Studies of War and Peace: Summary of an Academic Career

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FRANCIS A. BEER

Career Abstract

Professor Emeritus of Political Science, University of Colorado, Boulder, received his A. B. (1960) from Harvard and M. A. (1963) and Ph.D. (1967) from the University of California, Berkeley. In addition, he has been associated in different ways with the Fondation nationale des sciences politiques and the University of Bordeaux in France; the Technische Universiteit Eindhoven in the Netherlands; the University of Cambridge in the United Kingdom; the Ohio State University, the Universities of Iowa, Michigan, and Texas in the United States. His books include: Meaning of War and Peace; Peace Against War: The Ecology of International Violence and Integration and Disintegration in NATO: Processes of Alliance Cohesion and Prospects for Atlantic Community as well as related monographs on The Political Economy of Alliances and How Much War in History. He has edited Alliances: Latent War Communities in the Contemporary World. He has co-edited with Christ’l De Landsheer Metaphorical World Politics and, with Robert Hariman, Post-Realism: The Rhetorical Turn in International Relations. He has published articles in the American Communication Journal, American Journal of Psychology, American Political Science Review, Atlantic Quarterly, Clio’s Psyche, e-International Relations, Études Internationales, International Interactions, Global Discourse, International Organization, International Studies Notes, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Applied Behavioral Science, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Memetics; Journal of Political and Military Sociology, Peace and Conflict, Peace Psychology Review, Political Communication, Political Psychology, Politics and the Life Sciences, POROI Journal, Review of General Psychology, Review of International Studies, Rhetoric and Public Affairs, and Social Epistemology. He has been President of the International Studies Association/West and co-edited with Ted Gurr a series of Sage books on "Violence, Conflict, Cooperation." Professor Beer has received numerous grants and awards including Fulbright research grants to France and the Netherlands. He has served as Chair of the Boulder Faculty Assembly. He is listed in Who’s Who in the World and Who’s Who in America. His present interests center on meaning, metaphor, and myth in international relations with a particular concern for war and peace. Further information is available at the following websites:

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Francis_Beer
http://spot.colorado.edu/~beer/
https://colorado.academia.edu/FRANCISBEER
https://www.researchgate.net/profile/Francis_Beer/publications
http://inpress.lib.uiowa.edu/globalizingcommunication/
https://francisbeer.wordpress.com/category/mythic-america/

Career Narrative: Major Findings

War and Peace Research
Beer's work has specialized on the nature, causes, and consequences of war and peace. He has authored articles in the Oxford International Encyclopedia of International Peace and in the World Encyclopedia of Peace. He has contributed to knowledge about war and peace in several different areas.

Historical Statistics of War and Peace—He found that periods of major peace have tended to become longer over time. Wars have generally become shorter, but more serious in terms of their destructive power. These are general tendencies. Trends are less clear for smaller, individual samples, for example the war and peace experience of the United States. [2]

Peace Against War—Global actors join through multiple political, economic, social, communication, cultural, technological links that have tendencies toward both peace and war. Actors create clusters of
cooperation, some of which are universal, like the United Nations system. Some of these are partial, like the European Community. These universal and partial communities may come into conflict and often contain a military dimension. Actors link themselves through agreed laws of war and peace; they form international alliances; they provide military assistance; they trade in weapons; they develop shared military symbols and events; they share media reports of international violence. The networks thus constitute communities with tendencies toward both fighting between communities and peace within them. [3]

Alliances as Latent War Communities—Beer showed more specifically how actors joined in political-military alliances like the North Atlantic Treaty Organization NATO, for example, create partial international communities that have both integrative and disintegrative effects. They help maintain peace internally among members, but are prepared to wage war against external actors. Alliance institutions provide a structure through which state members contribute various kinds of resources and receive both collective and private goods. Such a complex, cross-cutting political economy is essential in constructing and maintaining these alliances. Alliance leaders act as political entrepreneurs, deploying consensual ideology to mobilize supporting coalitions and weaken opposing ones, particularly during periods of crisis. [4] [5]

Political Economy of War and Peace—In addition to his institutional work on the political economy of alliances, Beer also explored integrative and disintegrative behavior in trade, energy, and environmental behavior. He showed how partial international groupings disintegrated over time as more powerful, central states drifted away from the former colonial associates and how diverse energy production and needs enhanced conflict and worked against shared cooperative interests in a common global environment. [6]

