

Thibault FOUILLET

Scientific Director
Institute for Strategy and Defense Studies

Associate Researcher
Foundation for Strategic Research

Doctor of History - History of strategic doctrines
University of Luxembourg



Scientific Director at the Institut d'Études de Stratégie et de Défense (IESD) since 2023, Head of the "Command and Control of Future Armed Operations" research axis and seminar, and Director of the "Power and Air-Land Operations" and "Wargaming and Simulation for Research" research clusters, former Associate Researcher at IESD between 2018 and 2022, Faculty of Law, Université Jean Moulin - Lyon III.



Researcher in charge of the "future armed operations" and "wargaming and simulation for research" research clusters, specializing in small-power strategic thinking, between 2019 and 2023, then Associate Researcher since 2023.

TRAINING AND QUALIFICATIONS

- 2023: PhD in history - history of strategic doctrines. Thesis under the supervision of Prof. Sonja Kmec, University of Luxembourg - La grande stratégie des petites puissances. Study of the founding mechanisms of a grand strategy in the face of a security dilemma applied to Luxembourg, Lithuania and Singapore (1965-2025). Mention très honorable avec les félicitations du jury, nomination au prix de l'excellence des thèses du Luxembourg (competition results in December 2023) (qualification CNU 22 et 04 requested for 2024)
- 2018 : Diplôme de commandement (OSCE) from the Ecole spéciale militaire de Saint-Cyr
- 2017: Master 2 Relations Internationales, course Sécurité Internationale et Défense - Université Jean-Moulin Lyon III, graduated with honors.
- 2015: Double Bachelor's degree in Law and Political Science, Université Jean-Moulin Lyon III, graduated with honors.
- 2012: Baccalauréat ES, specializing in economics, summa cum laude.

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I. TEACHING DUTIES AND ADMINISTRATIVE RESPONSIBILITIES

□ TEACHING FUNCTIONS

Main function:

- Since 2022: Vacation teaching, Faculty of Law, Jean Moulin University - Lyon III. Master 2 International Relations, "International Security and Defense" specialization.
- Since 2022: Vacation teaching, Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Lyon.

Overview of courses by level (L.M.D.) :

- L2 lecture, Foreign and Defense Policy of the United States of America, 24h.
- M2 lecture, International Military Assistance, 15h.
- M2 seminar, Research methodology in political science, 12h

Enseignement en parallèle de la fonction principale :

In France:

- Since 2022: Teaching *wargaming* methodology applied to prospective studies and fundamental research (PSL Week - ENS Ulm, Paris).

Pedagogy and training in practical methodologies :

- Since 2021: Student *mentoring* and training in the creation of research simulations and the use of *wargaming* for prospective and historical studies and its contribution to fundamental research (in partnership with the *wargaming* pole of the Association du Master Sécurité Internationale et Défense) - Université Jean-Moulin Lyon III.

Direction of research projects :

- 2023-2024 :
 - ➔ Co-director of Professional Thesis: Ecole de Guerre Terre - ESCP Paris : (4-year project)
 - LENFANT Floris, "La transformation du modèle tactique, vers une pensée asymétrique au service des engagements symétriques?" (Provisional title)
- 2022-2023 :
 - ➔ Master 2 SID research thesis (Université Jean-Moulin Lyon III) :
 - SPORTELLI Thomas, "La sahel: Laboratoire de l'Europe de la défense?"
 - DAMIRON Dimitri, "D'une guerre à l'autre: pour une adaptation des leçons opérationnelles de la guerre irrégulière dans le cadre du retour de la conflictualité de haute intensité".
 - ➔ Master 2 GPI research thesis (Université Jean-Moulin Lyon III) :
 - WAGIH ALI AHMED BEKHEET Mennatalla, "Energy diversification in the Middle East through the civil nuclear option: consequences and challenges for regional stability".

II. RESEARCH, PUBLICATIONS AND SPEECHES

□ PROMOTING RESEARCH

National research program :

- Project leader and pilot for the "Observatoire Armée de Terre 2035", 2019-2020, for the French Army Staff. Framework contract for research notes, organization of research seminars and research events for the Ministry of the Army.

Expertise for national and European parliamentary committees:

Parliamentary hearings

- "Mission Flash sur la Défense Sol-Air au regard de la guerre en Ukraine", Hearing before the Defense Committee of the French National Assembly, December 2022.

