






Sky Kunkel

October 4, 2025

✉ sk3386@cornell.edu  LinkedIn: skytheacademic  123 Central Ave, 314, Ithaca, NY 14853
 Pronouns: they/them  Twitter: @skytheacademic  www.skytheacademic.com

Academic Appointments, Positions, and Affiliations

Su. 2024-	Postdoctoral Research Associate Cornell University, Ithaca, NY Gender and Security Sector Lab
AY 2023-24	Peace Scholar Fellow United States Institute of Peace, Washington, DC
AY 2023-24	Predocctoral Research Fellow Cornell University, Ithaca, NY Gender and Security Sector Lab






Education

May 2024	Ph.D. Political Science Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN Fields: International Relations, Political Methodology Dissertation: <i>The Local Effects of UN Peacekeeping</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Finalist for College-wide Distinguished Dissertation Award Committee Members: Kyle Haynes (Chair), Liana Eustacia Reyes, Giancarlo Visconti, Michael Greig
May 2019	B.A. Political Science Purdue University, West Lafayette, IN

Research



* indicates a graduate student co-author; † indicates an external co-author

In-Progress

- *†1. "Violence as a Condition: From Russia to the CAR, the Global Impact of the Wagner Group" (with Matthew Kyle Ellis). *R&R at the Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 
 - Requested by United States Congressional Research Service for distribution.
- †2. "When Peacekeepers Leave: The Divergent Effects of Peacekeeping Operations on Rebel and Government Violence Against Civilians" (with Douglas B. Atkinson, Rebecca Dudley, and Zach Warner). *R&R at the International Political Science Review*. 
3. "Who Keeps the Peace? Gendered Effects in UN Peacekeeping." *Under Review*. 
 - ISA Midwest Lynne Rienner Award
 - ISA IO Section Finkelstein Prize Special Mention
4. "Double Delegation: An Exploration and Construction of the UN Private Security Contractor Database." *Working Paper*. 
5. "All About that Base... No Trouble. The Gravity of Peacekeeping Bases." *Working Paper*. 
- *†6. "What's in a Name? Implications of Overusing 'Sub-Saharan Africa.'" (with Mitushi Mukherjee). *Work in progress*.

- *†7. | “Beyond Negative Peace: Do UN Peacekeepers decrease security and trust concerns?” (with Catalina Vega-Méndez). *Work in progress*.
- *†8. | “Alexander or Ozymandias?: Russia’s PMC Driven Foreign Policy in Africa.” (with Matthew Kyle Ellis). *Work in progress*.

Non Peer-Reviewed Publications

- *†1. | “Moving Beyond Zero Tolerance: Preventing Sexual Exploitation, Abuse, and Harassment in UN Peace Operations," 2024. Sabrina Karim, **Sky Kunkel**, DeAnne Roark, Angie Torres-Beltran, Cameron Mailhot, Sumin Lee, Radwa Saad, Priscilla Torres, and Emily Jackson. *GSS Lab Policy Brief*. 
- *†2. | “The Transition Home: Key Challenges for African UN Peacekeepers Upon Return," 2024. Sabrina Karim, Maggie Dwyer, Addison Barton, T. Debey Sayndee, **Sky Kunkel**, Mike Kriner, and Clair MacDougall. *GSS Lab Policy Brief*. 

Other Publications

- 1. | “Women, Peace, and Participation,” in the *Handbook on Gender and Development: Critical Engagements with Gender and Social Justice*, Edited by Nitya Rao, Jasmine Gideon, Ulrike Theuerkauf, Shannon Philip. Forthcoming 2027, Palgrave Macmillan London.

Fellowships and Grants

External (\$24993)

- 2024/25 | PolMeth Travel Grant, \$1500
- 2024 | URI Human Rights Workshop Honorarium, \$1000
- 2023 | USIP Peace Scholar Stipend (declined), \$20000
- 2023 | MapleMeth Travel Grant, \$500
- 2023 | ISA Midwest Travel Grant, \$250
- 2023 | APSA Conflict Processes Award, \$143
- 2022/23 | APSA Travel Grant, \$300
- 2022/25 | ISA Travel Grant, \$1300

Internal - Purdue University (\$34500)

- 2023-24 | Kruhe Fellow (declined), \$28000
- 2023 | Best Prospectus Award, \$1000
- 2022/23 | PROMISE Research/Travel Award, \$3750
- 2022/23 | Department Travel Grant, \$1250
- 2020-21 | Outstanding Teaching Assistant Award, \$500