Rhetoric of War and Peace: Post-Realism—The standard discourse of international relations is realism, which focuses on states in conflict as the core of world politics. Beer, together with Robert Hariman of Northwestern University developed post-realism as an alternative theoretical perspective on international relations. Post-realism emphasizes that there are multiple actors, not just states, in the global network. Though such actors are concerned with power, as realism suggests, they have a much wider range of motivations and activities. One such set of resources is talk, and post-realism focuses particularly on discourse in the conduct and study of international relations. For post-realism, realism in international relations is a form of social scientific and political rhetoric. It opens rather than closes a debate about what is real and what is realistic in international relations. [7] As part of the post-realist project, Beer undertook additional studies on semantics, metaphors, and myths of war and peace.

Semantics of War and Peace—He found that major concepts like war and peace are not semantically stable and fixed. Instead they constantly shift their meanings in different contexts. Further, central scientific terms like reason, validity, truth, and reality vary in a similar way. Political debate over war and peace swims in this sea of semantic fluidity, which makes critical thinking about war and peace particularly difficult. Political leaders skillfully maintain ambiguity or shift meanings in semantic stratagems to persuade audiences. They thus generate support for findings and policies about war and peace that followers might otherwise resist. [8]

Metaphors of War and Peace—Metaphors are also an important part of the rhetorical universe of war and peace. Working together with Christ’l De Landsheer of the University of Antwerp, Beer explored their place in world politics. For example, the international system has been framed as a network, international communities as houses, states as people, and nations as families. War has been seen as a disease, peace as health, and war/peace research as an extension of medical epidemiology. Alternatively, war is often conceived as a competitive game, for example poker or football. Metaphorical framing has important policy implications. [9]

Myths of War and Peace—Metaphors also entail myths. These are widely believed narratives; stories to go with the images. When the stories become dominant in societies, they are called myths. These myths may be true or false to a varying extent, but, more importantly, they are widely believed to be true stories of the way
that the world is. They not only describe, explain, and predict war and peace. They also include scripts about appropriate actions. One of the more important such stories is international realism.

**Media Networks of War and Peace**—Another series of studies, with G.R. Boynton at the University of Iowa, explored the role of globalizing media networks with regard to war and peace. Globalizing media networks, like BBC World News, CNN World News, and Aljazeera, are emerging actors in the domain of war/peace. They are building a new platform for diffusing news. As they tell stories, they themselves become part of those stories, which are an element in a wider globalizing system and culture of war and peace [10].

**Psychology of War and Peace**—Beer's early work on the psychology of war and peace focused on the evolution of global consciousness and bonding, as well as patterns of loyalty and alienation to different levels of political community. Later, he worked together with Alice F. Healy and Lyle E. Bourne, Jr. at the University of Colorado, investigating individual responses to simulated media reports of military and terrorist attacks. In a series of psychological laboratory experiments, they found that responses to international attacks are dynamic and complex. They change over time and are influenced by several factors. Responses are partly related to the identity and behavior of the attacker—for example, whether the attacker is a conventional military force or a terrorist actor, the number and scale of attacks, target characteristics (military, economic, cultural), and prior behavior of the attacker. Such prior behavior might include whether the attacker is a democratic state or has signed a peace treaty. Responses are also influenced by individual background attributes like gender, personality, and prior knowledge. One of the most disturbing findings is that there appears to be no psychological nuclear firebreak when responding to conventional attacks. Respondents seem to see high level conventional and nuclear weapons in the same linear continuum of force, with no threshold between them. [11]

**References**

[17] http://ir.uiowa.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1058&context=poroi
Curriculum Vitae

June 1, 2018

FRANCIS ANTHONY BEER

1. Personal

   Born: 5 February 1939, New York, New York

   Married: 12 June 1965

   Children: 3

2. Degrees

   University of California, Berkeley

   Major: Political Science

   Fields: International Relations, Political Behavior, Political Theory, Public Administration

   Languages: French, German

   A. B., Cum Laude, (1960)
   Harvard College, Cambridge

   Major: Government
   Fields: Political Theory and Comparative Government
3. Academic Appointments

Professor Emeritus, Department of Political Science
University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, 1975-2005

Professor, Department of Political Science
University of Colorado, Boulder, Colorado, 1975-2005

Associate Professor, Department of Government, University of Texas, Austin, 1970-1975

Assistant Professor, Department of Government, University of Texas, Austin, 1967-1970

4. Visiting Appointments

Visiting Professor, Institut d'Études Politiques, University of Bordeaux, Bordeaux France, 2003


5. Honors, Awards and Grants

University of Colorado, Boulder Faculty Assembly, Award for Excellence in Service, 2003.

