

Dr. Jess Morrisette

Professor of Political Science • Marshall University

Department of Political Science
706 Smith Hall, Marshall University
Huntington, West Virginia 25755

morrisette@marshall.edu
www.jessmorrisette.net

(304) 942-8751
(304) 696-2760

EDUCATION

- Ph.D., University of Georgia (Political Science, 2007)
- M.A., Virginia Tech (Political Science, 2001)
- B.A., King College (History and Political Science, 1999)

ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

- Professor of Political Science, Marshall University (2016-present)
- Associate Professor of Political Science, Marshall University (2011-2016)
- Assistant Professor of Political Science, Marshall University (2007-2011)
- Instructor, University of Georgia (2004-2007)

SELECTED COURSES OFFERED

- | | | |
|----------------------------------|------------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| • Politics, Media, and Culture | • Politics and Video Games | • War and Pop Culture |
| • Politics of the Undead | • Intro to International Relations | • Intro to Comparative Politics |
| • International Relations Theory | • Conflict and Revolution | • Intelligence and Covert Ops |
| • International Law | • Russian Politics | • Global Terrorism |

ADMINISTRATIVE EXPERIENCE

- Director of International Affairs, Marshall University (2008-present)
Oversee daily operations and long-term strategic planning for the interdisciplinary International Affairs major, ensuring program alignment with institutional goals and global academic standards.

PUBLICATIONS

Journal articles

- “Rad Dudes, Rude ‘Tude, and the Family, Too: How Nintendo and Sega Advertisements Shaped the Image of Gaming in the 1990s” (with Megan Condis). *Games: Research and Practice* (2026).
- “Dudes, Boobs, and GameCubes: Video Game Advertising Enters Adolescence” (with Megan Condis). *Media, Culture & Society* 45, no. 6 (March 2023).
- “I’d Like to Buy the World a Nuka-Cola: The Purposes and Meanings of Video Game Soda Machines.” *Game Studies* 20, no. 1 (March 2020).
- “Glory to Arstotzka: Morality, Rationality, and the Iron Cage of Bureaucracy in Papers, Please.” *Game Studies* 17, no. 1 (July 2017).

- “Beyond 2014: Afghanistan’s Agricultural Revival, Water Scarcity, and Regional Insecurity” (with Douglas Borer). *Marine Corps University Journal* 5, no. 2 (Fall 2014): 25-45.
- “Zombies, International Relations, and the Production of Danger: Critical Security Studies versus the Living Dead.” *Studies in Popular Culture* 36, no. 2 (Spring 2014): 1-27.
- “Marxferatu: The Vampire Metaphor as a Tool for Teaching Marx’s Critique of Capitalism.” *PS: Political Science & Politics* 46, no. 3 (July 2013): 637-642.
- “Land Grabs, Radicalization, and Political Violence: Lessons from Mali and Beyond” (with Douglas Borer). *CTX: Combating Terrorism Exchange* 3, no. 1 (February 2013): 10-16.
- “Rationality and Risk-Taking in Russia’s First Chechen War: Toward a Theory of Cognitive Realism.” *European Political Science Review* 2, no. 2 (July 2010): 187-210.
- “Russian Authoritarian Pluralism: A Global Trend?” (with Douglas Borer). *Cambridge Review of International Affairs* 19, no. 4 (December 2006): 571-588.
- “Where Oil and Water Do Mix: Environmental Scarcity, Political Legitimacy and Future Conflict the Middle East and North Africa” (with Douglas Borer). *Parameters: US Army War College Quarterly* 34, no. 4 (Winter 2004/05): 86-101.
 - Reprinted in USI Digest (Volume 7, No. 13, Sept. 2004-Feb. 2005), Limes: Rivista Italiana di Geopolitica (Summer 2006), Annual Editions: Environment (McGraw-Hill, 2006-2012).

Book chapters

- “Space Quest: The Sarien Encounter.” *Supercade: A Visual History of the Videogame Age 1985-2001* (Dynamite Entertainment, 2023).
- “Marxferatu: Introducing Marx through the Vampire Metaphor.” *Teaching Marx & Critical Theory in the 21st Century*, eds. Bryant William Sculos and Mary Caputi (Brill, August 2019).
- “Elaine Marley.” *100 Greatest Video Game Characters*, eds. Jaime Banks, Robert Mejia, and Aubrie Adams (Rowman & Littlefield, June 2017).

