

# Alex Bruens

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## EDUCATION

**Ph.D. in International Relations, *Minor Focus in Methods*** **2019—Present**

University of Arizona

*Dissertation*: “Repression Dynamics in the Context of Complex Civil War Interventions”

*Committee*: Jessica Braithwaite (Chair), Daniel Arnon, Susanna Campbell, Kirssa Ryckman

**Master of Arts in Government and Public Policy** **2021**

University of Arizona

**Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Sociology, *Minor in Arabic*** **2019**

Florida Atlantic University, *Magna Cum Laude*

*Thesis*: “Does Civilian Inclusion in Post-Conflict Mediation Impact Quality of Life?”

*Advisors*: Angela Nichols, Dukhong Kim

## INTERESTS

Post-civil war peacebuilding and United Nations Peace Operations; civil society and contentious politics in post-war environments; human security and peace durability.

## RESEARCH

### *Non-Refereed Publication*

1. “Redefining Post-Conflict Peacekeeping Success in Regional and International Missions.”  
**Bruens, Alexander**, and Mirella Miranda. 2018. *Florida Political Chronicle*, 26(1): 68—82.

### *Conference Presentations*

Academic Council on the United Nations System, Washington, DC. June 2023.

“Who Keeps the Peace? Reconceptualizing Peacebuilding Through Networks of Influence and Support.” Jessica Braithwaite, **Alex Bruens**, Susanna Campbell, and Hatem Zayed.

Political Economy of International Organization, San Diego, CA. May 2023.

“Who Keeps the Peace? Reconceptualizing Peacebuilding Through Networks of Influence and Support.” Jessica Braithwaite, **Alex Bruens**, Susanna Campbell, and Hatem Zayed.

International Studies Association 2023 Annual Convention, Montreal, Canada. March 2023.

“Peace Agreements and Post-War Civil Society.” **Alex Bruens**.

“Civil Society Repression in Post-Civil War States.” **Alex Bruens**.

“Who Keeps the Peace? Reconceptualizing Peacebuilding Through Networks of Influence and Support.” Jessica Braithwaite, **Alex Bruens**, Susanna Campbell, and Hatem Zayed.

56<sup>th</sup> Annual Peace Science Society Meeting, Denver, Colorado. November 2022.

“Who Keeps the Peace? Reconceptualizing Peacebuilding Through Networks of Influence and Support.” Jessica Braithwaite, **Alex Bruens**, Susanna Campbell, and Hatem Zayed.

Conflict Research Society Annual Conference, Belfast, Ireland. September 2022.

“Who Keeps the Peace? Reconceptualizing Peacebuilding Through Networks of Influence and Support.” Jessica Braithwaite, **Alex Bruens**, Susanna Campbell, and Hatem Zayed.

Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting, Chicago, IL. 2019.

“Does Civilian Inclusion in Post-Conflict Mediation Impact Quality of Life?” **Alex Bruens**.

### *Working Papers*

1. “Who Keeps the Peace? Reconceptualizing Peacebuilding Through Networks of Influence and Support.” With Jessica Maves Braithwaite, Susanna Campbell, and Hatem Zayed.
2. “Peace Accords and Post-War Civil Society.”
3. “Civil Society Repression in Post-Civil War States.”

## **GRANTS AND AWARDS**

### *Grants*

- International Studies Association Travel Grant (\$750), 2023.
- Phi Kappa Phi, Love of Learning Award (\$500), 2022.
- University of Arizona, School of Government and Public Policy Summer Research Grant (\$4,000), 2021.
- University of Arizona, School of Government and Public Policy Summer Research Grant (\$2,800), 2020.
- Florida Atlantic University, Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry (\$600), 2019.
- National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates at the University of North Texas via grant no. 1659545 (\$4000), 2018.

### *Awards*

- New Era Workshop participant, Bridging the Gap. October 2022.
- Undergraduate Researcher of the Year, Florida Atlantic University College of Arts and Letters, 2018—2019.
- University Scholar Award, Florida Atlantic University College of Arts and Letters, 2018—2019.
- National Science Foundation political science Research Experience for Undergraduates at the University of North Texas (advisor: Dr. John Ishiyama), Summer 2018.
- Best Undergraduate Paper Award, Florida Political Science Association, 2018.
- National Security Language Initiative for Youth, 2017.

## **PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE**

### **Research Assistant**

University of Arizona

**2021—Present**

“Networks of Influence and Support in Peace Operations,” PIs: Dr. Susanna Campbell (American University) and Dr. Jessica Braithwaite (University of Arizona)

**Research Fellow** **2021—Present**  
 Research on International Policy Implementation Lab (RIPIL) at American University  
 “Networks of Influence and Support in Peace Operations.”

**Instructor of Record** **Summer 2022**  
 University of Arizona  
 Introduction to International Relations (POL202)

**Teaching Assistant** **2019—2021**  
 University of Arizona  
 Fall 2019, Spring 2020, Fall 2020, Spring 2021  
 Introduction to International Relations (POL202) with Dr. Alex Braithwaite

**Teaching Assistant** **Fall 2018**  
 Florida Atlantic University  
 Research Methods in Political Science with Dr. Angela Nichols

## SERVICE

**President** **2022—2023**  
 School of Government and Public Policy Graduate Student Association at University of Arizona

- Liaises between faculty and PhD students to raise issues and implement policies that better graduate students’ work environment.
- Organizes the annual graduate student conference.

**Student Organizer** **2017—2019**  
 Advocates for Youth

- Selected as one of 30 student organizers from around the country to implement a sexual health campaign on our campus. Received two grants totaling \$1,600 to implement gender-neutral housing policies.
- Lobbied United States House and Senate representatives to reform Florida sexual health programming in schools to include queer identities.

**President** **2018—2019**  
 Planned Parenthood Generation Action at FAU

- Created sexual health education programs and facilitated student education.
- Lobbied Florida State Senate and House members to expand contraceptive and abortion access.

**President** **2018—2019**  
 Lambda United LGBTQ+ Organization at FAU

- Organized, funded, and collaborated with other organizations to educate on LGBTQ+ issues.

- Collaboratively wrote student government legislation to expand diversity and inclusion initiatives.

## **SKILLS**

- Stata, R, Gephi, limited ArcGIS
- Social network analysis
- Data collection and analysis
- Technical writing, grant writing, and policy writing
- Small-team management and training

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

- International Studies Association
- American Political Science Association
- Peace Science Society (International)
- Four Corners Conflict Network
- Phi Kappa Phi Honor Society
- Academic Council on the United Nations