology Association, Chicago, USA, *11 August 2025* (with Kaitlyn DaVisio and Cynthia Miller-Idriss; non-presenting author).
- Playing with Fire: The Symbolic Role of Fire in Political Violence, Fashion & the Far-Right Symposium, Washington, DC, *16 May 2025* (with Kaitlyn DaVisio and Cynthia Miller-Idriss).
- Celebrities in Ukraine: Actor Impact and Legitimacy, Outsiders in Ukraine Workshop, London, UK. *11 March 2024*.

Teaching Experience

Domestic Terrorism and Political Violence (Summer 2024, 2026)

- Joint Undergraduate and Masters level course (400/600).
- Course provided an overview of terrorism and political violence in the US.
- Designed a syllabus and was the primary instructor for this course.

Introduction to Justice Research (Summer 2024, 2026)

- Undergraduate level course (200).
- Course focused on quantitative methodology and research design.
- Designed a syllabus and was the primary instructor for this course.

Invited Guest Lectures

- “Understanding counterterrorism.” George Washington University, Department of Sociology, April 2026.
- “Can we call it terrorism? The case of the Weather Underground.” American University, Department of Justice, Law and Criminology, September 2023.

Research Experience

Graduate Research Assistant – American University (August 2023-Present)

- Working with Dr. Jori Breslawski (2023-present), using public opinion data to study local attitudes towards mining projects in Africa and Israeli attitudes towards aid provision in Gaza.
- Worked with Dr. David Malet (2023-2025) on projects related to IS-inspired attacks, foreign actors in the Ukraine War and pedagogical approaches to the teaching of terrorism.

PhD Research Associate – Polarization & Extremism Research & Innovation Lab (PERIL) (May 2023-August 2025)

- Worked on qualitative research projects within the Gendered Violence Division of PERIL.

Research Executive– Message House (January 2023-July 2023)

- Developed proficiency in interview, survey and focus group research.

Awards and Grants

- Best Student Paper Award. Society for Terrorism Research, 2024.
- Graduate Merit Award. American University, 2023-2024, 2024-2025, 2025-2026. Annual value \$61,766.

Service

- Peer review for journals: *Critical Studies on Terrorism*; *Journal of Research in Crime and Delinquency*.
- Member, JLCs PhD Advisory Council, 2023-2026.
- Co-organiser, JLCs Terrorism Students Mentoring Group.