

MICHELLE BENSON
Department of Political Science
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EDUCATION

1999 **Ph.D., Political Science**

Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA
Concentrations: World Politics and Comparative Politics
Dissertation Title: The Ties That Bind: Status Quo Preferences, Democracy, and Conflict
(chair, Jacek Kugler)

1996 **M.A., International Political Economy**

Claremont Graduate University

1994, 1995, 1999 (summers) 3 full sessions and 1 week-long session at ICPSR, Ann Arbor, MI
Concentrations: Statistics and Mathematical Modeling

1993 **Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies**

Université Pierre Mendès France, Grenoble, France
Concentration: International Security and Defense

1992 **B.A., International Relations**

University of California, Davis

1991 One year at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Grenoble, France.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Associate Professor. Fall 2009-Present

Department of Political Science
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Director of Graduate Studies. Fall 2017-Spring 2021

Department of Political Science
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Folke Bernadotte Academy Research Working Group. 2018-2023

Stockholm Sweden

Assistant Professor. 2001-2009

Department of Political Science
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Director of Undergraduate Studies. Fall 2007-Spring 2009

Department of Political Science
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Visiting Assistant Professor. Fall 1999-2001

Department of Political Science
University at Buffalo, SUNY

PUBLICATIONS

- "Linking Environmental Health and Civic Health: An Analysis of Air Pollution and Charitable Giving." Forthcoming. (with Gregory Saxton, Chao Guo, Daniel Neely, Tahmina Ahmed, Mohammad Maruf Hasan and Shujie (Janice) Zhang). *Nonprofit Management & Leadership*.
- "Dirty air, empty coffers? Nonprofit donations and volunteering in the context of severe air pollution." Forthcoming. (with Guo, C., Neely, D. G., & Saxton, G. D) *Journal of Public Budgeting, Accounting & Financial Management*.
- "Punching Before the Bell Rings: United Nations Signaling and Pre-Deployment Violence in Civil Wars." 2023. (with Jacob Kathman and Paul Diehl). *International Studies Quarterly*. 67(3).
- "Naming Names: UN Security Council Resolution Sentiment in Civil Wars." 2022. (with Colin Tucker). For inclusion in the *Routledge Handbook on UN Peacekeeping*, Ed. Han Dorussen. pp. 74-87.
- "Militarization and Women's Empowerment in Post-Conflict Societies." 2022. (with Ismene Gizelis). *UN Women*. (June 2022): 1-27. (Note: These findings were referred to in the UN Women's contribution to the UN Secretary General's report.)
- "The Importance of UN Security Council Resolutions in Peacekeeping Operations." 2022. (with Colin Tucker). *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, (66, 3).
- "UN Security Council Resolutions and Sexual Violence in Civil Wars." (with Ismene Gizeles). 2020. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 64(1): 167–198.
- "Advancing the Frontier of Peacekeeping Research." (with Ismene Gizelis). 2019. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 63(7): 1595-1600.
- "Cut Short? United Nations Peacekeeping and Civil War Duration to Negotiated Settlements" (with Jacob Kathman). 2019. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 63(7): 1601-1629.
- "UN Bias and Force Commitments" (with Jacob Kathman). 2014. *Journal of Politics*, 76(2): 350-363.
- "The Dynamics of Ethnonationalist Contention." (with Gregory D. Saxton). 2010. *British Journal of Political Science*, 40(2): 305-331.
- "Choosing Sides: UN Resolutions and Non-Neutrality in International Conflicts." (with Nil Satana). Forthcoming in Jacob Bercovitch and Scott Gartner, eds. *International Conflict Mediation: New Approaches and Findings*. Routledge Press.
- "Means, Motives, and Opportunities in the Expression of Ethno-Nationalist Demands" (with Gregory D. Saxton). 2008. *International Interactions*, 34(1): 53-83.
- "Status Quo Preferences and Disputes Short of War." 2007. *International Interactions*, 33(3): 271-288.
- "Extending Power Transition Theory." 2007. *International Interactions*, 33(3): 211-215.
- "Structure, Politics, and Action: An Integrated Model of Nationalist Protest and Rebellion" (with Gregory D. Saxton). 2006. *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics*, 12(2): 1-39.
- "The Relevance of Politically Relevant Dyads in the Study of Interdependence and Dyadic Disputes." 2005. *Conflict Management and Peace Science*, 22(2): 113-133.

“Social Capital and the Growth of the Nonprofit Sector” (with Gregory D. Saxton). 2005. *Social Science Quarterly*, 86(1): 16-35.

