

Alex Bruens, Ph.D.

CONTACT INFORMATION	University of Nebraska at Omaha National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE)	<i>email:</i> abruens@nebraska.edu <i>web:</i> www.abruens.com
RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE	Assistant Research Professor National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha <i>Research Fellow and Research Associate</i> (June 2024-December 2025) Research Manager Research on International Policy Implementation Lab (RIPIL) at American University Graduate Research Assistant University of Arizona	Present August 2021 - August 2024 August 2021 - May 2023
EDUCATION	Ph.D. Government and Public Policy , University of Arizona Major in International Relations, Minor in Quantitative Research Methodology <i>Dissertation:</i> “Repression in Conflict-Affected States: The Role of United Nations Peace Operations” <i>Committee:</i> Jessica Maves Braithwaite (Chair), Daniel Arnon, Susanna Campbell (<i>American University</i>), Kirssa Ryckman	2024
	M.A. Government and Public Policy , University of Arizona	2021
	B.A. Political Science , Arabic Minor, Florida Atlantic University <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> with Honors	2019
	B.A. Sociology , Florida Atlantic University	2019
PUBLIC & POLICY ENGAGEMENT	5. “NCITE Response to Request for Information: Nebraska Unicameral Technology Committee.” Elson, J. S., Bruens, A. , Doctor, A., Hunter, S., Allen, M., Ligon, G. S. 2025. <i>A technical report from the National Counterterrorism, Innovation, Technology, and Education (NCITE) Center based on work supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under Grant Award Number 20STTPC00001-05.</i> 4. Congressional testimony for “Match Ready: Oversight of the Federal Government’s Border Management and Personal Readiness Efforts for the Decade of Sports” and responses to questions for the record delivered by Dr. Gina Ligon (<i>research support</i>). 3. “Designating Cartels and Other Organizations as Foreign Terrorist Organizations and Specially Designated Global Terrorists.” Bruens, A. , Harms, M. 2025. <i>A technical report from NCITE based on work supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under Grant Award Number 20STTPC00001-05.</i> 2. “Protecting American Communities from Emerging Terrorist Threats: A Guide for the Next Administration’s First Year in Office.” Allen, M., Bruens, A. , Crenshaw, M., Doctor, A., Elson, J., Hughes, S., Hunter, S., Kearns, E., Ligon, G., Rottweiler, B., Wein, M. 2024. <i>A report from NCITE based on work supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under Grant Award Number 20STTPC00001-05.</i> 1. “NCITE Rapid-Response Report: Migration and Terrorism Nexus.” Bruens, A. , Ward, E., Doctor, A., Hughes, S., Ligon, G.S. 2024. <i>A technical report from NCITE based on work supported by the U.S. Department of Homeland Security under Grant Award Number 20STTPC00001-05.</i>	2019

WORKING ACADEMIC PAPERS	10. "Words to Die For: How Leaders in Violent Extremist Organizations Influence Variability in Lethality Over Time" with Mackenzie Harms and Gina Ligon (<i>under review</i>) 9. "Resumes for Resolution: Rebel Leader Pre-War Job Experience and Civil War Negotiations" with Mackenzie Harms and Gina Ligon (<i>under review</i>) 8. "The Networks that Built the Camps: How Government Use of Concentration Camps Diffuses Globally" with Rachel Van Nostrand and Alex Braithwaite (<i>under review</i>) 7. "Human Rights in the New Era of United Nations Peace Operations: Interventions and violent state repression" (dissertation chapter) 6. "A Shock to Whose System? The Effects of USAID's Withdrawal on the Global Aid Ecosystem" with Jessica Maves Braithwaite, Susanna Campbell, Nuole Chen, Cecilia Cavero-Sánchez, Shahryar Minhas, Jared Edgerton, and Madeline Fleishman. 5. "Who Keeps the Peace? Reconceptualizing Peacebuilding Through Networks of Influence and Support" with Jessica Maves Braithwaite, Susanna Campbell, and Hatem Zayed 4. "Determinants of United Nations Peace Operations" (dissertation chapter) 3. "UN Peace Operations and Nonviolent State Repression" (dissertation chapter) 2. "Peace Accords and Post-war Civil Society" 1. "Civil Society Repression in Post-Civil War States"
ACADEMIC WORKS IN PROGRESS	2. "Writing for Rights: Non-governmental organization agenda setting at the United Nations Human Rights Council" with Chaelin Kwon and Alianna Casas. 1. "Networks of Cooperation and Contestation in Conflict" with Jessica Maves Braithwaite and Susanna Campbell.
NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS	2. "Book Review: Fentanyl: Fighting the Mass Poisoning of America and the Cartel Behind It by Jake Braun." Bruens, Alex. Forthcoming. <i>Journal of Policing, Intelligence, and Counterterrorism</i> . 1. "Redefining Post-Conflict Peacekeeping Success in Regional and International Missions." Bruens, Alexander , and Mirella Miranda. 2018. <i>Florida Political Chronicle</i> , 26(1): 68—82.
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Instructor of Record (expected) <i>University of Arizona</i> Spring 2026 POL 419: Terrorism and Counterterrorism Instructor of Record <i>University of Arizona</i> Spring & Summer 2024 POL 202: International Relations Instructor <i>University of Arizona</i> Fall 2023 POL 415: The Scientific Study of Civil Wars Instructor of Record <i>University of Arizona</i> Summer 2022 POL 202: International Relations Graduate Teaching Assistant <i>University of Arizona</i> 2019–2021 POL 202: International Relations
CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION	Peace Science Society Annual Conference 2022, 2023 Political Economy of International Organization Annual Meeting 2023 International Studies Association Annual Meeting 2023 Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting 2019
INVITED WORKSHOPS	Peace Science Society. <i>New Research about Preventing Mass Atrocities</i> November 2023 International Studies Association. <i>Bringing Firms into Global Local Networks of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding</i> March 2023

GRANTS, AWARDS & FELLOWSHIPS	University of Arizona Graduate and Professional Student Association Microgrant, \$250.	2024
	International Studies Scholarship Private donor, \$750.	2023
	Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research (IQMR) attendance grant, School of Government & Public Policy, University of Arizona, \$3,080.	2023
	Michael P. Sullivan Graduate Research Award in International Relations, School of Government & Public Policy, University of Arizona, \$750.	2023
	Charles E., Jr. Starns Fellowship, School of Government & Public Policy University of Arizona, \$3,500.	2023
	Dissertation Fellowship, College of Social and Behavioral Sciences, University of Arizona, \$8,000.	2023
	Love of Learning Award Phi Kappa Phi, \$500.	2022
	Summer Research Grant, School of Government & Public Policy, University of Arizona, \$6,800 total.	2020, 2021
TRAVEL & CONFERENCE GRANTS	International Studies Association workshop participant grant, \$300	2023
	International Studies Association travel grant, \$750	2023
	School of Government & Public Policy travel grant, \$300	2023
SERVICE	President Government & Public Policy Graduate Student Association	2021–2022
	Reviewer Journal of Peace Research	2021
	Student Organizer Advocates for Youth	2017–2019

Updated December 2025