TRIP Snap Poll 24 Report

Teaching, Research & International Policy (TRIP) Project
Global Research Institute (GRI)
https://trip.wm.edu/home

Irene Entringer Garcia Blanes
William & Mary

Susan Peterson
William & Mary

Ryan Powers
Center for International Trade and Security
School of Public and International Affairs
University of Georgia

Michael J. Tierney
William & Mary

March 2026

Introduction

We are pleased to share the results of the 21th Teaching, Research and International Policy (TRIP) Snap Poll, fielded with the support of the Carnegie Corporation of New York. Our polls provide real-time data in the wake of significant policy proposals, during international crises, and on emerging foreign policy debates. In this survey, we cover the Iran War.

Methodology

We attempted to contact all international relations (IR) scholars in the United States. We define IR scholars as individuals who are employed at a college or university in a political science department or professional school and who teach or conduct research on issues that cross international borders. Of the 6,088 scholars across the United States that we contacted, 949 responded to at least one question. The resulting response rate is approximately 15.6 percent. The poll was open from March 3 to March 5 of 2026.

Email: irsurvey@wm.edu

Sample vs. Population Comparison

Table 1: Sample vs. Population Comparison: Gender

Gender	Respondents Count	Respondents Percentage	Population Count	Population Percentage
Female	276	29.74	2022	33.99
Male	652	70.26	3927	66.01

Chi-squared test results: X-squared=13.443, p-value = 0.0037

Table 2: Sample vs. Population Comparison: Academic Rank

Academic Rank	Respondents Count	Respondents Percentage	Population Count	Population Percentage
Adjunct	24	2.53	287	4.72
Assistant Professor	169	17.85	999	16.44
Associate Professor	279	29.46	1495	24.61
Emeritus	39	4.12	375	6.17
Full Professor	329	34.74	2178	35.85
Lecturer or Senior Lecturer	50	5.28	246	4.05
Other	34	3.59	356	5.86
NA	1	0.11	11	0.18
Visiting Instructor/Visiting Assistant Professor	22	2.32	129	2.12

Chi-squared test results: X-squared= 34.595, p-value<0.001

Table 3: Sample vs. Population Comparison: University Type

University Type	Respondents Count	Respondents Percentage	Population Count	Population Percentage
National Liberal Arts College	118	13.18	692	12.12
National Research University	578	64.58	3681	64.45
Regional Liberal Arts College	29	3.24	198	3.47
Regional Research University	170	18.99	1140	19.96

Chi-squared test results: X-squared=1.318, p-value=0.998

Results

Table 4: On February 28, 2026, the United States and Israel launched a coordinated series of air attacks on Iran targeting its leadership and military assets. Do you support the U.S. decision to attack Iran?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Strongly support	35	3.70%
Somewhat support	56	5.91%
Neither support nor oppose	37	3.91%
Somewhat oppose	160	16.90%
Strongly oppose	659	69.59%
Total	947	100.00%

Now we would like you to put your personal political views aside and use your expert knowledge of politics, foreign policy, or international relations as you reflect on these questions.

Table 5: Will the U.S. attacks on Iran make the United States more secure, less secure, or have no impact on U.S. security?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Will definitely enhance U.S. security	20	2.11%
Will probably enhance U.S. security	89	9.41%
Will have no impact on U.S. security	70	7.40%
Will probably reduce U.S. security	531	56.13%
Will definitely reduce U.S. security	236	24.95%
Total	946	100.00%

Table 6: What effect, if any, will the U.S. attack on Iran have on the likelihood of terrorist attacks against the United States, its citizens, interests, or allies over the next year?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Will definitely increase the likelihood of terrorist attacks	242	25.58%
Will probably increase the likelihood of terrorist attacks	597	63.11%
Will not affect the likelihood of terrorist attacks	69	7.29%
Will probably decrease the likelihood of terrorist attacks	18	1.90%
Will definitely decrease the likelihood of terrorist attacks	20	2.11%
Total	946	100.00%

Table 7: What effect, if any, will the U.S. attack on Iran have on the likelihood of nuclear proliferation by one or more countries over the next five years?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Will definitely increase the likelihood of nuclear proliferation	128	13.59%
Will probably increase the likelihood of nuclear proliferation	404	42.89%
Will not affect the likelihood of nuclear proliferation	259	27.49%
Will probably decrease the likelihood of nuclear proliferation	131	13.91%
Will definitely decrease the likelihood of nuclear proliferation	20	2.12%
Total	942	100.00%