Public and Digital Scholarship

- “A Lara Divided: How Tomb Raider’s Early Marketing Campaigns Objectified an Icon.” *PC Gamer* (October 2023).
- “Werewolves of Bavaria: Gabriel Knight 2, Then and Now.” *VICE Games* (4 February 2021).
- “The Game Journo’s Guide to Gamifying Girlfriends.” *Wireframe*, Issue 38 (7 May 2020).
- “Overwatch and the Return of the Trolls.” *Wireframe*, Issue 36 (9 April 2020).
- “How Games Marketing Invented Toxic Gamer Culture.” *VICE Games* (25 March 2020).
- “Playing with Power.” *Wireframe*, Issue 32 (13 February 2020).
- “The Myth of the Video Game Auteur.” *Wireframe*, Issue 26 (8 November 2019).
- “The Politics of Passionate Patti: Sex Positivity and the Problematic Past of Patriarchal Play.” *First Person Scholar* (2 October 2019).
- “The Pause That Refreshes: Drinks Machines and Game Design.” *Wireframe*, Issue 23 (26 September 2019).
- “Gatekeeping in the Golden Age of Video Games.” *Wireframe*, Issue 19 (1 August 2019).

- “Dark as a Dungeon: Fallout 76 and the Coal Mining Industry.” *First Person Scholar* (17 April 2019).
- “Middle East Turmoil: Is It 1989 All Over Again?” *Small Wars Journal* (10 February 2011).

Book reviews

- Review of *The Crisis of Russian Democracy: The Dual State, Factionalism, and the Medvedev Succession*, by Richard Sakwa. *Millennium: Journal of International Studies* 40, no. 2 (January 2012): 414-416.
- Review of *Building Party Systems in Developing Democracies*, by Allen Hicken. *Journal of Politics* 72, no. 4 (October 2010): 1261 -1262.
- Review of *Politics and the People in Revolutionary Russia*, by Sarah Badcock. *History: Reviews of New Books* 36, no. 3 (Spring 2008).
- Review of *Nations and Nationalism: A Reader*, ed. Spencer & Wollman. *Perspectives on Political Science* 35, no. 2 (Spring 2006).
- Review of *Globalization: People, Perspectives, and Progress*, by William H. Mott IV. *Perspectives on Political Science* 34, no.1 (Winter 2005).
- Review of *Violent Entrepreneurs: The Use of Force in the Making of Russian Capitalism*, by Vadim Volkov. *Perspectives on Political Science* 32, no.2 (Spring 2003).
- Review of *The First Cold War*, by Donald Davis and Eugene Trani. *History: Reviews of New Books* 31, no. 1 (Fall 2002).
- Review of *Seeking Social Justice Through Globalization*, by G.N. Kitching. *Perspectives on Political Science* 31, no. 4 (Fall 2002).
- Review of *Beyond Nationalism*, ed. Fred Dallmayr and José M. Rosales. *Perspectives on Political Science* 31, no. 3 (Summer 2002).
- Review of *Globalization, Power, and Democracy*, ed. Plattner and Smolar. *Perspectives on Political Science* 30, no. 3 (Summer 2001).
- Review of *Rapprochement or Rivalry? Russia-China Relations in a Changing Asia*, ed. Sherman Garnett. *Perspectives on Political Science* 30, no. 2 (Spring 2001).
- Review of *Political Construction Sites: Nation-Building in Russia and the Post-Soviet States*, by Pål Kolstø. *Perspectives on Political Science* 29, no. 4 (Fall 2000).

CONFERENCE PAPERS AND PARTICIPATION

- “Console Wars: How Nintendo and Sega Shaped the Image of Gaming in the 1990s.” Paper co-presented with Megan Condis at the Annual Conference for the Society for Cinema and Media Studies, Chicago, IL, 5 April 2025.
- “Now You're Playing with Gender: A Content Analysis of Gender and Sexuality in Video Game Print Advertisements, 1990-2000.” Paper co-presented with Megan Condis at the National Conference of the Popular Culture Association, Chicago, IL, 29 March 2024.
- “Gamifying Democracy: Liberalism as an Ideology and a Gameplay Mechanic.” Paper presented at the National Conference of the Popular Culture Association, San Antonio, TX, 7 April 2023.
- “Dudes, Boobs, and GameCubes: Video Game Advertising Enters Adolescence.” Paper co-presented with Megan Condis at the National Conference of the Popular Culture Association, 14 April 2021.

