

# NATIONAL SECURITY

The Tobin Project seeks applications from doctoral and law students undertaking work related to its initiative on national security. This program fosters rigorous, policy-relevant research on how the U.S. and other actors pursue security in the modern international system.

The deadline for applications is February 17, 2014.

## GRADUATE RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND FORUM IN NATIONAL SECURITY

The Tobin Project seeks to foster innovative research that addresses major challenges facing society. Toward this end, the Tobin Project builds its research inquiries around questions of lasting public and academic importance—questions whose answers could contribute to understanding and improving public life. While this particular initiative is rooted in research related to U.S. national security, we welcome work that addresses the experiences of other international actors. The topics below are indicative of our current research interests.

- **Ideas and Ideology in Politics and Conflict:** How do ideologies and beliefs contribute to the presence and intensity of conflicts in regions of strategic importance to the U.S.?
- **Managing Political Transitions:** What are the effects of third-party intervention in political transitions in strategically-important countries? How can international powers best manage these transitions?
- **Shifting Political Economies Within and Across States:** How do shifts in a state's political economy affect the national security interests of the state?

The following page lists a more detailed description of these research priorities. Doctoral students *from all disciplines* and law students who are considering research on these topics *and related topics* are strongly encouraged to apply. The Tobin Project's national security initiative works with leading scholars from backgrounds including international relations, comparative politics, history, law, area studies, and management.

### RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP AND FORUM

The fellowship is intended to subsidize research expenses and provide general support to graduate students. Most awards will not exceed \$1,500. Applicants should note any additional research costs in the budget. These will be considered if funding is available.

Fellowship recipients will attend regular meetings in Cambridge, MA, where they will present final or in-progress outcomes of their research at the Tobin Project's Graduate Student Forum. The forum provides an interdisciplinary seminar-style environment for fellowship recipients and other selected graduate students to receive feedback on their research. The forum will meet approximately once a month during the fall 2014 semester and may continue into the spring 2015 semester. There will also be an introductory meeting in the late spring of 2014.

### APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- Curriculum Vitae
- Project title and short abstract (1 paragraph)
- Research proposal (2–3 pages). Please include the following in the proposal:
  - Research questions, methodology, and initial hypotheses
  - Connection to the Tobin Project's research initiatives (see next page) and Tobin's five principles for strategic research (see <http://tobinproject.org/tobin-project-model>)
  - Expected outcomes (e.g., journal article, dissertation chapter, etc.) and a timeline
  - Potential impact of the project in the academic literature and public policy
  - Budget
- Name and contact information for faculty adviser(s)

Please email application materials as a single PDF to [research@tobinproject.org](mailto:research@tobinproject.org). In the subject line, please indicate that you are applying to the National Security (NS) Forum.

More information at:  
[www.tobinproject.org](http://www.tobinproject.org)

# NATIONAL SECURITY RESEARCH PRIORITIES

The following research questions provide further detail on the Tobin Project's national security research priorities. They are not exhaustive, but rather indicate the type of work we hope to support.

## Ideas and Ideology in Politics and Conflict

As new tools of information diffusion allow a greater number of actors within and across states to share and develop ideas and values, scholars and policymakers must better understand the potential impact of these ideas on international politics and conflict. How do ideologies and beliefs contribute to the presence and intensity of conflicts in regions of strategic importance to the U.S.? How can governments counter the violent narratives promoted by al-Qaeda and similar organizations? How does false information influence the formulation and implementation of foreign policy in the U.S. and abroad, and how, if at all, could such influence be minimized?

## Managing Political Transitions

Despite the U.S.'s extensive experience with managing political transitions abroad, there is little consensus among scholars and policymakers about when such transitions are in the American interest. There is also little understanding of how to shape such transitions to maximize their chances of long-term success. What are the effects of intervention in political transitions in strategically-important countries? What are the signs that states or regions are fragile or likely to destabilize? How can international powers best manage these transitions? These questions are particularly important as the U.S. and the world grapple with ongoing revolutions across the Middle East and the prospect of future political change in China.

## Shifting Political Economies Within and Across States

Observers of international relations often overlook the effect that shifting political economies within states can have on the national security interests of those states. For example, how do factors such as the growing clout of middle classes in countries such as Turkey, China, Iran, and India affect the perceptions of those states' leaders about their national security interests? What are the implications of those dynamics for U.S. security? How do changes in factors within the U.S. such as immigration patterns and the income distribution affect U.S. leaders' understanding of the national interest? How and why do elite perspectives of the national interest differ from those of the general public?

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