Table 8: What effect, if any, will the U.S. attack on Iran have on the likelihood that Iran becomes a democracy in the next five years?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Will definitely increase the likelihood of a democratic Iran	16	1.70%
Will probably increase the likelihood of a democratic Iran	197	20.91%
Will not affect the likelihood of a democratic Iran	429	45.54%
Will probably decrease the likelihood of a democratic Iran	236	25.05%
Will definitely decrease the likelihood of a democratic Iran	64	6.79%
Total	942	100.00%

Table 9: What effect, if any, will the U.S. attack on Iran have on President Donald Trump's approval rating one week after the attack?

Response option	Count	Percentage
His approval rating will be significantly higher a week after the attacks began	6	0.64%
His approval rating will be somewhat higher a week after the attacks began	138	14.67%
His approval rating will be about the same a week after the attacks began	321	34.11%
His approval rating will be somewhat lower a week after the attacks began	402	42.72%
His approval rating will be significantly lower a week after the attacks began	74	7.86%
Total	941	100.00%

Table 10: What effect, if any, will the U.S. attack on Iran have on President Donald Trump's approval rating six months after the attack?

Response option	Count	Percentage
His approval rating will be significantly higher six months after the attacks began	5	0.53%
His approval rating will be somewhat higher six months after the attacks began	34	3.62%
His approval rating will be about the same six months after the attacks began	280	29.85%
His approval rating will be somewhat lower six months after the attacks began	484	51.60%
His approval rating will be significantly lower six months after the attacks began	135	14.39%
Total	938	100.00%

Table 11: In your view, how will the U.S. war with Iran affect the likelihood that China will use military force against Taiwan in the next year?

Response option	Count	Percentage
It will increase the likelihood that China will use force against Taiwan	295	31.15%
It will not affect the likelihood that China will use force against Taiwan	451	47.62%
It will decrease the likelihood that China will use force against Taiwan	73	7.71%
I do not know	128	13.52%
Total	947	100.00%

Table 12: In your view, how will the U.S. war with Iran affect the likelihood that China will use military force against Taiwan in the next five years?

Response option	Count	Percentage
It will increase the likelihood that China will use force against Taiwan	428	45.20%
It will not affect the likelihood that China will use force against Taiwan	335	35.37%
It will decrease the likelihood that China will use force against Taiwan	49	5.17%
I do not know	135	14.26%
Total	947	100.00%

Demographics

Now, we would like to ask you a couple questions about your personal political views.

Table 13: With which of the following gender identities do you most identify?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Female	280	29.50%
Male	657	69.23%
Non-binary	0	0.00%
Other	0	0.00%
Prefer not to answer	12	1.26%
Total	949	100.00%

Table 14: What is your age? Please enter numeric values only.

Response Option	Count	Percentage
25-34	50	5.34
35-44	212	22.63
45-54	261	27.85
55-64	233	24.87
65-74	128	13.66
75-84	50	5.34
85-94	2	0.21
95+	1	0.11

Table 15: What is your current status within your home department?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Chaired Full Professor	53	5.82%
Full Professor	276	30.33%
Associate Professor	279	30.66%
Assistant Professor	170	18.68%
Lecturer or Senior Lecturer	30	3.30%
Visiting Instructor/Visiting Assistant Professor	22	2.42%
Adjunct	24	2.64%
Emeritus	39	4.29%
Other	17	1.87%
Total	910	100.00%

Table 16: What is your race/ethnicity? Please select all that apply.

Response	Count	Percentage
American Indian or Alaska Native	4	0.4%
Asian Indian	22	2.3%
Black/African-American	13	1.4%
Chinese	13	1.4%
Filipino	2	0.2%
Hispanic and/or Latino	32	3.4%
Japanese	5	0.5%
Korean	7	0.7%
Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander	0	0%
Vietnamese	3	0.3%
White, not of Hispanic origin	755	80.5%
Other	37	3.9%
Prefer not to say	70	7.5%
Total	963	-

Table 17: Which of the following best describes your approach to the study of IR?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Constructivism	161	17.11%
Realism	155	16.47%
English school	19	2.02%
Liberalism	121	12.86%
Feminism	23	2.44%
Marxism	21	2.23%
Other	71	7.55%
Do not use	370	39.32%
Total	941	100.00%

