Robert M. Cutler

Strategic Communications & Media Analysis

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Robert M. Cutler develops communications approaches grounded in substantive research and an organization's objectives. His experience includes designing and implementing an external information strategy for a pipeline-development company, producing and editing policy analysis, preparing executive briefings, and directing an energy-security publication program.

Selected advisory assignments

Energy diplomacy and strategic communications | 2018–2020

Advised the director for corporate strategy of a pipeline-development company in the Black Sea–Caspian region. Designed and implemented its external information strategy; developed website and other information products; communicated through conferences, seminars, policy writing, and interviews; and advised on negotiating strategies and international-diplomatic approaches.

Executive briefings and policy dialogue | EastWest Institute | 1998–1999

Consultant to the special assistant to the president. Served as rapporteur for the Second East–West Leaders' Forum and prepared a briefing book for a high-level American business delegation to the Caspian Sea region.

Institutional design | Parliamentarians for Global Action | 2003–2005

Designed the institutional blueprint for a Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court and Rule of Law, defining structure, responsibilities, and functions. Served as rapporteur for the organization's strategic review and planning retreat for organizational renewal.

Caspian export-pipeline options | 2000–2004

Consultant to the special assistant to the president of an international oil and gas development company with operations in Central Asia. Evaluated proprietary financial and organizational information, assessed geopolitical risks, and recommended export-pipeline routes and negotiating approaches.

Caucasus Working Group | Centre for European Policy Studies | 1998–2000

Contributed proposals on stability, security, energy development, and pipeline construction in the South Caucasus. Assessed how existing or new international institutions could support regional security and cooperation.

Expert witness on human rights in Central Asia | 2002–2009

Prepared affidavits and court-recognized expert opinions for U.S. immigration appeals concerning the likelihood of religious, gender-based, or political persecution following return to a country of origin.

Public diplomacy and specialist briefings | U.S. Department of State | 2009, 2010, 2012

Speaker and Specialist Grantee. Delivered invited lectures and public presentations in Armenia, Azerbaijan, the Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, and Romania; led seminars at research institutes and policy think tanks; and consulted with government advisory and decision-making bodies.

Program leadership and analytical publishing

Program leadership | NATO Association of Canada | 2018–present

Senior Research Fellow and Director of the Energy Security Program. Manages and edits the program's analytical publishing; develops publication series; trains and mentors interns; and organizes and moderates webinars and podcasts.

Contributing Analyst: The Times of Central Asia, 2024–Present; Central Asia–Caucasus Analyst, contributor since 1999; The Liberum, 2023–2025; Montreal Gazette, 2014–2015; ISN Security Watch, 2008–2011; Asia Times Online, 2007–2013; FSU Oil & Gas Monitor, 1998–2001.

Periodic analyses of Eurasian energy security and geo-economics; later expanded to Asian and European finance and markets after the global financial crisis beginning in 2007–2008.

Selected analytical writing: robertcutler.org/blog and muckrack.com/RobertMCutler.

Strategic foresight

Strategic foresight through expert simulations | Wikistrat

Lead analyst for The European Union in 2030 (2013), a three-week simulation involving 80 analysts worldwide, and Global Middle Class Values 2033 (2014), a two-week simulation involving 80 analysts worldwide. These are selected examples from service as lead analyst (2013–2018) and senior analyst (2012–2018).

Institutional and editorial service

Member, Board of Directors, Montreal Press Club (MPC), 2013–2019.

Chair, 2015–2019; Secretary pro tempore, 2015–16; Vice-President, 2014–15. Designed organizational structure, redeveloped institutional infrastructure; established inter-organizational partnership co-operation between MPC and Brussels Press Club Europa.

Member, Executive Board, Central Eurasian Studies Society, 2002–2005.

Key team member guiding organizational takeoff of a new international interdisciplinary scholarly organization with membership doubling every year from 2001 to 2005. In addition: Chair, Institutional Linkages Committee; Member, Publications Committee.