□ RESEARCH ACTIVITIES

- Since 2023: Scientific Director, Institut d'Etudes de Stratégie et de Défense (IESD, Université Jean-Moulin Lyon III)
- Since 2019: Researcher at the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (FRS), then Associate Researcher since 2023.
- Since 2018: Associate Researcher at the Institute for Strategy and Defense Studies (IESD, Université Jean-Moulin Lyon III)

My research focuses on five complementary areas:

- Theories and studies of strategic doctrines: epistemology, ontology, evolutions, prospective considerations, capability and comparative studies, history and evolution of concepts
- Defense and security policies in international relations. Operational (conventional) theories and doctrines, comparative study of civilian and military approaches to strategy, evolution of operational modes of action and comparative capability processes. Consequences in terms of cooperation and conflict in international relations seen as a society.
- Military history from the perspective of the evolution of operational modes, strategic and tactical concepts and the sociology of military decision-making.
- The strategic vision of small powers: theoretical constitution and heuristic reconstructions of operational and security reading grids.
- Wargaming for strategic and operational studies.

□ PUBLICATIONS

Published works :

- *Wargaming : un outil de recherche stratégique*, Paris, L'Harmattan, December 2022.
- *La guerre au XXIème siècle : le retour de la bataille*, collective book direction, Paris, Editions du rocher, 2023. - Nominated for the 2024 "La plume et l'Epée" literary prize. Coming soon:
- *Géopolitique des petites puissances*, Paris, La découverte (collection perspectives géopolitiques), 2024 (forthcoming)

Chapters in collective works - peer review process

- "What is a small-state security policy? Transpolitical propagation of Luxembourg, Singapore and Lithuania", with Antony Dabila (co-author), in Thomas Kolnberger and Harlan Koff (eds.), *Agency, Security and Governance of Small States*, Routledge, October 2023.

Refereed journal articles and category A :

- "Le mirage de la 'guerre courte': l'invasion russe de l'Ukraine aboutissement du biais de la blitzkrieg", *Annuaire Français des Relations Internationales*, 2024 (forthcoming).
- "Shock and motion: contemporary operations between *Blitzkrieg* and tactical stalemate", with Bruno Lassalle, *Revue Défense Nationale*, January 2024.
- "Géopolitique des petites puissances: une autre voie de la stratégie", with Cédric Tellenne and Antony Dabila (co-authors), *Politique étrangère*, 2023, volume 2.
- "The security dilemma: characterizing a state's strategic vision in the 21st century?", *Revue Défense Nationale*, n°837, February 2021.
- "Between Multi-Domain Operations and "New Generation Warfare", which paths for French armies?" *Cahiers de la Revue Défense Nationale*, October 2020.
- "Demain des opérations collaboratives?", *Revue Défense Nationale*, n°829, April 2020.

Articles in journals specializing in international relations and strategic studies

- "The avatars of victory", co-edited with Joseph Henrotin, areion24.news, October 9, 2023.
- Co-editor (and author of three articles) of the special issue 92 of *Défense et Sécurité Internationale*, on the notion of victory, October 2023:
 - *Victory through the prism of war levels*
 - *No defeat and strategic success: victory for small powers*
 - *Victory in the war in Ukraine: what are we talking about?* co-edited with Joseph Henrotin • "Le wargaming en France: une méthodologie en devenir", *Défense & Industries*, n°17, June 2023.
- "NATO exit and strategic independence: myth or reality?", *Defence and International Security*, n° 158, March-April 2022.
- "L'importance de la doctrine: décryptage de la stratégie militaire dans la guerre en Ukraine", *Défense et sécurité internationale*, Hors-Série, No. 85, August-September 2022.
- Wargaming column in every issue of *DefTech*, since 2022.
- "Les facteurs connexes de la montée en gamme des armées : des domaines clés trop souvent délaissés", *DefTech* n°1, March 2022.
- "Capabilities and challenges of land robotization for the armed forces", *DefTech* No. 2, June-August 2022.
- "The use of drones by special forces: revolution or consolidation?", *DefTech* n°2, June-August 2022.
- "*DefTech* n°3, October-December 2022.
- "La remontée en puissance terrestres des Etats baltes: mise en perspective opérationnelle" *Defense & Industries*, n°16, June 2022.
- "Outer space military strategy and development of next-generation C2 (Command & Control) structures", *Deterrence Bulletin*, n°107, March 2023.

Unpublished research notes

- "'Breaking the front': the return of the lessons of the two world wars to the war in Ukraine", IESD (*policy paper* collection), December 2023.
- "Capability lessons from the Russian-Ukrainian war", MBDA, June 2023.
- "A look to the East: the strategic implications of the war in Ukraine for the United States and Europe. and Poland, FRS Note No. 09/2022, March 2022.
- "De la "guerre sanitaire", mise en perspective de l'emploi du registre guerrier dans la crise du coronavirus", FRS Note, April 2020.
- "Guerre en Ukraine: étude opérationnelle d'un conflit de haute intensité (premier volet)", Research & Document, Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique, February 2023.

