

# MICHELLE BENSON

(she/her)

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## EDUCATION

1999 **Ph.D., Political Science**

Claremont Graduate University, Claremont, CA  
Concentrations: World Politics and Comparative Politics  
Dissertation Title: The Ties That Bind: Status Quo Preferences, Democracy, and Conflict  
(chair, Jacek Kugler)

1996 **M.A., International Political Economy**

Claremont Graduate University

1994, 1995, 1999 (summers) 3 full sessions and 1 week-long session at ICPSR, Ann Arbor, MI

Concentrations: Statistics and Mathematical Modeling

1993 **Diplôme d'Etudes Approfondies**

Université Pierre Mendès France, Grenoble, France  
Concentration: International Security and Defense

1992 **B.A., International Relations**

University of California, Davis

1991 One year at the Institut d'Etudes Politiques, Grenoble, France.

## PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

**Associate Professor.** Fall 2009-Present

Department of Political Science, University at Buffalo, SUNY

**Director of Graduate Studies.** Fall 2017-Spring 2021

Department of Political Science, University at Buffalo, SUNY

**Folke Bernadotte Academy Research Working Group.** 2018-Present

Stockholm Sweden

**TransResearch Consortium Senior Fellow.** 2022-Present

Claremont Graduate University, Portland State University, and La Sierra University.

**Assistant Professor.** 2001-2009

Department of Political Science, University at Buffalo, SUNY

**Director of Undergraduate Studies.** Fall 2007-Spring 2009

Department of Political Science, University at Buffalo, SUNY

**Visiting Assistant Professor.** Fall 1999-2001

Department of Political Science, University at Buffalo, SUNY

## PUBLICATIONS

18. "The Importance of UN Security Council Resolutions in Peacekeeping Operations." (with Colin Tucker) 2022. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*.
17. "UN Security Council Resolutions and Sexual Violence in Civil Wars." (with Ismene Gizeles) 2020. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 64(1): pp. 167–198.
16. "Advancing the Frontier of Peacekeeping Research." (with Ismene Gizelis), 2019. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 63(7): 1595-1600.
15. "Cut Short? United Nations Peacekeeping and Civil War Duration to Negotiated Settlements" (with Jacob Kathman), 2019. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 63(7): 1601-1629.
14. "UN Bias and Force Commitments" (with Jacob Kathman), 2014. *Journal of Politics*. 76(2): 350-363.
13. "The Dynamics of Ethnonationalist Contention." (with Gregory D. Saxton). 2010. *British Journal of Political Science*. 40(2): 305-331.
12. "Choosing Sides: UN Resolutions and Non-Neutrality in International Conflicts." (with Nil Satana), 2008. In Jacob Bercovitch and Scott Gartner, eds. *International Conflict Mediation: New Approaches and Findings*. Routledge Press.
11. "Means, Motives, and Opportunities in the Expression of Ethno-Nationalist Demands" (with Gregory D. Saxton). 2008. *International Interactions*. 34(1): 53-83.
10. "Status Quo Preferences and Disputes Short of War." 2007. *International Interactions*. 33(3): 271-288.
9. "Extending Power Transition Theory." 2007. *International Interactions*. 33(3): 211-215.
8. "Structure, Politics, and Action: An Integrated Model of Nationalist Protest and Rebellion" (with Gregory D. Saxton). 2006. *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 12(2): 1-39.
7. "The Relevance of Politically Relevant Dyads in the Study of Interdependence and Dyadic Disputes." 2005. *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 22(2): 113-133.
6. "Social Capital and the Growth of the Nonprofit Sector" (with Gregory D. Saxton). 2005. *Social Science Quarterly* 86(1): 16-35.
5. "Dyadic Hostility and the Ties that Bind: State-to-State versus State-to-System Security and Economic Relationships." 2004. *Journal of Peace Research* 41(6): 659-676.
4. "Interpersonal Trust and the Magnitude of Protest: A Micro- and Macro-Level Approach" (with Thomas Rochon). 2004. *Comparative Political Studies* 20(10): 1-23.
3. "The Origins of Socially and Politically Hostile Attitudes toward Immigrants and Outgroups: Economics, Ideology, or National Context?" (with Gregory D. Saxton). 2003. *Journal of Political Science* 31: 101-37.