University of Colorado, International Affairs Program, Outstanding Professor, March 1997.


University of Colorado, Council on Research and Creative Work, Small Grant. "Congressional

National Endowment for the Humanities Fellow, University of Iowa, Project on the Rhetoric of

University of Colorado, College of Arts and Sciences, Dean's Writing Prize for Best Article, "War
Cues and Foreign Policy Acts" (with A. F. Healy, G. P. Sinclair, and L. E. Bourne, Jr.), American
Political Science Review, 81,3 (September 1987): pp. 701-716.

Institute for World Order, program development grants, 1974-1977 (with Oran Young, Elise
Boulding) ($225,000).

National Endowment for the Humanities summer research grant, 1972.

Earhart Foundation Research Grant, 1972.

Fulbright Research Professor, John F. Kennedy Institute, Eindhoven University of Technology,
The Netherlands, 1971.

Inter-University Consortium for Political Research, Postdoctoral Scholar, University of Michigan,
summer 1978.

Mershon Program for Education in National Security, Doctoral Fellowship, Ohio State University,


5. Publications

a. Books and Monographs

_Metaphorical World Politics_ (Francis A. Beer and Christ'l de Landtsheer, Eds.) (East Lansing MI: Michigan State University Press, 2004).

_Meanings of War and Peace_. (College Station: Texas A&M University Press, 2001).


b. Internet


Mythic America
http://francisbeer.wordpress.com/

ResearchGate

Academia
https://colorado.academia.edu/FRANCISBEER

University of Colorado
http://spot.colorado.edu/~beer/

c. Videos

Beer, Francis A. and Marie Juliette Beer.
Politics and the Language of Popular Music: Writing and Singing Songs.

Francis A. Beer and Omar L. Beer.
Politics and the Language of International Development: Serving with the Peace Corps in Mali.

d. Articles, Chapters, Review Essays, and Notes
(*=Refereed)

* “Realism, Post-Realism, and ISIS” (with Robert Hariman) in Davide Orsi, J.R. Avgustin, Max Nurnus, Eds. Realism: An Appraisal (E-International Relations December 12, 2017).


* “NATO Now and Then: Alliance Agents and Structures in Anarchical International Society” e-International Relations (August 27, 2013)

* “After Boston: Terror and Response” (with Alice F. Healy and Lyle E. Bourne, Jr.) e-International Relations (May 13, 2013)
http://www.e-ir.info/2013/05/13/after-boston-terrorism-and-response/

* “Mythic America in a Globalizing MythWorld: Political Dreams and Shadows”
e-International Relations (April 20, 2013)

* “Globalizing Walls” (with G. R. Boynton)
e-International Relations (April 3, 2013)
http://www.e-ir.info/2013/04/03/globalizing-walls/
* “Maximizing Prudence in International Relations” (with Robert Hariman), e-International Relations (February 12, 2013). http://www.e-ir.info/2013/02/12/maximizing-prudence-in-international-relations/#_edn1

* “Moths to Flames: Foreign Policy Blindness, Reenactment, and Surprise,” Clio’s Psyche 18, 2 (September 2011): 134-137.


“Metaphors, Politics, and World Politics,” (with Christ’l de Landtsheer) in Metaphorical World Politics (Francis A. Beer and Christ’l de Landtsheer, eds.) (East Lansing MI: Michigan State University Press, 2004).


http://www.acjournal.org/holdings/vol7/iss1/index.htm


* "Realist/Idealist Texts: Psychometry and Semantics" (with Barry J. Balleck) Peace Psychology Review 1, 1 (Spring, 1994) 38-44.