Selected editorial service

Editorial and advisory-board service includes Caucasus Strategic Perspectives (2021–present), Journal of Eurasian Studies (2011–present), Caspium Securitatis (2021–2023), Geopolitics of Energy (2016–2021), Journal of International Organizations Studies, Oil, Gas and Energy Law, and Turkistan-Newsletter. Associate editor, Oil, Gas and Energy Law (2004–2008); founding editor, "Perspectives," Central Eurasian Studies Review (2002–2007).

Research appointments

Senior Researcher, Institute of European, Russian and Eurasian Studies [and its antecedent academic units], Carleton University, 1996–2019.

Resource person on Central and Southwest Asia and the Caucasus, and selected topics of international relations theory, including energy-related topics from Europe to East Asia. Evaluated theses, networked with foreign institutions.

Co-principal investigator, Research and Development Grant, [U.S.] Social Science Research Council, 1994–1996.

Mediated and coordinated bureaucratic interests in support of a successful grant proposal. Planned and organized workshops on post-Soviet affairs; assured attendance and discussion.

Principal Investigator, Research Grants: World Society Foundation, 1996–1998; Co-operative Security Program, Department of External Affairs and International Trade, Government of Canada, 1993–1994; [U.S.] Social Science and Humanities Research Council, 1991–1994, 1998–2001; and Special Sovietology Program, Department of National Defence, Government of Canada, 1989–1991.

Developed, wrote, and administered projects: “Soviet Studies and Gorbachev”, “Social Science Theory and Post-Soviet Reality”, “Cooperative Security in Eurasia”, “Post-Soviet Foreign Policies in Emerging World Order”; supervised assistants, published relevant research. Innovated Cooperative Energy Security concept under Cooperative Security Program grant.

Principal Investigator [and Post-doctoral Research Fellow], Joint Committee on Soviet Studies, Social Science Research Council and American Council of Learned Societies 1985–1988.

Developed and wrote successful research proposal (“How the Soviet Press Works”) to study overlap between Soviet foreign policy making and domestic bureaucratic politics. Executed plan of work, supervised assistants, administered funds, published results.

Canadian Energy Research Institute | 2016–2021

Fellow. Research and analysis of energy security and geoeconomics.

Education and training

Columbia University, Alan and Tudy McLaine Leadership Fellow, Rockefeller Brothers Program for East Central Europe and the Former Soviet Union, International House, 1993–1994.

Social Science Research Council, Grant for Central Asian Studies, Indiana University, Summer 1993.

University of Nantes, Fellow in International Economics, Scientific Research Council, 1984–1985.

Columbia University, Mellon Postdoctoral Fellow, The Harriman Institute, 1983–1984.

Moscow State University, IREX Postdoctoral Fellow, Faculty of Contemporary History, 1982–1983.

University of Michigan, Ph.D. in Political Science, 1982.

University of Geneva, Albert Gallatin Fellow in International Affairs, Graduate Institute of International Studies, Faculty of International History and Politics, 1979–1980.

Pennsylvania State University, M.A. in Political Science, 1976.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology: Sc.B., Political Science, 1974; Sc.B., Humanities and Science, 1974. Studies in history, literature, and mathematics, with coursework in Western European history and politics.

Languages: English (native); French (bilingual); Russian (proficient); German and Dutch (working knowledge).

Countries of international experience: Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Canada, China, Czechia, Denmark, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iran, Italy, Kazakhstan, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Monaco, Mexico, Norway, Netherlands, Portugal, Romania, Russia, Singapore, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, United Kingdom, United States, Uzbekistan.

Selected publications and presentations

"Canada Should Work With Washington on Critical Minerals Without Deferring to It," in Charles S. Oliviero and Phil Halton (eds.), Fulfilling the Promise: Charting Canada's 21st Century National Strategy (Toronto: Dagger Books, forthcoming 2026).

"From Unipolar Drift to Systemic Bifurcation: Evolution of the Anglosphere–Sinosphere Opposition," in Tiago Luís Carvalho and Monojit Das (eds.), Geoeconomics and Governance: Evolving Roles and Challenges (London: Palgrave Macmillian, forthcoming 2026).

"In the Grip of Global Bifurcation: The EU and Its Possible Futures," Baku Dialogues 8:4 (Summer 2025), 6–32.

