

K.P. O'Reilly, ABD
University of South Carolina
(Expected Graduation: December 2008)
International Relations

Research and Teaching Interests: International Security, US Foreign Policy, US National Security Policy, Foreign Policy Decision-Making, Nuclear Proliferation, Terrorism, and International Law

K.P. is a Ph.D. candidate (ABD) in political science at the University of South Carolina. After earning his B.A. in government from Lawrence University (Appleton, WI), K.P. attended Emory University School of Law receiving a J.D. Admitted as a member of the bar in Georgia and Wisconsin, he worked in private practice in the Milwaukee area specializing in trial and appellate practice. K.P. returned to academia obtaining a M.A. in International Studies from Marquette University prior to coming to South Carolina to further his studies in international relations.

His dissertation explores the continuing dilemma of nuclear proliferation. Recognizing the continuing nature of the problem nuclear proliferation poses for policy-makers and scholars, his dissertation seeks to revisit the so-called "proliferation puzzle." While applying theoretical perspectives from both realism and liberalism and their differing loci for attempting understanding, scholarship covering proliferation has largely failed to utilize agent-based cognitive models. The dissertation will utilize the expanding research agenda of operational code analysis to shed light on the world views of the leaders of countries which have reached the nuclear proliferation tipping point — deciding whether to proliferate. By analyzing public statements by leaders from actual and potential proliferators as Libya, South Africa, and India, the operational codes of these states' leaders can be revealed giving insight as to how they perceive the world around them; either hostile or friendly and a world best suited for either cooperative or conflictual tactics. Furthermore, through operational code analysis, preferences of leaders can be better understood, providing a critical variable to increase the explanatory and predictive power of pre-existing approaches. The Dissertation Committee includes Professors Harvey Starr (Chair), Donald J. Puchala, Jerel Rosati, and Akan Malici (Furman University).

K.P. has served as both a research and teaching assistant for the Department of Political Science. To date, he has already taught his own courses on US Foreign Policy, US National Security Policy, and International Law. In the near future he hopes to develop courses on the issues of Nuclear Proliferation and Terrorism.

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