* "War and Disease," Notes, Center for Biopolitical Research, Northern Illinois University, April/July 1981.


e. Public Media

“Questions for Conservative Chair”, Daily Camera (February 17, 2013)


“Flying Bombs 10 Years Later”, Daily Camera (September 11, 2011)
http://www.dailycamera.com/guest-opinions/ci_18862063

“Debt at the University of Colorado” (By Gary M. Andrew, Francis A. Beer and Paul M. Levitt”, Boulder Daily Camera (March 7, 2010)

“Lessons from the Ward” (with Joseph B. Juhász), Boulder Daily Camera (July 12, 2009)

“Follow the Money Trail, Boulder Daily Camera (May 23, 2009)

http://www.boulderweekly.com/20090507/perspectives.html


http://www.kgnu.org/cgi-bin/programinfo.py?time=1238144400

http://www.kgnu.org/music/audio/Churchill.mp3

“Questions to Ponder for Conservatives”, Boulder Daily Camera (June 3, 2008)
http://www.dailycamera.com/news/2008/jun/03/no-headline---03elet/
“There Will Be Consequences,” Boulder Daily Camera (February 25, 2008).

“Benson Effects”, Boulder Daily Camera (February 19, 2008)
http://www.dailycamera.com/blogs/letters-editor-blog/2008/feb/19/beer/

“Little Eichmanns” Boulder Daily Camera (February 2005)

http://www.colorado.edu/FacultyGovernance/JOURNAL/ARCHIVE/Beer1002.html

“Toward the Terrorist Anti-World,” Counterpunch (October 30, 2001)
http://www.counterpunch.org/beer1.html

http://www.colorado.edu/FacultyGovernance/JOURNAL/ARCHIVE/Beer1101.html

“Shared Governance and Political Communication,”
http://www.colorado.edu/FacultyGovernance/JOURNAL/ARCHIVE/Beer0801.html

f. Teaching Materials


g. Book Reviews

http://psycnet.apa.org/critiques/55/16/6


6. Professional Meetings

a. Chair


**b. Papers and Presentations**


[http://inpress.lib.uiowa.edu/globalizingcommunication/peace-science2007/war-words-amsterdam01.html](http://inpress.lib.uiowa.edu/globalizingcommunication/peace-science2007/war-words-amsterdam01.html)


DOI: 10.13140/RG.2.2.19184.46085


“What Would Arnold Do Now: Masculine and Feminine Men and Women React to Experimental Terrorist Attacks” (with Alison Aylward, Alice F. Healy, and Lyle E. Bourne, Jr.). International


“Leading with Blood in the Streets: Global Broadcasters, Protesters, and Democratic Leaders” (with G. R. Boynton), October 2004


“Globalizing Sympathy” (with G. R. Boynton), International Studies Association, Montreal, Canada, April 2004.

“The Rhetoric of Global Leadership: Cooperating, Crusading, and Preparing for War” (with G. R. Boynton)


“From Behind the Lines” (with G. R. Boynton), American Political Science Association, Boston MA, 2002.


http://inpress.lib.uiowa.edu/globalizingcommunication/what-war-becomes/WARBECOMES01.HTML


"Thinking and Talking about Dying” (with G. R. Boynton), International Society of Political Psychology, Cuernavaca, Mexico, 2001.

“How History Becomes US” (with G.R. Boynton)


"In Search of Excitement" (with G. R. Boynton), Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago IL, 1999; Washington DC, 1999.


"Metaphorical Meaning, and Political Power" (with Christ'l de Landtsheer), International Society of Political Psychology, Amsterdam, 1999.

"Metaphorical World Politics" (with Christ'l de Landtsheer), International Society for the Study of Argumentation, Amsterdam, 1998.


"Post-Realism, Just War, and the Gulf War Debate" (with Robert Hariman), International Society for Political Psychology, Krakow, Poland, July 1997.


"Beer and Quiche in the Fast Lane: Signaler's Dilemma, Democratic Debate and the Gulf War" (with Mark I. Lichbach and Barry J. Balleck), American Political Science Association, 1993.


"A Global Events Hypertext?" DDIR Events Data Conference, Ohio State University, Columbus, Ohio, 1987 (invited).


"How Much War in History?" Western Political Science Association, Denver, 1974.


c. Discussant


“Allies and Enemies,” Conference on the Prospect of Presidential Rhetoric, Texas A&M University, College Station TX, March 4-7, 2004.


Conference on the Atlantic Community, Committee on Atlantic Studies, Quebec, Canada, 1968.

Conference of Atlantic Young Political Leaders, Racine, 1968.

7. Public Lectures


"Talking War and Peace: Realism and Rhetoric in American Foreign Policy Discourse," Indiana University, Bloomington, Indiana, 1996.

"Post-Realism, Just War, and the New World Order," Drake University, Des Moines, Iowa 1995.


