

Alex Bruens, Ph.D.

CONTACT INFORMATION	University of Nebraska at Omaha National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center	<i>email:</i> abruens@unomaha.edu <i>web:</i> www.abruens.com
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 M.A. Government and Public Policy , University of Arizona B.A. Political Science , Arabic Minor, Florida Atlantic University <i>Magna Cum Laude</i> with Honors B.A. Sociology , Florida Atlantic University	2024 2021 2019 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>	
WORKING PAPERS	8. "Resumes for Resolution: Rebel Leader Pre-War Job Experience and Civil War Negotiations" with Mackenzie Harms and Gina Ligon (<i>under review</i>) 7. "Human Rights in the New Era of United Nations Peace Operations: Interventions and violent state repression" (<i>under review</i>) 6. "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>) 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)	

	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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"
WORKS IN PROGRESS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 4. "Non-governmental organizations at the United Nations Human Rights Council" 3. "Understanding Violence Against Humanitarian Aid Workers" 2. "Networks of Cooperation and Contestation in Conflict" with Jessica Maves Braithwaite and Susanna Campbell. 1. "Concentration Camps Unveiled: A Comparative Analysis of their Roles in Contemporary Conflicts" with Rachel Van Nostrand and Alex Braithwaite.
NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 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.
RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE	<p>Research Associate June 2024 - Present National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha Lead IRB and compliance for the center. Develop requests for information and requests for assistance from U.S. government. Assist with strategy development and writing. Co-lead and participate in research projects on counterterrorism. As Research Fellow (June 2024-June 2025) Contribute to scientific review for federally funded projects. Lead IRB and compliance process. Assist with annual reporting, project management, and grant/proposal writing. Helped establish an NCITE research lab led by Dr. Gina Ligon.</p> <p>Research Manager August 2021 - August 2024 Research on International Policy Implementation Lab (RIPIL) at American University <i>Project Title:</i> "Networks of Influence and Support in Peace Operations" Oversaw data collection through research assistant management, analyzed original data.</p> <p>Graduate Research Assistant August 2021 - May 2023 University of Arizona</p> <p>Research Experience for Undergraduates Fellow Summer 2018 University of North Texas National Science Foundation REU in Conflict Management and Peace Science</p>
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	<p>Instructor of Record <i>University of Arizona</i> Spring & Summer 2024 POL 202: International Relations.</p> <p>Instructor <i>University of Arizona</i> Fall 2023 POL 415: The Scientific Study of Civil Wars.</p> <p>Instructor of Record <i>University of Arizona</i> Summer 2022 POL 202: International Relations.</p> <p>Graduate Teaching Assistant <i>University of Arizona</i> 2019–2021 POL 202: International Relations, Dr. Alex Braithwaite.</p>
SKILLS	<p><i>Coding & Software Experience:</i> R, Markdown, Stata, Gephi, Excel, Git/GitHub, L^AT_EX</p> <p><i>Quantitative Statistics:</i> Data Collection and Analysis, Graphing and Visualizations, Regression, Social Network Analysis</p>

Qualitative Statistics: IRB Process and Research Design, Interview Design, Process Tracing and Bayesian Reasoning

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
	Bridging the Gap. <i>New Era Workshop</i> (Denver, CO)	October 2022
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
	Undergraduate Research Grant, Office of Undergraduate Research and Inquiry, Florida Atlantic University, \$600.	2019
	Undergraduate Researcher of the Year, College of Arts and Letters, Florida Atlantic University	2018—2019
	University Scholar Award, College of Arts and Letters, Florida Atlantic University	2018—2019
	Best Undergraduate Paper Award, Florida Political Science Association	2018
TRAVEL & CONFERENCE GRANTS	National Science Foundation Research Experience for Undergraduates, University of North Texas, \$4,000.	2018
	International Studies Association workshop participant grant, \$300	2023
	International Studies Association travel grant, \$750	2023

School of Government & Public Policy travel grant, \$300	2023
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SERVICE	President Government & Public Policy Graduate Student Association	2021–2022
	Reviewer Journal of Peace Research	2021
	Student Organizer Advocates for Youth	2017–2019

Updated September 2025