






Sky Kunkel

February 8, 2026

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Academic Appointments, Positions, and Affiliations

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



Education

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


Research



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

Peer-Reviewed Journal Articles



- *†1. "Violence as a Condition: Structure, Composition, and the Use of Lethal Force" (with Matthew Kyle Ellis). *Accepted, Journal of Conflict Resolution.* 
 - Requested by United States Congressional Research Service for distribution.
- †2. "Here Today, Gone Tomorrow: Dynamics of Peacekeeper Entry and Exit on Violence Against Civilians" (with Douglas B. Atkinson, Rebecca Dudley, and Zach Warner). *Accepted, International Political Science Review.* 

In-Progress

1. "Who Keeps the Peace? Gendered Effects in UN Peacekeeping." *R&R, International Studies Quarterly.* 
 - ISA Midwest Lynne Rienner Award
 - ISA IO Section Finkelstein Prize Special Mention
- *†2. "What's in a Name? Implications of Overusing 'Sub-Saharan Africa.'" (with Mitushi Mukherjee). *R&R, International Studies Perspectives.*

3. | “Double Delegation: An Exploration and Construction of the UN Private Security Contractor Database.” *Working Paper*. 
4. | “All About that Base... No Trouble. The Gravity of Peacekeeping Bases.” *Working Paper*. 
- *†5. | “Beyond Negative Peace: Do UN Peacekeepers decrease security and trust concerns?” (with Catalina Vega-Méndez). *Work in progress*.
- *†6. | “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.
2. | “More Than Presence: Gendered Dynamics of Interpreting and Negotiating Trust,” (with DeAnne Roark and Hatti Sellers) in the *Oxford Handbook of Interpreting UN Peacekeeping*, Edited by Vanessa Newby and Chiara Ruffa. Forthcoming 2027, Oxford University Press.

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 (*Host: International Peace Institute*)
- Fall 2024 | Online Peace Science Colloquium
- PSS(I) 24/25 | Consortium for Human Rights Analysis and Measurement
- 2024/2025 | Human Rights Measurement Workshop (*Host: University of Rhode Island Consortium for Rights Analysis and Measurement*)
- ISA 2024 | Contractors in Great Power Competition: Challenging World Order in an Age of Privatization
- PSS(I) 2023 | New Research about Preventing Mass Atrocities (*Host: United States Holocaust Memorial Museum*)
- 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**
Foundations of College Teaching Purdue University

Teaching Awards

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

(C)=Chair, (D)=Discussant, (O)=Panel organizer, (P)=Panel participant, (R)=Roundtable, (Wo)=Workshop Organizer, (Wp)=Workshop Participant.

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, Wp), 2024 (Wp), 2025 (P, Wp)
ISA	2022 (P), 2023 (P), 2024 (O, P, R, Wp), 2025 (C, O, P), 2026 (P, Wo)
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>
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AY 2021-2023	LGBTQ+ Center <i>Undergraduate Tutor - Political Science, Methods/Statistics, R, Stata, ETX</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 Organization, International Studies Quarterly, International Interactions, International Peacekeeping*

Skills and Experiences

Fieldwork: Fiji (2025)

Software: R, Stata, Python, Git, ~~ET~~X, Qualtrics, Docker

Learning Management Systems: Blackboard, Brightspace