"Validities," "Reasons," "Paths through a Conversation" (with G. R. Boynton), Project on the Rhetoric of Inquiry, University of Iowa, 1990.


8. Editorial Activity

a. Editor (with Ted R. Gurr)

b. Assistant Editor

c. Editorial Board
   Perspectives (Prague), 2010-
   Rhetoric and Public Affairs, 1997-2009

d. Panel of Reviewers

e. Referee for:
9. Administration

a. University of Colorado
   Director of Graduate Studies, Political Science Department, 1993-1995.

b. University of Texas
   Director, International Studies Program, 1973-1975
   Director, World Order Program, 1974-1975.
   Undergraduate Advisor, Department of Government, 1972-1974.
   Chairman, Undergraduate Curriculum and Program Committee,

c. International Studies Association
   Director, Electronic Network and Archive, Foreign Policy Section.

d. Experiment in International Living
   Director, Academic Year Program, Tunis, 1969-1970.
10. External Service and Activities

a. Colorado
   Colorado Coordinating Commission for Higher Education,
     Colorado Faculty Advisory Committee, 1999-2000
   Colorado University Faculty Leaders Association, 1999-2000, 1994-1995
   Governor of Colorado, Front Range Project,

b. International Political Science Association
   Research Committee 29, Psychopolitics

c. International Society of Political Psychology
   Nominating Committee, 1999

d. International Studies Association
   Advisory Committee, International Communications Section
   Committee on Information Systems, 1994-1996

   Nominating Committee (Chair), 1983.
   Program Chair, Peace Studies Section, 1986.

d. International Studies Association/West
   President, 1984-1986.
   Program Chair, 1984-1986.

e. Western Political Science Association
   Program Chair for International Relations, 1987.

f. Tenure and Promotion Referee
   Arizona State University
   Louisiana State University
   New York University
   Ohio State University
   Purdue University
   UCLA
   University of Denver
   University of Illinois
   University of Nevada
   University of Oregon
   University of Southern California
   University of Washington
   Virginia Polytechnic Institute and State
     University

g. Associations
   American Political Science Association
   International Political Science Association
   International Society for Political Psychology
International Studies Association
National Communication Association
Rhetorical Studies Association

h. Listings

American Men and Women of Science
Contemporary Authors
Dictionary of International Biography
Directory of American Scholars
International Directory of Distinguished Leadership
International Who's Who of Professionals
Men of Achievement
Who's Who (Sterling)
Who's Who among Human Services Professionals
Who’s Who in America (Marquis)
Who's Who in American Education (Marquis)
Who's Who in the West (Marquis)
Who's Who in the World (Marquis)

11. University Service

a. University of Colorado

i. University-wide

  Regents
  Annual Budget Retreat, 1994, 1999
  Compensation Committee, 1993-1994

  Faculty Council
  Chair, Committee on Public Service and Information 1994-1995
  Budget Committee, 1993-1994

ii. Boulder Campus

  Chancellor's Committees
  Budget Director Recruitment Committee, 1993-1994
  Campus Executive Committee, 1999-2001
  Excellence Task Force, Subcommittee on Costs, 1993-1994

  Vice Chancellor's Committees
  Council of Deans, 1999-2001

  Boulder Faculty Assembly
  Chair, Boulder Faculty Assembly, 1999-2001.
  Chair, Budget Committee, 1993-1994.
  Administrative Restructuring Committee, 1993-1994
  Budget Committee, 1991-1998
  Faculty Representative 1983-1985, 1995-1998
iii. College of Arts and Sciences
Center for Interdisciplinary Studies
Institute for Behavioral Science
Program Review Process, Internal Review Committee
   Psychology, 1996

iv. Political Science Department
Center for International Relations
   Board of Directors, 1982-present.
Director of Graduate Studies, 1993-1995
Environmental Hazards Committee, 1988-1990.
   Chair, 1984-1985.
Recruitment Committee.

12. Teaching.

Courses Taught

Alliances
Alternative World Futures
American Foreign Policy
Causes of International Violence
Conflict and Peace Studies
French Politics and Culture
Future of Colorado
International Organization
International Political Communication
International Politics since World War II
International Violence and Political Choice
International Violence and Political Psychology
Introduction to International Relations
Myth and International Violence
Myth and Society in North Africa
North Atlantic Treaty Organization
Peace Research
Politics and Language
Politics and Literature
Violence in International Politics