

Isabella Bellezza

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Research & Teaching Interests

international security, international political economy, secrecy in international relations, political networks, U.S. foreign policy, border control

Academic Appointments

Northwestern University ***starting September 2025***
College Fellow, 2025-2026
Assistant Professor of Political Science, 2026 -

Brown University
Predoctoral Fellow, Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs, 2024-2025

Education

Brown University

Ph.D., Political Science, *expected 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. "The Network Politics of Trust in International Border Security Cooperation"
2. "Network Effects and the Competitive Diffusion of Trusted Trader Agreements"
3. "A New Trade Frontier: Customs Cooperation & Trade-Efficient Borders" (with Connor Staggs)
4. "Boundary Spanning Regimes: The Origins and Evolution of Supply Chain Security in Global Governance"

Works in Progress

"Spy and Tell? Intelligence Disclosures in International Politics"

-- with [Lee-Or Ankori Karlinsky](#), survey design in progress

"Determinants of U.S. foreign police assistance"

-- with [Lin Sae-Phoo](#), data coding in progress

"When Do International Organizations Cooperate? A Network Analysis of Multilateral Climate Finance"

-- with [Ayse Kaya](#), data analysis in progress

"In Pursuit of Network Power: Data, Tech Firms, and the Geopolitics of Border Control"

-- with Angie Bautista-Chavez and Richie Romero

“(Un)bundling Sovereignty: Customs and the (trans)formation of the modern state”

Conference & Workshop Presentations

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

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

Rhodes Center Research Award, 2023

Brown Graduate School Joukowsky Summer Research Award, 2023, 2024

Brown University Department of Political Science Research Award, 2022, 2024
P. Terrance Hopmann Teaching Award, Brown University, 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* (Kevin Young), 2022

Professional Service

Convened the “International Relations 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

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

Mentoring

Second Reader, Senior Honors Thesis, Grace Chaikin, 2024 - 2025

Training
ISA NE Pedagogy Workshop, 2024