Table 18: What is your main area of research within IR?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Comparative Foreign Policy	30	3.21%
Development Studies	42	4.50%
European Studies/European Integration	27	2.89%
Gender in IR	15	1.61%
Global Civil Society	5	0.54%
Human Security	12	1.28%
Human Rights	43	4.60%
History of the international relations discipline	4	0.43%
International/Global Security	240	25.70%
International/Global Political Economy	107	11.46%
International Law	32	3.43%
International/Global Ethics	9	0.96%
International/Global Health	6	0.64%
International/Global Environmental Politics	25	2.68%
International Organization(s)	45	4.82%
International/Global History	17	1.82%
International Relations of a particular region/country	36	3.85%
International Relations Theory	40	4.28%
Religion in IR	9	0.96%
U.S. Foreign Policy	79	8.46%
Other	66	7.07%
I am not an IR scholar	45	4.82%
Total	934	100.00%

Table 19: What are your secondary areas of research within IR? Please select all that apply.

Response	Count	Percentage
Comparative Foreign Policy	58	8.3%
Development Studies	58	8.3%
European Studies/European Integration	35	5%
Gender in IR	33	4.7%
Global Civil Society	36	5.1%
Human Security	44	6.3%
Human Rights	80	11.4%
History of the international relations discipline	8	1.1%
International/Global Security	116	16.5%
International/Global Political Economy	76	10.8%
International Law	53	7.6%
International/Global Ethics	19	2.7%
International/Global Health	13	1.9%
International/Global Environmental Politics	38	5.4%
International Organization(s)	90	12.8%
International/Global History	50	7.1%
International Relations of a particular region/country	85	12.1%
International Relations Theory	90	12.8%
Religion in IR	19	2.7%
U.S. Foreign Policy	144	20.5%
I am not an IR scholar	9	1.3%
Other	69	9.8%
Total	1223	-

Table 20: In your research, what is the main region of the world that you study, if any?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Arctic	3	0.32%
Antarctic	0	0.00%
Central and Eastern Europe (including the Baltic states)	31	3.33%
Central Asia (not including Afghanistan)	2	0.21%
East Asia (including China)	77	8.26%
Latin America (including Mexico and the Caribbean)	71	7.62%
Middle East and North Africa (including Turkey)	99	10.62%
North America (not including Mexico)	69	7.40%
Oceania	1	0.11%
Russia/Former Soviet Union (excluding Baltic states)	43	4.61%
South Asia (including Afghanistan)	24	2.58%
Southeast Asia	15	1.61%
Sub-Saharan Africa	47	5.04%
Western Europe	84	9.01%
Global/Use cross-regional data	189	20.28%
Transnational Actors/International Organizations/International NGOs	65	6.97%
None	112	12.02%
Total	932	100.00%

Table 21: In your research, what other regions of the world do you study, if any?

Response	Count	Percentage
Arctic	12	2%
Antarctic	3	0.5%
Central and Eastern Europe (including the Baltic states)	78	13.1%
Central Asia (not including Afghanistan)	25	4.2%
East Asia (including China)	76	12.8%
Latin America (including Mexico and the Caribbean)	50	8.4%
Middle East and North Africa (including Turkey)	82	13.8%
North America (not including Mexico)	118	19.8%
Oceania	9	1.5%
Russia/Former Soviet Union (excluding Baltic states)	71	11.9%
South Asia (including Afghanistan)	50	8.4%
Southeast Asia	43	7.2%
Sub-Saharan Africa	49	8.2%
Western Europe	126	21.2%
Global/Use cross	0	0%
Transnational Actors/International Organizations/International NGOs	124	20.8%
None	75	12.6%
Total	991	-

Table 22: Which of the following best describes your positions generally on economic issues?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Very liberal	201	21.85%
Somewhat liberal	370	40.22%
Middle of the road	258	28.04%
Somewhat conservative	82	8.91%
Very conservative	9	0.98%
Total	920	100.00%

Table 23: Which of the following best describes your positions generally on social issues?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Very liberal	386	41.73%
Somewhat liberal	374	40.43%
Middle of the road	106	11.46%
Somewhat conservative	45	4.86%
Very conservative	14	1.51%
Total	925	100.00%

Table 24: Generally speaking, do you usually think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

Response option	Count	Percentage
Republican	32	3.45%
Democrat	585	63.04%
Independent	247	26.62%
Other	64	6.90%
Total	928	100.00%