

Isabella Bellezza

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Research & Teaching Interests

international security, international political economy, political networks, global policing, secrecy in IR, borders in IR

Academic Appointments

Northwestern University

Assistant Professor of Political Science
College Fellow, 2025-2026

Education

Brown University

Ph.D., Political Science, May 2025

Dissertation: *Exporting Homeland Security: Network Politics and the Globalization of Border Control*

Joukowsky Family Foundation Outstanding Dissertation Award

M.A., Political Science, 2021

Swarthmore College

B.A. conferred with *Highest Honors*, Political Science, 2017

Working Papers

1. “Networked Trust: Peer Effects, Secrecy and Cooperation in Global Policing” (under review)
2. “Peer Pressure and the Competitive Diffusion of Trusted Trader Agreements” (under review)
3. “Spy and Tell? Intelligence Disclosures in International Politics” with Lee-Or Ankori Karlinsky
4. “Who Gets the Green? Donor Networks and the Distribution of Multilateral Climate Finance” with Ayse Kaya

Works in Progress

1. “Secure the Bag: The Political Economy of U.S. Police Assistance” with Lin Sae-Phoo (data analysis in progress)
2. “Police Assistance as Soft Power? Evidence from Southeast Asia” (PAP in progress)
3. “A New Trade Frontier: Customs Cooperation & Trade-Efficient Borders” with Connor Staggs

Conference & Workshop Presentations

2025: ISA, Junior Scholars in Quantitative Conflict Workshop, VIPES, APSA (planned)

2024: APSA, APSA Political Networks (Polnet) Conference, ISA, MPSA, Junior IO Scholars Workshop, Brown IR Workshop, Political Networks Online Colloquium

2023: APSA, ISA, Borders and Boundaries Conference at the Perry World House, Graduate Students in International Political Economy (GSIPE) Workshop, Rhodes Center Relational Approaches to Global Governance Workshop, Brown IR Workshop

2022: Global Governance Workshop at the Norwegian Institute of International Affairs (NUPI), Junior Scholars in International Security (JSISE) Workshop

Non-academic / Practitioner Conferences

International Border Management and Technologies Association (IBMATA), Prague, 2024

World Border Security Congress, Istanbul, 2024

International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Annual Conference, 2024

Border Security Expo, El Paso, 2023

Grants & Awards

Joukowsky Family Foundation Outstanding Dissertation Award, 2025

Predocorial Fellow, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, 2024-2025

Rhodes Center Research Award, 2023

Brown Graduate School Joukowsky Summer Research Award, 2023, 2024

Brown University Department of Political Science Research Award, 2022, 2024

Brown University P. Terrance Hopmann Teaching Award, 2022

Fulbright Research Award, 2019

Boren Scholar Award, U.S. National Security Education Program (NSEP), 2016-2017

Social Science Research Council (SSRC) Research Grant, Cuba, 2017

Skills

R, Tidyverse, Latex, Python
English (fluent), Italian (fluent), French, Portuguese & Spanish (working proficiency)

Additional Methods Training

ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, *Sensitivity Analysis*, 2024
ICPSR Summer Program in Quantitative Methods, *Intro to Causal Inference*, 2024
Polnet 2024, *Inferential Network Analysis – (t)ERGMs* (Skyler Cranmer), 2024
IQMR Institute for Qualitative and Multi-Method Research, 2022
Copenhagen Business School (CBS), *Sequence Analysis*, 2022
ISSR Methodology Workshop, *Intro Social Network Analysis*, 2022

Professional Service

Convener of IR Research Workshop, Department of Political Science, Brown University, 2024
Co-organized Workshop on Relational Approaches to Global Governance (with Aditi Sahasrabudhe), Rhodes Center for International Economics and Finance, Brown University, 2023
Graduate Student Liaison to the Teaching Center, 2020-2022

Additional Research Experience

Research Assistant, Peter Andreas, 3rd Edition *Border Games*, 2020-2021
Research Fellow, Igarapé Institute, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, 2016-2017

Teaching

Instructor (at Northwestern)
Secrecy in International Relations, Fall 2025

Teaching Assistant (at Brown)
Politics of the Illicit Global Economy, Peter Andreas, Spring 2022
American Foreign Policy, Rose McDermott, Fall 2021
Introduction to International Relations, Rose McDermott, Spring 2021
International Law and Politics of Human Rights, Nina Tannenwald, Fall 2023
Training
ISA NE Pedagogy Workshop, 2024