"Using NATO Partnership to Strengthen Strategic Autonomy for Azerbaijan and Central Asia in Rare-Earth Mining and Supply Chain," Published Remarks, Conference on Azerbaijan and NATO's Partnership for Peace, Baku, 25–27 November 2024.

"Western Blind Spot in the South Caucasus: Chronicle of a War Foretold", Caucasus Strategic Perspectives 1:2 (Winter 2020), 57–70.

"An Evolutionary Phenomenology of Resilience," with Alexander von Lingen. Kybernetes 48:4 (April 2019), 685–695. First published online August 7, 2018.

Robert M. Cutler and Alexander von Lingen. "Emerging Interregional Parliamentarism: The Case of the Baltic Assembly," in Kolja Raube, Meltem Müftüler-Baç and Jan Wouters (eds.), Parliamentary Cooperation and Diplomacy in EU External Relations (Cheltenham: Edward Elgar, 2019), pp. 120–138.

"The Unintended Consequences of Energy Policy Reform: Lessons for Canada," Geopolitics of Energy 39:9 (September 2017), 2–11.

"Global Energy Governance Needs to be Multi-level and Regionalized", Caucasus International Journal 5:2 (Summer 2015), 91–105.

"International Parliamentary Institutions as Organizations," Journal of International Organizations Studies 4:1 (Spring 2013), 104–126.

How Soviet Foreign Policy Failed: What Complexity Science Tells Us That Nothing Else Can (Litchfield Park, Ariz.: Emergent Publications, 2013).

The European Union in 2030 (Washington, D.C.: Wikistrat, 2013). [Report as Lead Analyst of a three-week-long simulation comprising 80 analysts worldwide, to define the challenges facing the EU with a view towards its potential futures and road-maps to them.]

"Development of the European Neighbourhood Program in the South Caucasus: An Instance of Incipient Organizational Learning," Global Europe Papers 2008/4 (Bath: Department of European Studies, University of Bath, 2008).

"Russia's Disinformation Campaign over South Ossetia", Central Asia–Caucasus Analyst 10:16 (20 August 2008), 5-7.

"The Paradox of Intentional Emergent Coherence: Organization and Decision in a Complex World," Journal of the Washington Academy of Sciences 92:4 (Winter 2007), 9–27.

"Soviet Foreign Policy and Propaganda in the 1974 French Presidential Succession", paper presented to the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association, Philadelphia (Penna.), 15–17 November 2007.

PGA Strategic Review and Planning Document. New York: Parliamentarians for Global Action, October 2005. Rapporteur, Strategic Review & Planning Retreat Weekend for Organizational Renewal.

A Parliamentary Assembly for the International Criminal Court? Options and Issues Paper. New York: Parliamentarians for Global Action, September 2003. Co-author.

"The Emergence of International Parliamentary Institutions," in Gordon S. Smith and Daniel Wolfish (eds.), Who Is Afraid of the State?(Toronto: University of Toronto Press, 2001), pp. 201–229.

"Gorbachev as CEO Roadkill," in Michael R. Lissack and Hugh P. Gunz (eds.), Managing the Complex (New York: Quorum, 1999), pp. 352–370.

Financing Eurasian Energy for the 21st Century. New York: Institute for EastWest Studies, July 1998.

"Soviet Press Reform, Leadership Succession, and Foreign Policy", Northeast Political Science Association, Annual Meeting, Philadelphia (Penna.), 14–16 November 1991.

"How to Analyze Soviet Foreign Policy Propaganda", Rand-UCLA Center for the Study of Soviet International Behavior, Santa Monica (Calif.), 2 April 1986.

"Reporting Foreign News and Making Foreign Policy in the USSR", World Congress for Soviet and East European Studies, Washington (D.C.), 30 October – 4 November 1985.

"Organizational and Propaganda Processes in Soviet Foreign Policy Making", International Studies Association, Twenty-fifth Annual Convention, Atlanta (Ga.), 22–26 March 1984.

"The Formation of Soviet Foreign Policy: Organizational and Cognitive Perspectives," World Politics 34:3 (April 1982), 418–436.

"Decision Making and International Relations: The Cybernetic Theory Reconsidered," Michigan Journal of Political Science 1:2 (Fall 1981), 57–63.