

Vic Castro, PhD

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Academic employment

Postdoctoral researcher, Department of Management, Society and Communication (MSC),
Copenhagen Business School (CBS) (2026-2028)

DFF-funded postdoc “Decolonial cyberwarfare: Ukrainian digital sovereignty and corporate power”

PhD Fellow, Department of Political Science, University of Copenhagen (2020-2023)

Dissertation monograph *Technology, the speech act: Mechanical embodiments of cybersecurity and international politics*, supervised by Ole Wæver, defended 8 March 2024

Education

- o M.A., International Relations, French National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilisations (Inalco), Paris (2019)
- o B.A., International Relations and the Turkish Language, French National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilisations (Inalco), Paris (2017)
- o Two years of an undergraduate programme in the Urdu Language, French National Institute for Oriental Languages and Civilisations (Inalco), Paris (2015-2017)

Research interests

Critical security studies, science and technology studies (STS), cybersecurity, Ukraine, digital sovereignty, corporate power, International Relations theory, new materialism, actor-network theory (ANT), queer theory, popular culture, colonialism, disability

Languages

Fluent: French, English, Danish, Ukrainian

Intermediate: Turkish, Urdu, Russian, Arabic, German, Spanish, Hindi

Basic: Persian, Dutch, Finnish, Mandarin

Grants

- o DFF-International Postdoc grant 2026, Independent Research Fund Denmark, DKK 2,046,865 (€273,900).
- o EISA Postdoctoral Bridge grant 2024, European International Studies Association, €3,500.

Books

- o *Mechanicity: The Material Force of Code in International Politics*, University of Michigan Press, in press (scheduled April 2027).
- o *The World Politics of Disco Elysium*, co-edited with Nicholas Kiersey (University of Texas Rio Grande Valley), Routledge, 2025.

Articles and chapters

- o “Decomposing the body politic: Sick and disabled resistance in *Disco Elysium*”, in Castro and Kiersey (eds.), *The World Politics of Disco Elysium*, Routledge, 2025.
- o “Mechanical sex, science, security: Intersex medical violence, Thomas Hobbes and John Money’s invention of gender”, *Security Dialogue* 55:2 (2024), pp. 142-159.
- o “How intelligence tales are made real: *Le Bureau des légendes* as a cover story for the French DGSE”, *Intelligence and National Security* 38:7 (2023), pp. 1112-1126; co-authored with Joakim Brattvoll (European University Institute).
- o “The limits of imagination: Securitisation and exceptionalism in the *World of Warcraft* video game”, *European Journal of International Security* 7:2 (2022), pp. 207-225.

Research stays

- o Danish Institute for International Studies (DIIS), Peace and Violence unit, Copenhagen (Denmark), September 2022 – February 2023 (6 months)

Fieldwork

- o Ukrainian-language fieldwork in Ukraine (Kyiv), October-November 2025 (3 weeks), networking with local scholars and observing the war in the everyday
- o Ukrainian-language fieldwork in Ukraine (Kyiv-Lviv-Odessa-Kharkiv), May-June 2025 (1.5 months), meeting with digital technology and cybersecurity practitioners
- o Russian-language fieldwork in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan, August 2017 (1 month), meeting with civil society and a former member of the Kazakhstani government

Teaching

- o Autumn 2022, “Cybersecurity in International Politics”, self-designed elective 56-hour M.A. course taught to a class of 22 students, University of Copenhagen (Political Science)
- o Spring 2022, supervision of one M.A. thesis, University of Copenhagen (Political Science)
- o Spring 2021, “Cybersecurity and International Relations”, self-designed elective 28-hour M.A. course taught to a class of 43 students, University of Copenhagen (Political Science)

Guest lectures

- o October 2025, self-designed guest lectures at the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Institute of International Relations), in-person:
 - o 27 October 2025, “Feminist and queer International Relations”, B.A. class “International Relations Theory”.
 - o 29 October 2025, “The Copenhagen School of security studies”, M.A. class “Global Security and Conflict”.

- o 4 November 2025, “The political philosophy of software”, Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv (Faculty of Computer Science and Cybernetics), postgraduate seminar, in-person.
- o 16 February 2021, “Introduction to securitisation theory for gender and sexuality studies”, B.A. class “Making Sexualities” taught by Celeste E. Orr, St Lawrence University, online.

Professional institution membership

- o European International Studies Association (EISA) membership, 2021-present
- o International Studies Association (ISA) membership, 2020-present
- o British International Studies Association (BISA) membership, 2019-2022

2023-2025, At-Large Executive Member of the Science, Technology, and Art in International Relations (STAIR) section of ISA, participating in the allocation of prizes and awards.

2021-2023, Communications Officer for the STAIR section of ISA, maintaining the STAIR website, social media communications, as well as calls and announcements. Recorded, edited, and produced six episodes of the STAIR podcast. Organised a \$750 fundraising campaign (May 2022) providing food and shelter for a Belarusian refugee PhD student in International Relations.

Media interventions

Interviews

- o 30-min programme on Ukrainian perceptions of President Zelenskyy, *Sud Radio* (French national radio), 27 February 2026.

Authored publications

- o “Macron-Zelensky : quand la présidence ukrainienne met discrètement le feu au placard” (“Macron-Zelenskyy: When the Ukrainian presidency quietly sets the closet on fire”), long-form analysis, *Le Club de Mediapart*, 21 August 2025.
- o “« Le réseau dépendait de nous » : le combat méconnu des cyberdéfenseurs ukrainiens en pleine guerre” (“‘The network depended on us’: The Ukrainian cyberdefenders’ unsung wartime struggle”), on-the-ground report in Ukraine, *Numerama*, 21 July 2025.
- o “Zelensky au Vatican : le troublant traumatisme d’un succès diplomatique ‘historique’” (“Zelenskyy in Vatican: The troubling trauma of an ‘historic’ diplomatic success”), long-form analysis, *Le Club de Mediapart*, 5 May 2025.
- o “Les marchands de la peur : la sinistre sécuritisation de la « menace djihadiste »” (“Merchants of fear: The sinister securitisation of the ‘jihadist threat’”), co-authored op-ed with Charlotte Epstein (University of Sydney), *Le Club de Mediapart*, 14 November 2023.