Isabella Bellezza

Northwestern University
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Research Interests

intersection of national security and international trade, border control, global governance, international cooperation, social network analysis, secrecy in international relations

Academic Appointments

Northwestern University
Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2026 - present
College Fellow, 2025-2026

Education

Brown University
Ph.D., Political Science, May 2025
M.A., Political Science, 2021

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

Under Review

1. "Networked Trust: Global Policing and the Politics of Securing Trade." Conditionally Accepted at the *American Political Science Review*.

2. "Peer Pressure and the Competitive Diffusion of Trusted Trader Agreements." Conditionally Accepted at *International Studies Quarterly*.

3. "Spy and Tell? The Persuasive Power of Publicizing State Secrets" with Lee-Or Ankori-Karlinsky and Martin Naunov. Under Review.

4. "The Politics of Securing Global Supply Chains After 9/11." In *The Contested Landscape of Global Governance*, edited by Jeff Colgan. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press. Forthcoming.

Working Papers

5. "Social Capital in Complex Regimes: IO Collaboration and Access to Multilateral Climate Finance" with Ayse Kaya. *Manuscript in preparation for submission.*

Works in Progress

6. *Networked Borders: The Post-9/11 Transformation of Border Governance* (book project)
7. "Whose Border? Public Reception of Foreign-Supplied Border Infrastructure"
8. "Does Risk-Based Border Control Work? A Global Field Experiment"

Grants, Awards, & Fellowships

Merze Tate Award for the Best Dissertation in International Relations, Law, and Politics, American Political Science Association (2026)

HSSA Research Grant, Northwestern Office of the Provost (2026)

Joukowsky Family Foundation Outstanding Dissertation Award, Brown University (2025)

Predoctoral Fellow, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs (2024-2025)

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)

Conferences, Workshops, & Talks

2027 (scheduled): Invited talk, Politics Workshop at the University of Illinois, Champaign Urbana. Invited talk, Government Department Speaker Series (PSAC), Cornell University. Invited talk, Reppy Institute for Peace and Conflict Studies, Cornell University. Invited workshop presentation, Christopher H. Browne Center for International Politics, University of Pennsylvania.

2026: Presenter and Discussant at the 18th annual Conference on the Political Economy of International Organization (PEIO) [program here]; Presenter and Discussant at the Workshop on Emerging Border Technologies at Perry World House, University of Pennsylvania; Presenter at the annual conference of the American Political Science Association (APSA) panel on "Network Approaches to International Relations;" Invited workshop presentation,

Journeys' in World Politics Workshop, University of California, San Deigo (UCSD) (scheduled); Invited talk, IR Speaker Series at Notre Dame University (scheduled).

2025: Invited talk, Workshop in International Politics (WIP) at the University of Chicago; Presenter at the annual conference of the American Political Science Association (APSA) panels on "Networks in Global Governance" and "Information Warfare;" Presenter at the annual conference of the International Studies Association (ISA) panel on "Policing the Global Economy;" Presenter at the Junior Scholars in Quantitative Conflict Workshop (JQCon); Presenter at the Virtual International Political Economy Society (VIPES) Workshop

2024: American Political Science Association Conference (APSA), APSA Political Networks Conference (PolNet), International Studies Association Conference (ISA), MPSA, Junior Scholars in IO Workshop, Brown University IR Workshop, Political Networks Online Colloquium (PNOC)

2023: American Political Science Association Conference (APSA), International Studies Association Conference (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 University IR Workshop

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

Teaching

Courses Taught, Northwestern University

Poli Sci 240: Introduction to International Relations *(undergraduate lecture)*

- Spring 2026, Winter 2027 (scheduled)

Poli Sci 395: Secrecy in International Relations *(undergraduate research seminar)*

- Fall 2025, Winter 2027 (scheduled)

Courses Taught, Brown University (as teaching assistant)

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

Internation Studies Association, Pedagogy Workshop, 2024

Skills & Training

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

Organizer, International Relations Speaker Series, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University (2026 – present)

Member, Buffet Institute Faculty Advisory Council, Northwestern University (2026-2027)

Member, IR Search Committee, Department of Political Science, Northwestern University (2026-2027)

Coordinator, International Relations Research Workshop, Department of Political Science, Brown University (2024)

Co-organizer, Relational Approaches to Global Governance Workshop, Rhodes Center at Brown University (2023)

Graduate Student Liaison to the Teaching Center, Brown University (2020-2022)

Ad Hoc Reviewer: *American Political Science Review, International Studies Quarterly*

Non-academic / Practitioner Conferences

International Border Management and Technologies Association, Prague, 2024
World Border Security Congress, Istanbul, 2024
International Association of Chiefs of Police (IACP) Annual Conference, 2024
Border Security Expo, El Paso, 2023