- “Good Luck, Have Fun: Player Endorsements and the Gamification of Niceness in Overwatch.” Paper presented at the National Conference of the Popular Culture Association, Washington, DC, 17-20 April 2019.
- “Skeuomorphs in Classic and Contemporary Games.” With Allison Cary, Kristen Lillvis, Kristin Steele, and Lori Thompson. Panel presented at the Rutgers-Camden Archive of Digital Ephemera (R-CADE) Symposium, 20 April 2018.
- “I’d Like to Buy the World a Nuka-Cola: The Purposes and Meanings of Video Game Soda Machines.” Paper presented at the National Conference of the Popular Culture Association, Indianapolis, 28-31 March 2018.
- “Glory to Arstotzka: Morality, Rationality, and the Iron Cage of Bureaucracy as Gameplay Mechanics in Papers, Please.” Paper presented at the Annual Northeastern Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, 12-14 November 2015.
- “The Second Scramble: Land Rights, Food Security, and Political Legitimacy in Contemporary Africa.” Paper co-presented with Douglas A. Borer at the Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, San Diego, April 2012.
- “Zombies, International Relations, and the Production of Danger: Critical Security Studies Versus the Living Dead.” Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, San Diego, April 2012.
- “Marxferatu: The Vampire Metaphor as a Tool for Teaching Marx’s Critique of Capitalism.” Paper presented at the 2011 Annual Northeastern Political Science Association Conference, Philadelphia, 17-19 November 2011.
- “Risk and Resurgence: Russian Military Adventurism in Chechnya and Georgia.” Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the Western Political Science Association, San Antonio, 21-23 April 2011.
- “Addressing Water Scarcity in Post-Soviet Central Asia: Theory and Practice in Regime Formation.” Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, New Orleans, 17-20 February 2010.
- “The Political Economy of Water Scarcity: Building Interstate Institutions in the Middle East and North Africa.” Paper presented at the Annual Convention of the International Studies Association, New York City, 15-18 February 2009.
- “Risk-Taking and Russia’s First Chechen War: Realism, Rationality, & Prospect Theory.” Paper presented at the Annual Meeting of the West Virginia Political Science Association at West Virginia State University, 17-18 October 2008.
- “The Natural Environment and War: The Role of Water Scarcity and Conflict.” Paper co-presented with Douglas A. Borer at the Annual Conference of the Western Political Science Association, San Diego, 20-22 March 2008.
- “The Political Economy of Water Scarcity, Conflict, and Cooperation: Lessons from the Euphrates and Nile River Basins.” Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the West Virginia Political Science Association, 26-27 October 2007.
- “Russian and Chinese Reform at the Turn of the Twentieth Century.” Paper presented at the Annual Conference of the International Studies Association, New Orleans, March 2002.
- “The Hydro-Political Economy of the Middle East.” Paper co-presented with Douglas A. Borer at the annual ISA-South conference, Wake Forest, 13 October 2001.

- “From the Shadows of History: Russian Authoritarian Pluralism.” Paper co-presented with Douglas A. Borer at the 18th World Congress of the International Political Science Association, Quebec City, Canada, 1-6 August 2000.

PROFESSIONAL PERFORMANCES AND EXHIBITS

- *Virtual Vending* (2019-present)
 - A multimedia exhibit exploring consumerism in virtual gaming environments at The Strong Museum of Play in Rochester, New York.

AWARDS AND HONORS

- Distinguished Artists and Scholars Award (2026)
 - Awarded to a senior member of the Marshall University faculty, recognizing “a significant body of artistic, scholarly, or creative work” and “the dissemination of artistic and scholarly activity with an audience beyond that of academic peers.”
- Whatley Award (2014)
 - Recognizes research that “best represents the scholarly values sought for the Popular Culture Association in the South and for the study of popular culture.”
 - Awarded for “Zombies, International Relations, and the Production of Danger: Critical Security Studies versus the Living Dead,” published in the Spring 2014 issue of *Studies in Popular Culture*.
- Pickens-Queen Teaching Award (2010)
 - Recognizes “the importance of excellent teaching in the first years of a faculty member’s career at Marshall University.”

SELECTED SERVICE

- Assessment Committee, Department of Political Science, 2008-present.
- Scholarship Committee, Department of Political Science, 2008-present.
- Research and Productivity Committee (Chair), Department of Political Science, 2022-present.
- Digital Humanities Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2017-present.
- Curriculum Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2015-2024.
- Film Studies Committee, College of Liberal Arts, 2014-present.