

Alex Bruens, Ph.D.

CONTACT INFORMATION	University of Nebraska at Omaha National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE)	<i>email:</i> abruens@nebraska.edu <i>web:</i> www.abruens.com
RESEARCH AND WORK EXPERIENCE	Assistant Research Professor National Counterterrorism Innovation, Technology, and Education Center (NCITE) at the University of Nebraska at Omaha <i>Research Fellow and Research Associate (June 2024-December 2025)</i> Research Manager Research on International Policy Implementation Lab (RIPIL) at American University Graduate Research Assistant University of Arizona	Present August 2021 - August 2024 August 2021 - May 2023
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 ACADEMIC PAPERS	10. "Words to Die For: How Leaders in Violent Extremist Organizations Influence Variability in Lethality Over Time" with Mackenzie Harms and Gina Ligon (<i>under review</i>) 9. "Resumes for Resolution: Rebel Leader Pre-War Job Experience and Civil War Negotiations" with Mackenzie Harms and Gina Ligon (<i>under review</i>) 8. "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>) 7. "Human Rights in the New Era of United Nations Peace Operations: Interventions and violent state repression" (dissertation chapter) 6. "A Shock to Whose System? The Effects of USAID's Withdrawal on the Global Aid Ecosystem" with Jessica Maves Braithwaite, Susanna Campbell, Nuole Chen, Cecilia Caverro-Sánchez, Shahryar Minhas, Jared Edgerton, and Madeline Fleishman. 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) 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"	
ACADEMIC WORKS IN PROGRESS	2. "Writing for Rights: Non-governmental organization agenda setting at the United Nations Human Rights Council" with Chaelin Kwon and Alianna Casas. 1. "Networks of Cooperation and Contestation in Conflict" with Jessica Maves Braithwaite and Susanna Campbell.	
NON-REFEREED PUBLICATIONS	2. "Book Review: Fentanyl: Fighting the Mass Poisoning of America and the Cartel Behind It by Jake Braun." Bruens, Alex . Forthcoming. <i>Journal of Policing, Intelligence, and Counterterrorism</i> . 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.	
TEACHING EXPERIENCE	Instructor of Record (expected) <i>University of Arizona</i> POL 419: Terrorism and Counterterrorism Instructor of Record <i>University of Arizona</i> POL 202: International Relations Instructor <i>University of Arizona</i> POL 415: The Scientific Study of Civil Wars Instructor of Record <i>University of Arizona</i> POL 202: International Relations Graduate Teaching Assistant <i>University of Arizona</i> POL 202: International Relations	Spring 2026 Spring & Summer 2024 Fall 2023 Summer 2022 2019–2021
CONFERENCE PARTICIPATION	Peace Science Society Annual Conference Political Economy of International Organization Annual Meeting International Studies Association Annual Meeting Midwest Political Science Association Annual Meeting	2022, 2023 2023 2023 2019
INVITED WORKSHOPS	Peace Science Society. <i>New Research about Preventing Mass Atrocities</i> International Studies Association. <i>Bringing Firms into Global Local Networks of Conflict Prevention and Peacebuilding</i>	November 2023 March 2023

Bridging the Gap. *New Era Workshop* (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
TRAVEL & CONFERENCE GRANTS	International Studies Association workshop participant grant, \$300	2023
	International Studies Association travel grant, \$750	2023
	School of Government & Public Policy travel grant, \$300	2023
SERVICE	President Government & Public Policy Graduate Student Association	2021–2022
	Reviewer Journal of Peace Research	2021
	Student Organizer Advocates for Youth	2017–2019

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