

In Memoriam Robert Jervis (1940 – 2021)

December 9, 2021. The Institute is deeply saddened to share the news of the passing of long-time Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies member and giant in the field of international relations, Robert Jervis, the Adlai E. Stevenson Professor of International Politics in the Department of Political Science and the School of International and Public Affairs. He was a unique person and scholar and his loss is mourned by generations of his mentees and by political science scholars across the globe. He mentored hundreds of visiting international scholars throughout his career at Columbia.

He received his B.A. from Oberlin College in 1962, where he developed an interest in nuclear strategy and was influenced by Thomas Schelling's *Strategy of Conflict* and Glenn Snyder's *Deterrence and Defense*. He then earned his Ph.D. from the University of California, Berkeley in 1968 before two stints teaching at Harvard and UCLA. Jervis began teaching at Columbia in 1980, where he became an integral part of the political science community and made an immeasurable impact at the Saltzman Institute of War and Peace Studies.

Jervis' published literature has been immensely influential in redefining the field of international relations and national security. Jervis' scholarship continues to define the field to this day, and two of his seminal books, *The Logic of Images in International Relations* (1970) and *Perceptions and Misperception in International Politics* (1976), are as relevant and influential today as they were when they came out. Jervis' writing received many awards and honors throughout his career in recognition of his immense contributions to the field. His *System Effects: Complexity in Political Life* (1997) was a co-winner of the American Political Science Association's (APSA) Psychology

Section Best Book Award, and *The Meaning of the Nuclear Revolution* (1989) won the Grawemeyer Award for Ideas Improving World Order.

Aside from his membership in the Saltzman Institute, Jervis was President of the American Political Science Association in 2000-01 and received the National Academy of Science's award for behavioral sciences contributions to avoiding nuclear war. He was also a Fellow of the American Association for the Advancement of Science and the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, and was a member of the Council on Foreign Relations, the American Philosophical Society, the National Academy of Sciences, and the British Academy. Jervis chaired the Historical Review Panel for the Central Intelligence Agency for 10 years and served as an Intelligence Community Associate.

Along with his vast scholarly influence, Jervis will be remembered for his power to convene, his kind heart, humorous personality, and dedication to and love for his students. He is survived by Kathe, his wife of 54 years, daughters Alexa (Greg Racz) and Lisa (Jay Schwartz), grandsons Daniel and Joshua Racz, step-grandson Ezra Schwartz, brother Steven (Susan Weltman), brother-in-law of Zarine Weil and the late Richard Weil, sister-in-law Zarine Weil, nephews Aaron Weil (Linda Perry), Darius Weil, and niece Delna Weil.