State outlook reports

- Le combat collaboratif au défi de l'autonomie stratégique, 2023, Etat-Major armée de Terre (Bureau Plans), Direction générale des relations internationales et stratégiques - DGRIS/ Ministère de la défense
- Le concept russe de " guerre nouvelle génération " du Général Gerasimov : quelle exploitation pour l'armée de Terre ?, 2019, Observatoire armée de Terre 2035, Direction générale des relations internationales et stratégiques - DGRIS/ Ministère de la défense
- Les systèmes automatisés vont-ils redéfinir la nature du combat terrestre, 2020, Observatoire armée de Terre 2035, Direction générale des relations internationales et stratégiques - DGRIS/ Ministère de la défense)
- Existe-t-il une approche sociologique permettant de mieux recruter pour mieux fidéliser, 2020, Observatoire armée de Terre 2035, Direction générale des relations internationales et stratégiques - DGRIS/ Ministère de la défense)

- La remontée en puissance à la lumière des vulnérabilités et dépendances industrielles révélées par la crise sanitaire, 2020, Observatoire armée de Terre 2035, Direction générale des relations internationales et stratégiques - DGRIS/ Ministère de la défense)
- What would be the impact of a digital pandemic on the French Army (functioning and role within the Nation), 2020, Observatoire armée de Terre 2035, Direction générale des relations internationales et stratégiques - DGRIS/ Ministère de la Défense)

Interviews (print media, radio, television, conferences and WebTV): non-exhaustive list

- Written interview with the Croatian newspaper Dnevnik on the evolution of the war in Ukraine, January 2024, https://www.dnevnik.bg/sviat/voinata_v_ukraina/2024/01/04/4572144_voinata_na_rusii_izpr_avia_ukraina_pred_oshte/
- Written interview with the New York Times on the tactical stalemate in Ukraine and the conceptual and operational study of the evolution of the front, December 2021: <https://www.nytimes.com/2023/12/22/world/europe/russia-ukrainewar.html?searchResultPosition=1>
- Video interview with l'Opinion newspaper on the operational future of the war in Ukraine: September 2023, <https://www.lopinion.fr/international/ukraine-pourquoi-faut-il-se-preparer-a-une-guerre-longue>.
- Interview with Le Parisien newspaper, "Contre-offensive ukrainienne : trois scénarios pour une reconquête", May 14, 2023.
- Interview with L'express newspaper, "Guerre en Ukraine : comment Kiev prépare le terrain avant sa contre-offensive", May 12, 2023, <https://www.lexpress.fr/monde/europe/guerre-en-ukraine-comment-kiev-prepare-le-terrain-avant-sa-contre-offensive-4MKBXV4UC5HZBMZ5D222QQYXNM/>.
- Direct télévision auprès de France 24 Monde, "Putin evokes new 'patriotic war' to 'defend' Russia & 'free' Ukraine from 'Nazi putsch of Maidan'", May 10, 2023.
- Interview with Le Figaro newspaper, "Comment le 'wargaming' influence les conflits modernes", May 9, 2023.
- Interview with Le Monde newspaper, "L'Ukraine prépare sa contre-offensive avec des 'wargames' organisés par le Pentagone", March 8, 2023, https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2023/03/08/l-ukraine-prepare-sa-contreoffensive-avec-des-wargames-organises-par-le-pentagone_6164572_3210.html.
- Interview with Radio France Internationale, "Bataille de Bakhmout: "La guerre d'attrition est toujours plus favorable au défenseur qu'à l'assaillant", March 6, 2023, <https://www.rfi.fr/fr/europe/20230306-bataille-de-bakhmout-la-guerre-d-attrition-est-toujours-plus-favorable-au-d%C3%A9fenseur-qu-%C3%A0-l-assaillant>.
- Speech at the IISS conference (Berlin): ISR in the cold: assessing capabilities and planning in the Baltic and Arctic Europe, panel 1 on "The geostrategic importance of the Baltic region, the High North and the Arctic, and the role of ISR", speaker 2 on "The geostrategic importance of the Baltic region", September 14, 2022.
- Interview and quote for article in Le Monde: "La montée en puissance de l'armée polonaise n'échappe pas à la logique populiste du gouvernement", September 2, 2022, https://www.lemonde.fr/international/article/2022/09/02/la-montee-en-puissance-de-l-armee-polonaise-n-echappe-pasa-la-logique-populiste-du-gouvernement_6139992_3210.html.
- France Culture podcast le temps du débat with Céline Bayou and Yves Plasseraud, June 27, 2022, <https://www.radiofrance.fr/franceculture/podcasts/le-temps-du-debat/guerre-en-ukrainecomment-protoger-les-pays-baltes-4402631>.
- Interview and quote for article in L'Express newspaper: "Tensions Russie-Lituanie : Kaliningrad, poudrière en Europe?", June 24, 2022, https://www.lexpress.fr/actualite/monde/europe/on-ne-peut-exclure-aucunscenariokaliningrad-poudriere-en-europe_2175818.html.

