

RACHEL URBAN

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EDUCATION

- Ph.D. Candidate, University of Nebraska-Lincoln (UNL), USA** 08/2021 – Current
Program: Doctor of Philosophy – Political Science, 4th Year
Specializations: Political Psychology, International Relations, & Natural Resources
Expected Graduation: May 2026 — *Prospectus Defense:* April 2025
- Masters of Research, University of Exeter, UK** 09/2018 – 12/2019
Program: Security, Conflict, & Human Rights
- Bachelor of Arts, UNL, USA** 01/2015 – 05/2017
Program: Psychology
- Associate of Arts, Southeast Community College (Nebraska), USA** 10/2012 – 09/2014
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.

SELECTED RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Forgotten Institutions: Indirect roles in drought & war. *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).

INTERNSHIP EXPERIENCE

[Unpaid] Summer Intern 05/2016 – 07/2016
U.S. Department of State — Washington, D.C.
Held a Secret-level security clearance to manage and update the Victims' Resource Advocacy Program's (VRAP) resource database in Washington, D.C. Researched new advocacy resources, specifically hostage situations, and attended policy briefings. Interviewed detectives, branch chiefs, and ranking military and intelligence officers.

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

Foresight Analysis Certification 07/2022
Offered by Pherson. The course provides an intelligence method for thinking critically in a structured way about a future problem in a qualitative manner.

SELECTED WORK EXPERIENCE

Instructor of Record/Professor 12/2022–Current
UNL — Lincoln, Nebraska

Taught in-person and online courses to undergraduates (~15-30) on women's roles (POLS338), climate politics (POLS332), and globalized social impacts (POLS362). Students research policy implications.

Policy Support & Research Assistant 12/2023–05/2024
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 03/2020–09/2020
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 09/2017–08/2018
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.

SKILLS

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| Software & Tools | SPSS: Complex data analysis. (<i>Expert, Since 2015</i>) RStudio: Data analysis & visualization. (<i>Beginner, Since 01/2025</i>) L^AT_EX: Document formatting. (<i>Beginner, Since 04/2025</i>) Stata: Data analysis. (<i>Beginner, Since 01/2022</i>) Microsoft Suite: (e.g.) Excel, Word, PowerPoint. (<i>Proficient, Since 2010</i>) YuJa: Lecture recording & editing software. (<i>Intermediate, Since 2022</i>) |
| Languages | English (<i>Native</i>), Spanish (<i>Elementary</i>), Russian (<i>1 summer term</i>) |
| Writing & Briefing | Instructor of Record, Panelist & Brief-writer |
| Interpersonal Skills | Builds meaningful relationships in the US & abroad. |

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

Larry D. Welch Deterrence Writing Award: Undergraduate Runner Up 2018
Wrote *Perception, Deterrence & Behavioral Networks: Application of new frameworks to North Korea*, a recommendation of how to most optimally tailor a deterrence strategy. Briefed for the US Strategic Command (USSTRATCOM) nuclear policy and analysis audience.

McKelvie Scholarship: Graduate Recipient 2024-25 Academic Year
Fund to aid government- and public service-interested careers. \$5,750.00

Kiechel Fellowship: Research Fellow 06/2020 – 08/2020
Researched Russian elite perceptions of the Ukraine and Belarus using the SRE. \$2,000.00

SELECTED CONFERENCE ORGANIZATION

Hendricks Symposium: Co-Planner & Organizer, UNL 01–06/2023
Co-planned Hendricks's Symposium first annual event in 6/2023 post-pandemic with Dr. Tyler White & Ms. Elsbeth Magilton (J.D.). Coordinated military and academic guest hotel stays and transportation who spoke on multi-actor and multi-domain deterrence.