

## Brett V. Benson

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### Education

Ph.D., Political Science, Duke University, 2006.

M.A., Economics, Duke University, 2006.

B.A., Brigham Young University, 1998.

Double Major: Mandarin Chinese and Honors Philosophy, *magna cum laude*.

### Positions

Assistant Professor

Department of Political Science, Vanderbilt University, 2006 - present.

Visiting Instructor

Department of Political Science, Utah State University, 2004 – 2006.

Graduate Instructor

Department of Political Science, Duke University, 2003.

### Research Interests

International Relations: International Strategy, Interdependence and Conflict, International Choice and Commitment Strategies, Chinese and East Asian relations and politics.

Political Economy: Game Theory, Positive Political Theory, International Trade and Economics, and New Institutionalism.

### Awards

Program for Advanced Research in the Social Sciences Fellow, Duke University, 2003-04.

Institute for Humane Studies Summer Graduate Research Fellow, 2004.

Foreign Language and Area Studies Fellowship (Mandarin Chinese), 2002-03.

Earhart Fellow, 1998-99, 1999-00, 2000-01.

Duke University Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, 2000.

Duke University Graduate Summer Research Fellowship, 1999.

Brigham Young University Trustees Scholarship, 1991-92, 1995-96, 1996-97, 1997-98.

### Articles

“Economic Interdependence and Peace: A Game-Theoretic Analysis” (with Emerson M.S. Niou), *Journal of East Asian Studies* 7, 1 (2007).

“Public Opinion, Foreign Policy, and the Security Balance in the Taiwan Strait” (with Emerson M.S. Niou), *Security Studies*, 14, 2 (2004/2005): 1-16.

### Book Chapters

“The U.S. Security Commitment to Taiwan Should Remain Ambiguous,” (with Emerson M.S. Niou) in *The Rise of China in Asia: Security Implications*, ed. by Carolyn W. Pumphrey, Strategic Studies Institute, 2002.

- Works In Progress**
- “Keeping Them Guessing: A Theory of Strategic Ambiguity” (with Emerson M.S. Niou).
  - “Nonverifiability Problems and Implications for International Organizations” (with David Soskice).
  - Navigating the Taiwan Strait Dilemma: An Analysis of the Factors Underlying the China-Taiwan Conflict* (book manuscript with Emerson M.S. Niou).
  - “Flexible Commitments and Move Abdication: Uncertainty and Shifts in Relative Bargaining Capacity.”
- Presentations**
- “Non-verifiability Problems of Non-tariff Barriers and Implications for International Trade Agreements” (with David Soskice).  
Micro-Foundations of Federal Institutional Stability Conference, Duke University, 2004.
  - “Keeping Them Guessing: A Theory of Strategic Ambiguity” (with Emerson M.S. Niou).  
Midwest Political Science Association Meeting, Chicago, IL, 2004.  
American Political Science Association Conference, Boston, MA, 2002.  
Midwest Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL, 2001.  
Conference on East Asian Security, University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, 1999.
  - “Economic Interdependence and Peace: A Game-Theoretic Analysis” (with Emerson Niou).  
American Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA, 2006.  
American Political Science Association Conference, Chicago, IL, 2004.  
American Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, PA, 2003.  
Public Choice Society Conference, Nashville, TN, 2003.  
Peace Science Society, Tucson, AZ, 2002.  
American Political Science Association Conference in Boston, MA, 2002.  
Conference on Taiwan Issues, University of South Carolina, Charleston, SC, 2002.
- Invited Presentations, Workshops, and Conferences**
- Novus Ordo Seclorum: Summer Program in the American Founding, hosted by Liberty Fund, Park City, UT, June 5-12, 2005. Invited to present “Non-verifiability Problems in International Politics.”
  - The Summer Institute on the Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models, Duke University, 2004. Invited to be the teaching assistant for John Aldrich and Arthur Lupia.
  - Institute of Humane Studies Summer Research Fellow workshop, Washington, DC, 2004.  
Presented, “Non-verifiability Problems of Non-tariff Barriers and Implications for International Trade Agreements” (with David Soskice).  
Duke University Social Science Research Institute seminar series, Fall 2003. Presented, “Flexible Commitments and Move Abdication: Uncertainty and Shifts in Relative Bargaining Capacity.”
  - Triangle Institute for Security Studies Fourth Annual New Faces Conference, Durham, NC, 2003. Presented, “Ambiguity and Dual Deterrence.”
- Research Experience**
- Research Assistant for Professor John Aldrich, spring 2004.
  - Research Assistant for Professor Emerson Niou, spring 1999-spring 2004.
- Teaching Experience**
- Vanderbilt University, Assistant Professor  
Introduction to Formal Theory and Modelling, spring 2007.  
Introduction to International Politics, fall 2006.
  - Utah State University, Visiting Instructor  
East Asian Political Economy, spring 2005.  
Chinese Government and Politics, spring 2005.  
East Asian Security, fall 2004.  
Introduction to International Politics, fall 2004.

Duke University, Instructor  
International Cooperation and Commitments, fall 2003.

Duke University, Guest Lecturer  
Conflict, Collusion, and Cooperation, fall 2002.

Duke University, Teaching Assistant  
Political Applications of Game Theory with Emerson Niou, spring 2002.  
Positive Political Theory with Emerson Niou, fall 2001.  
Analysis of Political Decisions with Michael Munger, spring 2000.  
Politics of East Asia with Emerson Niou, fall 2000.

### Field Work

China. Fall 2000.  
Observed and studied rural life and commerce, local self-governance and village elections, and regional economic growth.

Taiwan. Spring 2000.  
Invited to observe Taiwan's presidential election with a delegation supported by the Asia Foundation and studied the impact of public opinion on the trade and security environment in the Taiwan Strait.

China. Summer 1999.  
Participated in survey sampling with the PRC Ministry of Civil Affairs about village elections, perceptions toward democratization, and the relationship between democratization and economic growth.

Taiwan. Fall 1992-Winter 1994.  
Studied Mandarin and Chinese culture.

### Language Skills

Mandarin Chinese.  
Proficient speaking, reading and writing.

### References

Professor Emerson M.S. Niou  
*Professor of Political Science, Duke University*  
Duke University, 406 Perkins Library, Durham, NC 27708, (919) 660-4307  
[niou@duke.edu](mailto:niou@duke.edu)

Professor Chris Gelpi  
*Professor of Political Science, Duke University*  
Duke University, 318 Perkins Library, Durham, NC 27708, (919) 660-4318  
[gelpi@duke.edu](mailto:gelpi@duke.edu)

Professor David Soskice  
*Professor of Political Science, Duke University*  
Duke University, 339 Perkins Library, Durham, NC 27708, (919) 660-4311 [soskice@duke.edu](mailto:soskice@duke.edu)