2. "Power Parity, Democracy, and the Severity of Internal Violence" (with Jacek Kugler). 1998. *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 42(2): 196-209.
1. "Anticipating Domestic Violence with Political Capacity" (with Jacek Kugler, Andy Hira, and Dmitri Panasevitch). 1997. In Jacek Kugler and Marina Arbetman, eds. *Political Capacity and Economic Behavior*. Boulder, CO: Westview Press.

### **SUBMISSIONS FOR PUBLICATION**

1. "Punching Before the Bell Rings: United Nations Signaling and Pre-Deployment Violence in Civil Wars." With Jacob Kathman and Paul Diehl. Revise and Resubmit at *International Studies Quarterly*.
2. "The United Nations Conflict Resolutions (UNCR) Dataset" With Colin Tucker. Revise and Resubmit at the *Journal of Peace Research*.
3. "Militarization and Women's Empowerment in Post-Conflict Societies." With Ismene Gizelis. Revise and Resubmit at *United Nations Women*.
4. "Naming Names: UN Security Council Resolution Sentiment in Civil Wars. With Colin Tucker. For inclusion on the *Routledge Handbook on UN Peacekeeping* (ed. Han Dorussen). Revised and Resubmitted.
5. "The Lasting Health Impacts of UN Peacekeeping." With Chris Newton, Chhandosi Roy and Colin Tucker. Submitted for Publication.

### **WORKING PAPERS**

- "Refugees, United Nations Support, and Sexual Violence in Civil Wars." With Kristin Cruz and Bongjoo Kim.
- "UN Peacekeeping, Militarization, and Women's Empowerment in Post-Conflict Societies." With Ismene Gizelis.
- "United Nations Resource Allocations and Peacekeeping Effectiveness." With Jacob Kathman.
- "Do Mandates Matter? DDR Mandates, Force Mandates and Civil War Deaths
- "Civil War Battlefield Deaths, Rebel Power and Dissatisfaction." With Jacek Kugler, Chris Newton and Chhandosi Roy.

### **EDITORSHIPS**

Senior Editor. 2017-2020. The *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of International Relations*. Oxford University Press.

Guest Editor of a special peer-reviewed section with Ismene Gizelis: "Advancing the Frontier of Peacekeeping Research." *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. Contributors include Kyle Beardsley, David E. Cunningham, Peter White, Lisa Hultman, Karin Johansson, Vincenzo Bove, Andrea Ruggeri, Jacob Kathman and Michelle Benson.

Guest Editor of special peer-reviewed edition: "Extensions to Power Transition Theory." *International Interactions*. Contributors include Michelle Benson, Glenn Palmer, T. Clifton Morgan, Frank

Zagare, Vesna Danilovic, Joe Claire, Monica Duffy-Toft, Siddharth Swaminathan, and John Thomas.

