

Steven Feldstein

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PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- Carnegie Endowment for International Peace** **2020 – Present**
Program on Democracy, Conflict, and Governance **Washington, DC**
Senior Fellow
Senior fellow in Carnegie’s Democracy, Conflict, and Governance program carrying out research and writing on technology and politics, U.S. foreign policy, international relations, and the global context for democracy and human rights. Author of *The Rise of Digital Repression: How Technology is Reshaping Power, Politics, and Resistance* (2021), winner of the 2023 Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order. Published research on digital technology’s effect on war, internet shutdowns, how artificial intelligence is reshaping repression, the geopolitics of technology, and China’s role in advancing digital authoritarianism. Released a global AI surveillance index to track the proliferation of advanced digital tools and published a global inventory of commercial spyware.
- School of Public Service, Boise State University** **2017 – 2020**
Frank and Bethine Church Chair of Public Affairs & Associate Professor **Boise, ID**
Tenured faculty member and holder of the Frank & Bethine Church Chair at Boise State University’s School of Public Service. Research and teaching interests include U.S. foreign policy, national security, Africa policy, democracy and human rights. Maintained a high public profile with regular speaking and writing engagements. Research, essays, and commentary appeared in national and international outlets.
- U.S. Department of State** **2014 – 2017**
Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights and Labor **Washington, DC**
Deputy Assistant Secretary
Senior official overseeing U.S. democracy and human rights policy for Africa, international labor affairs, and international religious freedom. Managed three offices with 40 staff and a \$10 million budget. Led key foreign policy, human rights and democracy policy discussions, and undertook diplomatic missions to priority countries, including the Congo, Kenya, Ethiopia, Bangladesh, Zimbabwe and Nigeria, to advance democracy, human rights, and national security priorities. Conducted regular Congressional briefings, media interviews, and public speaking, including testimony before Congressional committees on relevant foreign policy issues.
- U.S. Agency For International Development (USAID)** **2011 – 2014**
Bureau of Policy, Planning and Learning **Washington, DC**
Director, Office of Policy
Managed USAID’s office of policy and oversaw 20 professional staff. Developed and executed top agency policy priorities, including establishing agency-wide mission statement to eliminate extreme poverty in a generation. Launched and completed 10 major agency-wide policies and strategies.
- U.S. Senate Committee on Foreign Relations** **2007 – 2011**
Counsel **Washington, DC**
Managed foreign policy portfolio for former Chairmen John Kerry and Joseph R. Biden. Major portfolio issues included oversight of all foreign assistance agencies, budgets and programs; United Nations and international organizations; national security reform; cybersecurity, and State Department management.
- U.S. Department of State** **2005 – 2007**
Special Assistant, Under Secretary for Economic and Business Affairs **Washington, DC**
Advised the Under Secretary on UN, international development and Afghanistan issues. Managed negotiations and coordinated her year-long participation in the UN High-Level Panel for System-Wide Coherence.

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U.S. Agency for International Development Presidential Management Fellow (PMF)

Served in USAID's MCA coordination unit supporting joint projects between the Millennium Challenge Corporation and USAID; subsequently worked as a special projects advisor for USAID Administrator Andrew S. Natsios, overseeing policy initiatives, articles, and speeches.

2004 – 2005
Washington, DC

International Rescue Committee (IRC) Princeton in Africa Fellow

Awarded one-year Princeton in Africa fellowship to work for the IRC in Kigali, Rwanda, supporting grant management and program design. Subsequently, spent two months as lead writer for IRC Croatia's \$6 million civil society grant proposal.

2000 – 2001
Rwandan & Croatia

OTHER PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Consultant – Open Society Foundations

Conducted research on the global expansion of digital repression, identifying how governments deploy digital tools to advance their policy objectives.

2019 – 2020

Consultant – InterAction

Advised the InterAction NGO consortium on a major civilian protection project. Developed substantive policy recommendations and draft legislation in close coordination with a multi-stakeholder NGO working group.

2017

EDUCATION

Berkeley School of Law, University of California Juris Doctorate

Publications: *Applying the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court: A Case Study of Henry Kissinger*, 92 California Law Review 1663 (2004).