Invited Talks and Workshops

Fall 2024		Gender and Peace Operations Conference (<i>Host: International Peace Institute</i>)
Fall 2024		Online Peace Science Colloquium
PSS(I) 2024/25		Consortium for Human Rights Analysis and Measurement
2024/2025		Human Rights Measurement Workshop (<i>Host: University of Rhode Island Consortium for Rights Analysis and Measurement</i>)
ISA 2024		Contractors in Great Power Competition: Challenging World Order in an Age of Privatization
PSS(I) 2023		New Research about Preventing Mass Atrocities (<i>Host: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum</i>)
Spring 2023		Junior Scholars in International Security Workshop
Fall 2022		Midwest Workshop in Empirical Political Science
2021/22/23		How to Research and Use the Purdue Libraries: Workshop and Presentation

Teaching Experience, Training, and Awards

Instructor of Record

Summer 2023		POL 430 - UN Peacekeeping
Summer 21/22		POL 237 - Modern Weapons and International Relations

Teaching Assistant - Graduate Courses/Workshops

Summer 2024		CCSE Video Research Institute (Dr. Bryce J. Dietrich)
Spring 2023		POL 605 - Advanced Causal Inference (Dr. Tara Grillos)
Fall 2022		POL 501 - Political Science Methodology (Dr. Joan Timoneda)
Spring 2022		POL 605 - Advanced Causal Inference (Dr. Giancarlo Visconti)

Teaching Assistant - Undergraduate Courses

Fall 2022		POL 130 - Introduction to International Relations (Dr. Kyle Haynes)
Spring 2022		POL 130 - Introduction to International Relations (Dr. Reed Kurtz)
Sp. 20/21/23, Fa. 20/21		POL 237 - Modern Weapons and International Relations (Dr. Keith Shimko)
Summer 2020		POL 237 - Modern Weapons and International Relations (Dr. Toby Lauterbach)
Fall 2019		POL 237 - Modern Weapons and International Relations (Clinical Professor Melissa Will)

Pedagogical Training

Summer 2021		Certificate in Foundations of College Teaching <i>Foundations of College Teaching Purdue University</i>
-------------	--	---

Teaching Awards

AY 2020-21	Outstanding Teaching Assistant <i>Department-wide award</i>
------------	---

Conference Participation

(C)=Chair, (D)=Discussant, (O)=Panel organizer, (P)=Panel participant, (R)=Roundtable, (W)=Workshop.

APSA	2022 (P), 2023 (D, P), 2024 (P, C), 2025 (P)
EGEN	2023 (P)
PolMeth	2022 (P), 2024 (P), 2025 (P)
Peace Science	2022 (P), 2023 (P, W), 2024 (W), 2025 (P)
ISA	2022 (P), 2023 (P), 2024 (O, P, R, W), 2025 (C, O, P)
ISA Virtual	2023 (D, P)
ISA-MW	2023 (P)
BISA	2023 (P)
MPSA	2023 (D, P)
MapleMeth	2023 (P)

Service

Department - Purdue

AY 2020-24	Political Science Mentorship Program <i>First-year Graduate Student Mentor</i>
AY 2023-24	Graduate Student Government <i>Mentorship and Recruiting Chair</i>
Fall 2023	First-Year Welcome Week Orientation <i>Organizer</i>
AY 2022-23	Technology and Politics Faculty Search Committee <i>Member</i>
AY 2022-23	Graduate Student Government <i>Social Science Mechanics Chair</i>
AY 2020-22	Graduate Student Government <i>Treasurer</i>
Fall 2019	Devin Roberson Memorial Award Selection Committee <i>Member</i>

University - Purdue

Sp. 2023	Queer Graduate Student Association <i>Co-Founder, Inaugural President</i>
AY 2021-2023	LGBTQ+ Center <i>Undergraduate Tutor - Political Science, Methods/Statistics, R, Stata, \LaTeX</i>

Summer 2022	Liberal Arts Space Planning Committee <i>Graduate Student Representative</i>
Fall 2021	Undergraduate Research Conference <i>Judge/Reviewer</i>
Fall 2021	Interdisciplinary Symposium in Liberal Arts <i>Reviewer</i>

Discipline

Su. 2022-2025	Junior IO Scholars Workshop <i>Executive Council Member</i>
Fall 2022	International Studies Association - Northeast <i>Panel Moderator</i>
Summer 2022	Junior IO Scholars Workshop <i>Founding Member</i>

Reviewer: *The Journal of Politics, International Studies Quarterly, International Interactions, International Peacekeeping*

Skills and Experiences

Fieldwork: Fiji (2025)

Software: R, Stata, Python, Git, \LaTeX , Qualtrics, Docker

Learning Management Systems: Blackboard, Brightspace