### RECENT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- “UN Peacekeeping, Militarization, and Women’s Empowerment in Post-Conflict Societies.” With Ismene Gizelis. 2022. *International Studies Association*, Nashville, TN.
- “Refugees, United Nations Support, and Sexual Violence in Civil Wars.” With Kristin Cruz and Bongjoo Kim. 2021. *International Studies Association* virtual conference.
- “Can UN Peacekeeping Improve Health Outcomes Long After the Shooting Stops?” With Chris Newton, Chhandosi Roy and Colin Tucker. 2020 *Peace Science Society*, virtual conference.
- “Do Mandates Matter? DDR Mandates, Force Mandates and Civil War Deaths” 2019. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Toronto, CA.
- “UNbiased: UN Security Council Resolutions in Civil Conflicts” With Colin Tucker. 2019. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Toronto, CA.
- “Naming Names in UNSC Conflict Resolutions: Implications for Peacekeeping.” With Colin Tucker. 2018. Presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA.
- “Mandating Protection: <sup>[1]</sup>~~[1]~~ The Impact of UN Peacekeeping Operations on Sexual Violence in Civil Wars.” with Ismene Gizelis). 2018. . Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA.
- “UN Resolutions and Sexual Violence in Civil Wars.” (with Ismene Gizelis). 2017. . Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Baltimore, MD.
- “An Introduction to the UNSCR Intrastate Conflict-Month Data 1989-2014.” (with Colin Tucker) 2017. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA.
- “UNSC Bias and Peacekeeping Effectiveness.” (with Jacob Kathman) 2016. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA.
- “UN Security Council Resolutions and Sexual Violence in Civil Wars.” (with Ismene Gizeles) 2016. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Atlanta, GA.
- “Is the UN a Credible Actor in Global Conflict?” 2014. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, Toronto, Canada.
- “Democracy and Mediation in Civil Wars”. (with Paul Poast and Gary Uzonyi) 2013 Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA.
- “UNSC Bias and Peacekeeping Effectiveness.” (with Jacob Kathman) 2013. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, CA.
- “In it to Win It: Civil War Victory and the Duration of Authoritarian Regimes.” (with Reverien Mfizi, graduate student) 2012. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Midwest Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“UN Bias and Force Commitments in Civil Wars.” (with Jacob Kathman) 2011. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Seattle, WA.

UNbiased: UNSC Resolutions in Civil Wars.” (with Erik Gartzke). 2010. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, New Orleans, LA.

UNbiased: UNSC Resolutions in Civil Wars.” (with Erik Gartzke). 2009. Poster presented at the annual meeting of the Peace Science Society International Meetings, Chapel Hill, NC.

“UNbiased: A logic of Security Council Action.” (with Erik Gartzke). 2009. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the International Studies Association, New York, NY.

“The Determinants of Trade During War.” 2008. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the Peace Science Society, Claremont, CA.

“Choosing Sides: UN Resolutions and Non-Neutrality.” (with Nil Satana). 2007. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

“Assessing the Determinants of Trade Decreases During War.” 2007. Paper presented at the annual meeting of the American Political Science Association, Chicago, IL.

### INVITED TALKS

“Civil War Battlefield Deaths, Rebel Power and Dissatisfaction.” With Jacek Kugler, Chris Newton and Chhandosi Roy. Presented at the Rising Powers Conference. 14-15 November 2021, Virginia Military Institute, Lexington, VA.

“Militarization and Women’s Empowerment in Post-Conflict Societies.” With Ismene Gizelis. Presented at the United Nations Women Conference on “Military spending and women, peace and security: a conversation about new research.” United Nations. 17 September 2021, virtual.

“UNSC Resolutions and PKOs” With Colin Tucker. Paper presented at the Folke Bernadotte Academy Research Workshop on “The State of the Art: The Future of Peacekeeping Data” 17-19 June 2019, Genoa Italy.

“UNSC Resolutions and Civil Conflicts” With Colin Tucker. Invited presentation at the Department of Peace and Conflict Research, Uppsala University. 5 November 2018. Uppsala, Sweden.

“Do Mandates Matter? DDR Mandates, Force Mandates and Civil War Deaths.” 2018. Paper presented at the Folke Bernadotte Academy Research Workshop on “Recidivism, Recycling or Reintegration? Revisiting DDR,” 3-4 November 2018, Stockholm, Sweden.

“Mandating Protection: The Impact of UN Peacekeeping Operations on Sexual Violence in Civil Wars.” with Ismene Gizelis). 2018. . Paper presented at the Folke Bernadotte Research Workshop, Occidental, CA.

“Naming Names in UNSC Conflict Resolutions: Implications for Peacekeeping.” With Colin Tucker. 2017. Presented at the Folke Bernadotte Academy workshop at Addis Ababa, Ethiopia.

“Brexit: Implications for Conflict Intervention and Human Rights Policies.” 2017. Jean Monnet Chair event co-sponsored with CEUS and the Baldy Center, University at Buffalo, SUNY

“The United Nations” 2016,. International Institute of Buffalo, Great Decision Series. Buffalo, NY.