“Dyadic Hostility and the Ties that Bind: State-to-State versus State-to-System Security and Economic Relationships.” 2004. *Journal of Peace Research*, 41(6): 659-676.

“Interpersonal Trust and the Magnitude of Protest: A Micro- and Macro-Level Approach” (with Thomas Rochon). 2004. *Comparative Political Studies*, 20(10): 1-23.

“The Origins of Socially and Politically Hostile Attitudes toward Immigrants and Outgroups: Economics, Ideology, or National Context?” (with Gregory D. Saxton). 2003. *Journal of Political Science*, 31: 101-37.

“Power Parity, Democracy, and the Severity of Internal Violence.” (with Jacek Kugler). 1998. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, 42(2): 196-209.

“Anticipating Domestic Violence with Political Capacity.” (with Jacek Kugler, Andy Hira, and Dmitri Panasevitch). 1997. In Jacek Kugler and Marina Arbetman, eds. *Political Capacity and Economic Behavior*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION

“UN peacekeeping, Militarization and Women’s Empowerment in Post-Conflict Societies.” (with Ismene Gizelis). *Under Review*.

“Home is Where the Heart Is: Work-from- Home Prevalence and Community Engagement with Nonprofit Organizations” (with Gregory Saxton, Chao Guo, and Dan Neely). *Under Review*

WORKING PAPERS

“UN Sanctions and Sexual Violence in Civil Conflicts.” (with Ismene Gizelis and Han Dorussen)

“File Drawer Problems in UN Peacekeeping Research” (with Thomas Vann)

“UN Penholders and Peacekeeping Effectiveness” (with Susan Allen and Amy Yuen)

“Refugees, United Nations Support, and Sexual Violence in Civil Wars.” (with Kristin Cruz and Bongjoo Kim).

“The United Nations Conflict Resolutions (UNCR) Dataset” (with Colin Tucker).

“The Lasting Health Impacts of UN Peacekeeping.” (with Chris Newton, Chhandosi Roy and Colin Tucker).

EDITORSHIPS and EDITORIAL BOARD

Editorial Board. 2024-present. *International Studies Quarterly*. Oxford University Press.

Senior Editor. 2017-2020. The *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Relations*. Oxford University Press.

Guest Editor of a special peer-reviewed section with Ismene Gizelis: “Advancing the Frontier of Peacekeeping Research.” *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. Contributors include Kyle Beardsley,

David E. Cunningham, Peter White, Lisa Hultman, Karin Johansson, Vincenzo Bove, Andrea Ruggeri, Jacob Kathman and Michelle Benson.

Guest Editor of special peer-reviewed edition: “Extensions to Power Transition Theory.” *International Interactions*. Contributors include Michelle Benson, Glenn Palmer, T. Clifton Morgan, Frank Zagare, Vesna Danilovic, Joe Claire, Monica Duffy-Toft, Siddharth Swaminathan, and John Thomas.

RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

“Targeted UN Sanctions and Sexual Violence Against Women” 2025. (With Ismene Gizelis and Han Dorussen) International Studies Association, Chicago, IL

“The Power of the Pen: Resolution Writers and Peacekeeping Outcomes in the UN Security Council.” 2025. (With Susan Allen and Amy Yuen). International Studies Association, Chicago, IL.

“File drawer problems, robustness, and the future of peacekeeping operations/research” 2024. International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA.

“UN peacekeeping, Militarization, and Women’s Empowerment in Post-Conflict Societies.” (with Ismene Gizelis). 2022. International Studies Association, Nashville, TN.

“Refugees, United Nations Support, and Sexual Violence in Civil Wars.” (with Kristin Cruz and Bongjoo Kim). 2021. International Studies Association virtual conference.

“Can UN Peacekeeping Improve Health Outcomes Long After the Shooting Stops?” (with Chris Newton, Chhandosi Roy and Colin Tucker). 2020 Peace Science Society, virtual conference.

“Do Mandates Matter? DDR Mandates, Force Mandates and Civil War Deaths” 2019. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Toronto, CA.

“UNbiased: UN Security Council Resolutions in Civil Conflicts.” (with Colin Tucker). 2019. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Toronto, CA.

“Naming Names in UNSC Conflict Resolutions: Implications for Peacekeeping.” (with Colin Tucker). 2018. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA.

“Mandating Protection: The Impact of UN Peacekeeping Operations on Sexual Violence in Civil Wars.” (with Ismene Gizelis). 2018. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA.

RECENT INVITED TALKS

“Civil War Battlefield Deaths, Rebel Power and Dissatisfaction.” (with Jacek Kugler, Chris Newton and Chhandosi Roy). Presented at the Rising Powers Conference. 14-15 November 2021, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA.

