Alex Bruens

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| School of Government and Public Policy  315 Social Science  P.O. Box 210027  Tucson, AZ 85721-0027 | Email:  Website: | [bruens@arizona.edu](mailto:bruens@arizona.edu)  <http://abruens.com> |

**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.

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. “Networks of Cooperation and Contestation in Conflict” with Jessica Maves Braithwaite and Susanna Campbell.
5. “Concentration Camps Unveiled: A Comparative Analysis of their Roles in Contemporary Conflicts” with Rachel Van Nostrand and Alex Braithwaite.
6. “Civil War Interventions and Violent State Repression” (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**

**Research Assistant**  **2021—Present**

University of Arizona

“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