

ALEXANDRU FOTESCU

(MBA, EMPA, PhD ongoing)

EXPERIENCE

Fellow for Peace and Security – The Global Governance Institute (Brussels, since 01.2025)

Developing a new line of activity of the institute, focusing on European preparedness, competitiveness, and human capital in statecraft and leadership.

Board member and Research Officer - International Association for Intelligence Education (IAFIE)

Feb. 2024 – present | European Chapter (global network based in the USA)

Membership and organisational development, workshops and curricular design, conference organising.

Researcher – Helmut Schmidt University (HSU) of the German Armed Forces

Oct. 2022 – 2025 | Hamburg, Germany

- Co-founded the Democratic Resilience Center of the Bundeswehr – conceptual and organisational design, stakeholder management, coordination seminars organising, internal advocacy, funding and consulting work, and established the scientific and programmatic taxonomies of the Center.
- Co-chaired the NATO STO HFM Cognitive Warfare research group on “Weapons and Methods of the Adversary”.
Researcher: Multinational Information Operations Experiment (MNIOE), wargaming, cognitive warfare, national resilience, geoeconomics and geopolitics, the political economy of security and defence.
- Co-leader: Nordic Civil-Military Research Network (NCMR) – network funding, development, and programmatic leadership; leading the workstreams on economic security, human capital in security and defence.
- Liaison EU-HYBNET – H2020 project European Network for Countering Hybrid Threats.
- Course director of the ESDC Doctoral School Summer University 2025

Head of Research and Strategy, Analyst – Smartlink Communications LLC

2018 – 2022 | Bucharest, Romania

- **Governmental and Corporate advisory:** strategic and political communication, EU policies, NATO and security policies, socio-political risk, early warning, technology trends and foresight, market development, investments & regulatory risk, association formation, opportunity scoping, public affairs, governmental relations.
- **Research:** EU, US, Russian, Chinese global initiatives, strategic dependencies, hybrid threats, strategic autonomy, AI and emerging technologies.
- **Training:** curricular and program design for diplomatic and corporate academies and EU Missions in Moldova, Georgia; strategic communication, geopolitics, competitive strategies, democracy protection.
- **Intelligence:** foresight, mapping, economic intelligence, economic warfare, hybrid warfare, influence and disinformation assessment, effects-based planning.
- **Strategy:** corporate and government strategy advisory, market opening and access, product and services design, transatlantic cooperation, interinstitutional cooperation initiation, science and technology programmes innovation.
- **Analysis:** strategic communication, defence (capabilities & strategic options), energy, agriculture, science and innovation, competitiveness, technology, industrial capabilities, Russia, China, EU, NATO, US, North Africa, strategic and sovereign investments.

Analyst – Centre for Conflict Prevention and Early Warning (CPC-EW)

2016 – 2018 | Bucharest, Romania

Analysis of the political, military, societal, economic, technology developments relevant to EU, NATO (geopolitics and geo-economics), covering the ,BRI, Nordics, V4/CEE, emerging threats & early warning, asymmetric TTPs / irregular warfare, Chinese FDI, strategic M&A in Europe.

Occasional contributions of policy analysis of EU key documents and frameworks pertaining to internal and external security and foreign policy.

Speaker, Trainer, Lecturer

Cognitive Warfare and Europe's preparedness to face it – Panelist, FISA Annual Conference (Jan. 2025, Finland).

Human Capital in Security and Defence – Speaker, Round Table, European Policy Center (Nov. 2024, Brussels).

Wargaming with AI for Neuroplasticity – Speaker, Wargaming Initiative for NATO WIN24 (Sept. 2024, Hamburg).

Cognitive Warfare and the Changing Character of Conflict – Speaker, Belgian Royal Higher Institute of Defence and EuroDefense (May 2024, Brussels).

Cognitive Warfare and Resilience – Speaker, National Defence University (US), Irregular Warfare Center (US), National Defence University FHS (Sweden) Conference (April 2024, Stockholm).

Hybrid Threats and Resilience – Lecturer, Psychology & Conflict seminar, Otto Friedrich Univ. Bamberg, Oct. 2023.

Wargaming with AI: Life-like, Culturally Astute, Real-Time, Strategically Surprising – Speaker, Peruvian Navy Symposium on Wargaming (Oct. 2023, Lima).

Strategic Communication and Democratic Resilience – Lecturer, Jean-Monnet Module on EU Strategic Communication and Security Governance, National Intelligence Academy, June 2023, Bucharest.

Psychology, Resilience, and Influence Operations – Lecturer, Psychology & Policy Consulting seminar / Otto-Friedrich-Universität Bamberg, Oct. 2022.

Cyber Diplomacy, Security, and EU-China relations – Guest Speaker, Department of International Relations, National University of Political Studies and Public Administration (Dec. 2020, Bucharest).

EDUCATION

Doctoral Fellow – European Security and Defence College (Brussels) since 2022

- Topics: CFSP, CSDP policy and missions & operations, defence-industrial policy frameworks, Europe in the world, sovereignty and interdependencies, cyber and emerging technologies in security and defence.

PhD in Political Science – Helmut Schmidt University (Hamburg) since 2023

- Dissertation: Cognitive warfare as a statecraft instrument.

Hybrid Centre of Excellence (HCOE) & the US Naval Postgraduate School (NPS) (Helsinki) 2023

- Wargaming course, basic and advanced modules, with a focus on hybrid and information warfare.

Executive Master of Public Administration (EMPA) – Hertie School of Governance (Berlin) 2020-2024

- Thesis: EU scientific diplomacy as a means for a “Geopolitical Europe”
- Topics: public sector management, change management, digitalisation, artificial intelligence, budgeting, human capital, policy design, organisational design, foresight, social entrepreneurship & innovation, neuroplasticity.

PhD in Communication Sciences (ABD) – SNSPA (Bucharest) 2020-2023

- Topics: hybrid warfare, strategic communication, disinformation, influence operations, information analysis, cognitive security, foreign interference, information manipulation, democratic resilience, algorithmic warfare.

Master of Business Administration and Sociology (MBA+MA) (Dual Degree) – University of Bucharest 2013-2015

- Thesis: Psychographic-informed executive education design for millennials.
- Topics: knowledge management, business administration, international business, marketing and communication, sociology, cultures and international markets, strategic management, critical thinking, organisational behaviour, international management, entrepreneurship, internationalisation, ethics.

Bachelor of Political Science – University of Bucharest 2009-2012

- Thesis: Comparative integration models EU-ASEAN
- Topics: theories of international relations, government design, public policy, socio-political risk, political sociology, theories of democracy, Latin American politics, Middle East politics, political economy, open-source intelligence, European political cultures, innovation processes in the sciences.

Rome, 17.11.2025

Alexandru FOTESCU

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