“Democracy, Rebel Politics, and the Demand for Mediation in Civil Wars.” 2015. (with Paul Poast and Gary Uzonyi). Han Jyun-Hou Conference, SUNY Binghamton.

“Status Quo Preferences.” 2007. Université de Montreal, Montreal Canada. (presented in French).

“IGOs and Bridging Ties: An Unlikely Peace?” 2006. Paper presented at the *IGOs in Action* conference. San Diego, CA.

“Intergovernmental Organizations and International Conflict: Follow the Leader or Follow the Rules?” June 2005. Presented at the Trans-Research Consortium (Power Transitions.) Carmel, CA.

“Intergovernmental Organizations and the Duration of Dyadic Disputes.” 2003. Presented at The Baldy Center. University at Buffalo, SUNY. Buffalo, NY.

## SERVICE

- 2021-pres UB Math and Quantitative Reasoning General Education Subcommittee
- 2021 Temporary College (CAS) representative at Associate Dean’s UB Curriculum meetings
- 2021 Political Science Methods Search Committee Member.
- 2017-2021 Director of Graduate Studies, Department of Political Science
- 2020 Directed Undergraduate UB students on a Model European Union Simulation in Brussels, Belgium.
- 2021 Faculty Director of the Model European Union Club.
- 2018-pres UB College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee, Chair
- 2019-2020. CAS PhD Excellence Initiative Committee member.
- 2017-2019. Ex-Officio Scientific Studies of International Processes (SSIP) for the *International Studies Association (ISA)*.
- 2016-2019 UB Committee Member on Assessment of MQR General Education Requirements
- 2015-2016 Chair, College of Arts and Sciences (CAS) Policy Committee
- 2015-2016 UB University Committee on Academic Integrity
- 2015-2017 Section Chair, Scientific Studies of International Processes (SSIP) for *International Studies Association (ISA)*.
- 2015-2018 UB Math and Quantitative Reasoning General Education Subcommittee
- 2014-2016 UB College of Arts and Sciences General Education Subcommittee
- 2013-2016 College of Arts and Sciences Policy Committee
- 2012-2018 College of Arts and Sciences Curriculum Committee member
- 2012 UB College of Arts and Sciences Policy Committee Alternate (Fall 2012)
- 2013-2014 CAS Strategic Planning Committee on Creative Activities and Research Subcommittee
- 2012-14 Department of Political Science Graduate Committee
- 2013-2015 Chair, Professional Development Committee, *International Studies Association*
- 2012 Program Chair for the *Midwest Political Science Association* Program Committee
- 2007-2009 Director of Undergraduate Studies, Department of Political Science, SUNY Buffalo
- 2007-2009 *Pi Sigma Alpha* Undergraduate Honor Society Chapter Advisor
- 2008 Chair and Convenor of the *International Studies Association* Nominating Committee
- 2007-2010 *International Studies Association* Nominating Committee member
- 2006-2009 *APSA* Conflict Processes Section Councilor
- 2004-2006 *International Studies Association* workshop grant committee member.
- 2002-2004 Department of Political Science Advisory Committee
- 2002-2003 Faculty Undergraduate Grievance Pool Representative
- 2002 Program Chair, Scientific Studies of International Processes Section of the *International Studies Association* Conference, New Orleans, LA.
- 2000 *Peace Science Society* Nominating Committee
- 2001 – Department of Political Science Undergraduate and Graduate Committees

Reviewer: *American Political Science Review, Journal of Politics, American Journal of Political Science, Journal of Conflict Resolution, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Peace Research, Conflict Management and Peace Science, National Science Foundation.*

