

Alex Bruens

School of Government and Public Policy
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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* with Honors

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; violent and nonviolent state repression; human security; network analysis and large scale data collection.

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

Peace Science Society Annual Meeting, St. Louis, MO. November 2023.

“UN Peace Operations and Violent State Repression.” Alex Bruens.

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.

56th 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”
4. “UN Peace Operations and State Repression” (dissertation chapter)

In-Progress Papers

1. “Networks of Cooperation and Contestation in Conflict” with Jessica Maves Braithwaite and Susanna Campbell.
2. “Concentration Camps Unveiled: A Comparative Analysis of their Roles in Contemporary Conflicts” with Rachel Van Nostrand and Alex Braithwaite.
3. “The Legitimacy of Violence: Evidence from Somalia” with Prabin Khadka and Blair Welsh.
4. “Intervention Network Effects on State Repression” (dissertation chapter)
5. “Logic of UN Special Political Missions and Peacekeeping Operation Deployment” (dissertation chapter)

GRANTS AND AWARDS

Grants

- International Studies Scholarship, private donor (\$750)
- University of Arizona, School of Government and Public Policy Charles E., Jr. Starns Fellowship (\$3,500), 2023.
- University of Arizona, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences Summer Dissertation Fellowship (\$8,000), 2023.
- University of Arizona, School of Government and Public Policy Travel Grant (\$300), 2023.
- International Studies Association workshop participant grant (\$300), 2023.
- 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

- University of Arizona, School of Government and Public Policy Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) summer participant (\$3,080), 2023.
- Michael P. Sullivan Graduate Research Award in International Relations (\$750), 2023.
- 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

Instructor

Fall 2023—Present

University of Arizona
The Scientific Study of Civil Wars (POL415)

Research Fellow

2021—Present

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

Research Assistant

2021—2023

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

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

- Liaised between faculty and PhD students to raise issues and implement policies that better graduate students' work environment.
- Organized annual graduate student conference with 10 participants.

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.

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