

Professor Karen Ruth Adams is Associate Professor of Political Science at the University of Montana. Her research focuses on the causes and conduct of international conflict and the domestic, international, and technological sources of national security and insecurity.

Professor Adams has published an *International Security* article on the effects of the offense-defense-deterrence balance on great power attack and conquest. She has also published a chapter in *Making Sense of IR Theory* on the causes, conduct, and consequences of the Kosovo war. She is currently working on an article about international system membership, which identifies a large number of states that are missing from prominent political science data sets. During academic year 2006-2007, Professor Adams will be on research leave to complete her book manuscript on the causes of state death by conquest, union, revolution, disintegration, and collapse in Europe and the Middle East from 1816-2005. This project is funded by a junior faculty grant from the International Security program of the Smith Richardson Foundation.

Professor Adams joined the faculty at the University of Montana in Fall 2004. She teaches a variety of courses in international politics, including international security, international law and organization, and American foreign policy. She also advises the Montana Model UN Club, which runs a regional high school conference each fall and sends UM students to collegiate competitions each spring.

Professor Adams grew up in Arvada, Colorado, a suburb of Denver. In 1986, she received her Bachelor's degrees in Political Science and Economics from Stanford University. Within these majors, Professor Adams focused on international politics and economic development, interests that crystallized during a trip to China with her great aunt in 1984, when the Chinese government was just beginning to allow Americans to enter the country.

From 1986-1988, Professor Adams worked in San Francisco, California as a financial institutions insurance underwriter. During these years, she spent much of her free time devouring international news and attending World Affairs Council events, which confirmed her interest in international politics and inspired her to return to school.

In 1988, Professor Adams entered the Ph.D program in Political Science at the University of California, Berkeley. At U.C. Berkeley, she was a National Science Foundation Graduate Fellow and was named an outstanding graduate student instructor. Her dissertation, "State Survival and Death: International and Technological Contexts," was nominated by the U.C. Berkeley Department of Political Science for the American Political Science Association's 2001 Helen Dwight Reid Award for the best dissertation in the field of international relations, law, and politics.

From 1999-2004, Professor Adams was an Assistant Professor of Political Science at Louisiana State University. At LSU, she served as a faculty adviser to the Model United Nations team and the LSU Chapter of Amnesty International. In Summer 2003, she taught "War and Politics in Europe" at LSU in Paris. This class explored historical and contemporary European conflicts through readings, seminar discussions, walks through Roman, Medieval, and Napoleonic Paris, and trips to the World War I battlefields at Verdun and the D-Day beaches in Normandy.

In coming years, Professor Adams hopes to take UM students to Europe and Asia.