



Call for Proposals: TRIP Academic–Practitioner Partnerships for Survey Design

The **Teaching, Research, and International Policy (TRIP) Project** invites proposals for short-term collaborative research partnerships between academic researchers and policy practitioners. We seek collaborative teams interested in researching pressing international policy issues. This initiative supports the co-design of original survey questions about policy-relevant topics in international relations (IR) or foreign policy, to be fielded in upcoming TRIP surveys of IR and foreign policy experts who work in universities and think tanks. Ideally, the results would inform thinking on a concrete problem faced by practitioners and would contribute to scholarly research in the field of international relations or foreign policy. Examples of potential partnerships might include, **but are not limited to**:

- A security studies scholar and a defense official develop a survey experiment on how experts perceive the credibility of military alliances.
- An international political economy scholar and a trade policy practitioner assess expert views on the future of multilateral institutions.
- A human rights scholar and a practitioner in an advocacy organization develop questions around the changing efficacy of human rights norms in different regions.

Objective

The TRIP Project will facilitate **at least four partnerships** between academic researchers and practitioners (from government, IGOs, NGOs, or private companies) working on issues that have contemporary policy relevance. Each selected team will co-develop survey content that contributes to the empirical understanding of international relations and bridges the theory-practice divide.

Structure

- **Application Format:** Interested applicants should apply in **pairs**, consisting of:
 - At least one academic researcher (PhD student, post-doctoral fellow, or faculty member).
 - At least one practitioner (affiliated with a government agency, IGO, NGO, or private company).

- **Online Workshop:** Selected teams will be invited to participate in an **online workshop** (Fall 2025, date TBD), during which they will:
 - Present their initial ideas to the TRIP team and fellow grantees.
 - Receive feedback on draft questions and research design from TRIP PIs and external reviewers.
 - Refine their survey questions for implementation on a survey that will be fielded by the TRIP Team.

What We Are Looking For

We seek proposals that:

- Address **pressing international policy issues**, especially those at the intersection of academic and applied work.
- Demonstrate **genuine collaboration** between academic and practitioner partners.
- Have the potential to contribute to both **academic publications** and inform the thinking or decision-making of policy practitioners.
- Include survey questions suitable for **IR scholars, think tank experts**, or both.
- Clear plans to use the data in academic peer-reviewed research and in writing aimed at the public and/or policy practitioners.

Topics may include—but are not limited to—foreign policy decision-making, global governance, security studies, political economy, nuclear policy, global public health, geopolitics of emerging technologies, environmental cooperation, and human rights.

Deliverables

- Participation in two online workshops (one before fielding the survey and one after).
- A research paper suitable for presentation at an academic conference and a shorter public-facing piece suitable for publication (e.g., *Foreign Policy*, *Foreign Affairs*, *Lawfare*).

Who Should Apply

We encourage applications from:

- Early career scholars (PhD students, Postdocs, and Assistant Professors)
- Scholars in political science, IR, public policy, and related disciplines.
- Practitioners with demonstrated interest in empirical research and policy analysis.
- Diverse and multidisciplinary teams.

How many questions can I ask?

Each proposal should include no more than five units. We adopt the Time-sharing Experiments for Social Science (TESS) definition of a “unit” (<https://www.tessexperiments.org/html/limits.html>). Each question counts as one unit. Short framing experiments in which the treatment is embedded in the question also count as a single unit, but more involved experiments with a scenario-based manipulation or image-based prime would count as two or more units. Note that complex factorial experiments can count as a single unit as long as a given participant is exposed to a single (short) question. Given the expected sample size, however, we recommend against more than two or three treatment groups in most cases.

Submission Guidelines

Proposals should not exceed **two single-spaced pages** (12-point font) and must include:

1. **Research topic and description of policy relevance.**
2. **Draft survey question(s)** or experimental design ideas (five units maximum).
3. Explanation of how the academic-practitioner collaboration enhances the project.
4. Preferred survey population(s) (IR scholars, think tank experts, or both).
5. Plans for dissemination of results (academic and policy-oriented outlets).
6. Brief bios of all team members (can be appended).

Please submit proposals to **irsurvey@wm.edu** by **October 20, 2025**.

Questions? Contact **Ryan Powers** (Associate Professor and Gary K. Bertsch Director of the Benson-Bertsch Center for International Trade and Security at the University of Georgia): **ryan.powers@uga.edu**.