### Community

- 2022, 3/22. Invited Speaker “IGO Responses to the Ukrainian Conflict.” for SUNY Buffalo Honors College Ukraine/Russia Teach-In.
- 2021, 3/7. Invited Speaker on UN response to Myanmar Crisis for Buffalo String Works Town Hall.
- 2021, 2/13: Presentation on the Myanmar Coup for Buffalo String Works virtual fundraiser.
- 2020-pres: Boy Scouts of America Merit Badge Counselor for Citizenship in the World Merit Badge and Citizenship in the Nation Merit Badge.
- 2017, 1/29: USA Today Digital Edition Interview on “Experts: Refugee ban could be used as ISIL recruiting tool
- 2016, 7/20: “The Pros and Cons of UN Peacekeeping and Intervention in Civil Wars.” UB Newman Center Bridge Lecture Series
- 2016, 3/29: Christian Science Monitor Interview on “EU Cooperation on Terrorism”
- 2016, 3/25: USA Today Interview on “EU Cooperation on Terrorism”
- 2015, 12/7: Vice Digital News Interview on sending ground troops to Syria.
- 2015, 11/16: Time Warner Cable News Interview on “Paris Terrorist Attacks”
- 2015, 11/16: Channel 4 Television News Interview on “Paris Terrorist Attacks”
- 2015, 8/24: USA Today Digital Edition Interview on North/South Korea
- 2003, 2/26, 3/28, 4/4, 4/17, 5/1. T.V. guest appearance: *A.M. Buffalo*, Channel 7 (WKBW). Topics: The Second Gulf War, the history of Iraq, postwar Iraq.
- 2003, 3/21. Radio interview on the Second Gulf War on WCOT-FM.
- 2003, 4/9. Tonawanda High School. Class of at-risk freshmen. Discussion of the history of Iraq and the war in Iraq.

### **GRANTS AND ACADEMIC AWARDS**

- 2019 *Folke Bernadotte Academy Grant* (approximately \$27,000 in Swedish Krona). To hire one full time Graduate student and two, part time graduate students to code UNSC resolutions for civil conflict and peacekeeping operations.
- 2006. *Baldy Center Small Research Grant* (\$1000)
- 2002-2003. *Baldy Center Grant* for research assistance (\$3,500)
- 1997-1998. Haynes Social Science Dissertation Grant (\$16,000)
- 1998. Nomination by the School of Politics and Economics for the Morris Abrams Award in IR.
- 1993-96. Claremont Graduate University Fellowship Award (\$4,000, \$8,000, \$8,000)
- 1996-1998. Graduate Student Council Research Award (\$300, \$250)

### **GRANT APPLICATIONS**

- 2021 ERASMUS (European Union) Jean Monnet Grant (\$28,000 declined).

### **CONSULTING**

- 2021 United Nations, UN Women. Summary of work included in the 2021 UN Secretary General’s report.

## COURSES

(bold are current, regularly taught courses)

### Undergraduate

PSC 102 Introduction to International Relations

PSC 103 Introduction to Comparative Politics

**PSC 326 War and International Security**

**PSC 332 International Organization**

**PSC 334 Model European Union Seminar/Lab (Including Winter-Break Study Abroad)**

**PSC 408 Introduction to Statistics**

### Graduate

PSC 501 Philosophy of Science

PSC 500 Research Methods

**PSC 508 Introduction to Statistics (through multivariate OLS, using Stata)**

PSC 531 Intermediate Statistics (multivariate OLS through MLE, using Stata)

**PSC 647 International Organization**

## PhD DISSERTATION COMMITTEE CHAIR (recent)

Assaf Almutairi (PhD 2021): Assistant Professor King Saud University

Catherine (Si) Chen (PhD 2021): Research Consultant, United Nations DESA Digital  
Government Branch.

Colin Tucker (PhD 2020): Researcher, Department of Defense. Research Assistant Professor,  
University at Buffalo, SUNY

Abdulaziz G Almuslem (PhD 2018): Assistant Professor Kuwait University

Reverien Mfizi (PhD 2017): Visiting Assistant Professor SUNY Geneseo.

## REFERENCES

Jacob Kathman, PhD  
Chair, Department of Political Science  
University at Buffalo, SUNY  
kathman@buffalo.edu  
(716) 645-8445

D. Munroe Eagles, PhD  
Professor, Department of Political Science  
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Jacek Kugler, PhD  
Elisabeth Helm Rosecrans Professor of International Relations  
School of Social Science, Policy and Evaluation  
Claremont Graduate University  
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