



Erik Helzer, PhD, is an Associate Professor of Management and Organizations in the Department of Defense Management at the Naval Postgraduate School. Dr. Helzer teaches and advises senior leaders and graduate students on topics including ethical leadership, workplace communication, organizational behavior, and decision-making.

In his research and teaching, Dr. Helzer develops and applies insights from psychological, organizational, and behavioral science to understand and address problems in the fields of defense, health, education, and leadership. In support of recent DoD initiatives, he has worked with Navy Personnel Command to improve performance assessment in the Navy; with N17's Culture of Excellence to promote diversity, equity, and inclusion within Navy commands; and with the Army Resilience Directorate to understand the impact of leadership traits on career success and well-being. He has collaborated on numerous graduate student thesis projects focused on diagnosing and addressing human-centered operational problems in the defense sector.

The academic career path has led Dr. Helzer across the United States and back. After receiving his Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Philosophy at Oregon State University, he moved to Ithaca, New York to complete doctoral studies in Personality and Social Psychology at Cornell University. He completed postdoctoral training at Wake Forest University and was an Assistant Professor of Management at the Johns Hopkins Carey Business School before joining NPS in 2020.