- Interview and quote for France 24 article: "Le corridor de Suwalki, un enjeu stratégique pour les pays baltes et l'Otan", May 18, 2022, <https://www.france24.com/fr/europe/20220518-lecorridor-de-suwalki-un-enjeustrat%C3%A9gique-pour-les-pays-baltes-et-l-otan>.
- Interview and quote for article in L'Express newspaper: "Guerre en Ukraine : en Pologne et dans les pays baltes, la peur d'être les prochaines cibles", March 1, 2022, https://www.lexpress.fr/actualite/monde/europe/guerre-en-ukraine-en-pologne-et-dans-lespays-baltes-la-peur-d-etreles-prochaines-cibles_2168874.html.
- Interview and quote for article in L'Express newspaper: "Crise en Ukraine : dans les pays baltes, la peur d'être les prochains sur la liste", January 28, 2022, https://www.lexpress.fr/actualite/monde/europe/crise-enukraine-les-pays-baltes-craignent-dese-retrouver-au-menu-du-geant-russe_2167026.html.
- Intervention conférence Université du Luxembourg, panel : whose capacities ? small states' institutional security capacities and limitations, sujet : WHAT IS A SMALL STATE SECURITY POLICY? LUXEMBOURG, SINGAPORE & AL, September 25, 2021. "Is Russia still a major nuclear power?", Focus, Le Figaro, October 10, 2022.

□ SEMINARS, SYMPOSIA AND CONFERENCES

Organization of research seminars

- October 26, 2023: IRSEM symposium on "Interconnecting high strategic capabilities".
- Since 2022: Creation and direction of the doctoral seminar "Next-generation C2 (Command & Control): issues and implications for the future of armed operations", four annual sessions, Institute of Strategy and Defense Studies (IESD), Université Lyon III.

Organization of symposia, conferences and study days

- "Etudes stratégiques : ancrages disciplinaires et problématiques de recherche", creation and presentation on the theme: *Etudes opérationnelles et recherche fondamentale : un lien indispensable*, December 7, 2023.
- "Penser le commandement et la conduite des opérations: les Centres de commandement et de contrôle (C2) aujourd'hui et demain", supervision du colloque national organisé dans le cadre du programme du Master 2 "sécurité internationale et défense", Université Jean-Moulin Lyon III, Lyon, February 9 and 10, 2023.
- Wargames and affiliated events: wargame for the command of the aircraft carrier Charles de Gaulle September 2023, wargame workshop for the archipelago conference at Grenoble University June 2022, Mentoring wargame (continued every year, but last event: naval wargame - Pacific War June 2022), Fabrique Défense Lyon December 2021, IESD space wargame November 2021, wargames for army staffs, CNES, etc.
- "The Geopolitics of Small Powers", creation and presentation/moderation, Bibliothèque nationale de France, April 21, 2022.
- Colloque à la Bibliothèque nationale de France: "La Tactique au XXIème siècle, anatomie de la bataille contemporaine", creation and presentation/moderation, Bibliothèque nationale de France, October 10, 2022.

Presentations at thematic conferences

- "Battlefield transparency: history, concepts, studies", Ecole de Guerre Terre, January 29, 2024.
- "Le champ de bataille à horizon 2040 : Essai de modélisation", Institut Français des Relations Internationales, January 15, 2024.
- "Le biais blitzkrieg: étude du processus décisionnel dans la guerre en Ukraine", Assises de l'Association Française de Sociologie, talk given on July 5, 2023 in Lyon.

- "Le wargaming : un outil méthodologique au service de la recherche et des études prospectives", Assises de l'AEGES, presentation given on June 9, 2023 in Bordeaux.
- "L'assistance militaire en Ukraine: étude critique", AEGES conference, speech given on June 9, 2023 in Bordeaux.