“Militarization and Women’s Empowerment in Post-Conflict Societies.” (with Ismene Gizelis). Presented at the United Nations Women Conference on “Military spending and women, peace and security: a conversation about new research.” United Nations. 17 September 2021, virtual.

“UNSC Resolutions and PKOs” (with Colin Tucker). Paper presented at the Folke Bernadotte Academy Research Workshop on “The State of the Art: The Future of Peacekeeping Data” 17-19 June 2019, Genoa Italy.

“UNSC Resolutions and Civil Conflicts” (with Colin Tucker). Invited presentation at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. 5 November 2018. Uppsala, Sweden.

“Do Mandates Matter? DDR Mandates, Force Mandates and Civil War Deaths.” 2018. Paper presented at the Folke Bernadotte Academy Research Workshop on “Recidivism, Recycling or Reintegration? Revisiting DDR,” 3-4 November 2018, Stockholm, Sweden.

“Mandating Protection: The Impact of UN Peacekeeping Operations on Sexual Violence in Civil Wars.” (with Ismene Gizelis). 2018. Paper presented at the Folke Bernadotte Research Workshop, Occidental, CA.

RECENT SERVICE

- 2021- UB Math and Quantitative Reasoning General Education Subcommittee
- 2021 College of Arts and Sciences Associate Dean-level temporary representative at University at Buffalo Undergraduate Curriculum meetings
- 2018- UB College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, Chair (member since 2012)
- 2021 Political Science Methods Search Committee Member.
- 2017-2021 Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science
- 2020 Directed Undergraduate UB students on a Model European Union Simulation in Brussels, Belgium, and virtual winter-break simulations during COVID.
- 2021 Faculty Director of the Model European Union Club.
- 2019-2020 CAS PhD Excellence Initiative Committee member.
- 2017-2019 Ex-Officio Scientific Studies of International Processes (SSIP) for the *International Studies Association* (ISA).
- 2016-2019 UB Committee Member on Assessment of MQR General Education Requirements
- 2015-2016 Chair, College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Policy Committee
- 2015-2016 UB University Committee on Academic Integrity
- 2015-2017 Section Chair, Scientific Studies of International Processes (SSIP) for *International Studies Association* (ISA).

GRANTS AND ACADEMIC AWARDS

- 2023-24 *Baldy Center* small research grant (\$3,056)
- 2019 *Folke Bernadotte Academy Grant* (approximately \$27,000 in Swedish Krona). To hire one full time Graduate student and two, part time graduate students to code UNSC resolutions for civil conflict and peacekeeping operations.
- 2006 *Baldy Center Small Research Grant* (\$1000)
- 2002-2003 *Baldy Center Grant* for research assistance (\$3,500)
- 1997-1998 Haynes Social Science Dissertation Grant (\$16,000)
- 1998. Nomination by the School of Politics and Economics for the Morris Abrams Award in IR.
- 1993-96 Claremont Graduate University Fellowship Award (\$4,000, \$8,000, \$8,000)

GRANT APPLICATIONS

- 2021 ERASMUS (European Union) Jean Monnet Grant (\$28,000 declined).

CONSULTING

- 2021 United Nations, UN Women. Summary included in the 2021 UN Sec. General's report.

COURSES (bold are current, regularly-taught courses)

Undergraduate

PSC 102 Introduction to International Relations

PSC 103 Introduction to Comparative Politics

PSC 326 War and International Security

PSC 330 Problems in International Relations

PSC 332 International Organization

PSC 334 Model European Union Seminar and Lab (Including Winter-Break Study Abroad)

PSC 408 Introduction to Statistics

PSC 349 Revolution and Culture in Paris (Winter Break Study Abroad)

Graduate

PSC 500/501 Philosophy of Science

PSC 500 Research Methods

PSC 508 Introduction to Statistics (through multivariate OLS, using Stata)

PSC 531 Intermediate Statistics (multivariate OLS through MLE, using Stata)

PSC 647 International Organization

PhD DISSERTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR (recent)

Assaf Almutairi (PhD 2021): Assistant Professor King Saud University

Catherine (Si) Chen (PhD 2021): Research Consultant, United Nations DESA Dig. Gov. Branch.

Colin Tucker (PhD 2020): Researcher, Department of Defense. Research Asst Prof. University at Buffalo, SUNY

Abdulaziz G Almuslem (PhD 2018): Assistant Professor Kuwait University

Reverien Mfizi (PhD 2017): Visiting Assistant Professor SUNY Geneseo.