

RACHEL URBAN

[LinkedIn](#) | [Personal Website](#)

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Candidate, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), USA** *2021 – Current*
Program: Doctor of Philosophy – Political Science, 4th Year
Specializations: Political Psychology, International Relations, & Natural Resources
Expected Graduation: May 2027
- Masters of Research, University of Exeter, UK** *2019*
Program: Security, Conflict, & Human Rights
- Bachelor of Arts, UNL, USA** *2017*
Program: Psychology
- Associate of Arts, Southeast Community College (Nebraska), USA** *2014*
Program: General Studies/Academic Transfer

RESEARCH & METHODOLOGICAL INTERESTS

Research: Security theory & policy; Intelligence analysis; Ecology & water policy; Foreign policy decision-making; Political psychology; Socio-political change.

Methods: Experimental design (e.g., surveys); Wargaming; Event & policy tracking; Case studies.

SKILLS & LANGUAGES TOOLBOX

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| Software | RStudio: Data visualization, Markdown, website coding (Quarto). SPSS & Stata: Data analysis. L^AT_EX: Document rendering. SQL: Database management. ArcGIS: Software mapping. Microsoft & Google Suites: (e.g., Excel/Sheets/Forms, PPT/Slides). Qualtrics, SurveyMonkey, Decipher/Forsta: Survey creation. YuJa: Lecture recording software. |
| Spoken Language | English (<i>Native</i>), Spanish (<i>Elementary</i>), Russian (<i>1 summer term</i>) |
| Writing | Academic & Policy styles, Editor, & Brief-writer. |
| Briefing | Policy & Academic Panels, Instructor of Record. |
| Interpersonal Skills | Build and maintain relationships in the US and abroad. |

SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

BY DESIGN: Institutionalization in drought & conflict. *Dissertation Prospectus*
Author: Quantitative analysis investigating how institutions condition interstate violent conflict under water scarcity using the *AfroGrid* dataset and the *Transboundary Freshwater Dispute Database*.

Another Russia: Elite group perceptions informing dynamics of political change.
Author: Quantitative analysis of differing Russian elite attitudes of the Ukraine, NATO, & EU using the *Survey of Russian Elites* (SRE) dataset.

From the Other Side of the Border: Mexican Public Attitudes of American Politics.
Co-authors: Sergio Wals & Kianna Moore. We ask if – and how – Mexican partisanship and institutions longitudinally frame public attitudes (e.g., migration) as American presidents are elected, using five nationally representative surveys from 2003-2024. Early stages of quantitative analysis & drafting manuscripts (in English & Spanish).

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

SQL Bootcamp

Offered by Udemy & Pierian Data. Learned how to apply SQL commands to business scenarios. [\[Link\]](#)

Foresight Analysis Certification

Offered by Pherson. Learned qualitative "3D" intelligence method to think about future problems.

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

Graduate Assistant

Aug 2021 – Current

UNL | Lincoln, Nebraska

Researched new projects and provided weekly peer audits in several labs. Designed and taught 4 undergraduate curricula. Co-planned international symposia.

Policy Support & Research Assistant

Dec 2023 - May 2024

Catalyst Public Affairs — Lincoln, Nebraska

Summarized bills introduced in the spring session of the Nebraska unicameral. Researched policy background on Midwestern states' renewable energy history.

Research Grant Support

Mar 2020 - Sept 2020

University of Nebraska Medical Center — Online; Omaha, Nebraska

(US\$10 million)

Virtually aided Epidemiology Graduate Director research, collected data, organized, and wrote the original Community Engagement section of the Buffett Cancer Center's P30 grant renewal application.

Program Coordinator

Sept 2017 – Aug 2018

State of Nebraska (SOS Temp Program) — Lincoln, Nebraska

Organized program schedule for directors and contractors on Program FuzioN, a State of Nebraska implementation of Oracle cloud software. Tracked continuous records (e.g., budget); attended director meetings and briefed on events; recorded minutes; drafted briefs, presentations, and communications.

[Unpaid] Summer Intern

May 2016 – Jul 2016

U.S. Department of State — Washington, D.C.

Performed classified work to update the Victims' Resource Advocacy Program's (VRAP) resource database in Washington, D.C. Researched new advocacy resources (e.g., hostage situations), assisted during international ambassador summits, and attended policy briefings. Interviewed detectives, branch chiefs, and ranking military and intelligence officers.

SELECTED AWARDS, SCHOLARSHIPS, & FELLOWSHIPS

Empirical Implications of Theoretical Models: ICPSR Scholarship Recipient

2025

National Science Foundation funds first and second session tuition fees for the University of Michigan's Inter-university Consortium for Political & Social Research's quantitative summer program. \$4,375.00

McKelvie Scholarship: Graduate Recipient

2024 - 2025

Fund to aid government- and public service-interested careers.

\$5,750.00

Kiechel Fellowship: Research Fellow

2020

Researched Russian elite perceptions of the Ukraine and Belarus using the SRE.

\$2,000.00

Larry D. Welch Deterrence Writing Award: Undergraduate Runner Up

2018

Wrote and briefed a recommendation to update and tailor North Korean a deterrence strategy to a US Strategic Command nuclear policy audience.