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In 2005-2006 he was a visiting research fellow in the Princeton-Harvard China and the World Program, and in 2007-2008 he was China Security Fellow at the Institute for National Strategic Studies, National Defense University. Much of Kastner's research examines the political and security-related causes and consequences of international economic exchange, with an empirical focus on the international politics of East Asia.

His book, *Political Conflict and Economic Interdependence across the Taiwan Strait and Beyond*, was published in the Studies in Asian Security series at Stanford University Press (2009). His work has also appeared in the following journals: *International Security*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *International Studies Quarterly*, *Comparative Political Studies*, *Security Studies*, *Journal of Peace Research*, *Foreign Policy Analysis*, *Journal of Contemporary China*, and *Journal of East Asian Studies*.

He graduated from Cornell University in 1995, and received his Ph.D. in Political Science from the University of California, San Diego in 2003.