Activities: Member, California Law Review

2001-2004
Berkeley, CA

Princeton University A.B., *magna cum laude* in Politics

Distinctions: Princeton in Africa 12-Month Fellowship (July 2000-01); Caroline M. Picard Class of 1986 Prize in Politics; Edwin F. Ferris Class of 1899 Journalism Grant

1996-2000
Princeton, NJ

SELECT PUBLICATIONS

Book

The Rise of Digital Repression: How Technology is Reshaping Power, Politics, and Resistance, Oxford University Press, 2021.

- Recipient of the 2023 Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order

Select Book Chapters, Articles & Commentary

- “Disentangling the digital battlefield: how the internet has changed war,” *War On The Rocks*, December 7, 2022.
- “The larger geopolitical shift behind Iran’s drone sales to Russia,” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, October 26, 2022.
- “China’s high-tech surveillance drives oppression of Uyghurs,” *Bulletin of the Atomic Scientists*, October 27, 2022.
- “Ukraine Won’t Save Democracy: The Causes of Democratic Decline Are Internal,” *Foreign Affairs*, July 26, 2022.

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- “Internet shutdowns are changing. How should citizens and democracies respond?” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – working paper, March 31, 2022.
- “4 Reasons Why Putin’s War Has Changed Big Tech Forever,” *Foreign Policy*, March 29, 2022.
- “Surveillance in the Illiberal State,” in *Routledge Handbook of Illiberalism*, eds. András Sajó, Renáta Uitz, and Stephen Holmes (New York: Routledge, 2021).
- “Sideswiped: Apple, Google, and the Kremlin’s Make-Believe Election,” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, September 23, 2021. Co-authored with Andrew S. Weiss.
- “Can Democracy Survive the ‘Splinternet?’” *American Purpose*, September 1, 2021.
- “Are Telegram and Signal Havens for Right-Wing Extremists?” *Foreign Policy*, March 13, 2021. Co-authored with Sarah Gordon.
- “Democracy Dies in Disinformation,” *American Purpose*, February 10, 2021. Co-authored with Peter Pomerantsev.
- “Covid-19 and the geopolitics of American decline,” *MIT Technology Review*, Sept 2020.
- “When it Comes to Digital Authoritarianism, China is a Challenge — But Not the Only Challenge,” *War On The Rocks*, February 12, 2020.
- “The Global Expansion of AI Surveillance,” Carnegie Endowment for International Peace – working paper, September 17, 2019.
- “How Artificial Intelligence Is Reshaping Repression,” *Journal of Democracy* 30, no. 1 (2019): 40-52.

Honors, Fellowships & Distinctions

- Schedule C Political Appointee – Department of State & USAID, 2011-17
- USAID Superior Honor Award, 2013; Superior Group Award, Meritorious Group Award, 2012
- Idaho Business Review Accomplished Under 40 Honoree, 2018
- Devex “40 under 40” International Development Leaders, 2010
- Brookings Institution Congressional Fellow, 2007-08
- Presidential Management Fellow, 2004-06
- Princeton-in-Africa Fellow, 2000-01

Professional Activities & Affiliations

- World Economic Forum, Global Coalition for Digital Safety, Expert Advisor, 2022
- Special Competitive Studies Project, Foreign Policy Working Group, 2022
- Summit For Democracy – Technology and Democracy Cohort, Working Group Member, 2022
- Freedom Online Coalition, Task Force on Internet Shutdowns, External Consultee, 2022
- UNICEF advisory group for policing assemblies involving children, Expert Member, 2022
- UNESCO Inclusive Policy Lab, Roster of Experts, 2022
- Princeton in Africa Board of Directors, 2022
- Frank Church Institute Board of Directors, 2017 – Present
- Data Governance for Children UNICEF Working Group, Expert Member, 2020-21
- Biden for President Campaign, Policy Volunteer, 2020
- U.S. Institute for Peace task force on extremism in fragile states, Senior Advisor, 2018-19
- Society for International Development – Washington, Board of Directors, 2013-16
- Council on Foreign Relations, Term Member, 2010-15
- Licensed Attorney, State Bar of California, 2004 – present

Select Media Appearances

Interviewed or published in a variety of media outlets, including AP News, BBC World Service, BuzzFeed, CNN, Financial Times, Foreign Affairs, Foreign Policy, The Guardian, Journal of Democracy, Just Security, MIT Technology Review, NPR All Things Considered, The National Interest, The New Yorker, Newsweek, PRI The World, ProPublica, Reuters, VOA, Wall Street Journal, The Washington Post, War On The Rocks.