JACQUELINE G. BURNS

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE Irvine, CA
Ph.D. Candidate, Political Science Expected 2027
Fields: International Relations (primary), Political Theory (secondary)
Dissertation: *Peacemaking on the Margins: Toward an Inclusive Typology of Women's Pathways to Peace*
Committee: Heidi Hardt (Chair), Erin Lockwood, Pamela Nwakanma

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY, Georgetown Public Policy Institute Washington, DC
Master of Public Policy, Concentration in International Policy and Development May 2011
Thesis: *How is Genocide Possible? The Effects of Poverty and Other Economic Factors on the Onset of Genocide*

AUGSBURG COLLEGE Minneapolis, MN
Bachelor of Arts in Political Science, Minors in International Relations and History June 2008

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Burns, Jacqueline G. (2026). "Left behind on the streets of Khartoum: international financial institutions, gendered circuits of violence, and the subversion of peace." *Review of International Political Economy*.

Aberg, John H.S., Becker, Derick, **Burns, Jacqueline G.**, Duggan, Niall, Kinyondo, Abel, Ziso, Edson (2026). "South Africa and the International Court of Justice (ICJ): A new path to African Agency?" *Third World Quarterly*.

Burns, Jacqueline G. (2025). "Gendered Extraction in Sudan: How Extractive Economic Activities Exacerbate Conflict in an Era of Great Power Competition." *Third World Quarterly*.

Becker, Derick, Aberg, John H.S., **Burns, Jacqueline G.** (2023). "The Will to Do Good and the Clash of Practices: Understanding Sudanese Sanctions Relief." *International Politics*.

BOOK CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

Burns, Jacqueline G. (2026). "Peacemaking from the peripheries. Lessons from the women of Sudan on informal pathways to peace." In Robin, Marie, Theussen, Amelie, Carlson, Kerstin B. (Eds.) *The Changing Fights and Fighters of Contemporary War - From the Margins to the Middle*. Palgrave Macmillan.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

Burns, Jacqueline G. (Data Analysis and Drafting in Progress). "Peacemaking on the Margins: Toward an Inclusive Typology of Women's Pathways to Peace."

Burns, Jacqueline G., Hardt, Heidi. (Manuscript Complete; Preparing for Submission). "Climate Change as Threat Multiplier: Why and How NATO is Adapting to Climate Change."

POLICY-RELEVANT PUBLICATIONS (NON-PEER REVIEWED)

Hardt, Heidi, **Burns, Jacqueline G.** (2024). "NATO wants to be a leader on climate security. Here are the next steps to get there." *New Atlanticist*, *Atlantic Council*.

Burns, Jacqueline G. (2023). "The Violence in Sudan is Partly Our Fault." *The New York Times*.

GRANTS AND FELLOWSHIPS

$20,000 Research Grant 2025-2026
Glasser Center for the Power of Music and Social Change, University of California Irvine, Irvine, CA
Awarded to lead "Peacebuilding through Storytelling" initiative and field research in Uganda and Nigeria.

€34,000 Research Grant 2024
Malmö University, Malmö, Sweden
Awarded to Africa China Research Network to conduct research and prepare a special journal issue.

$50,000 Research Grant 2023-2024
University of California Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, La Jolla, CA
Awarded as part of a team of two researchers to study climate adaptation at NATO.

Security Fellow, Truman National Security Project 2020-Present

Presidential Management Fellow, U.S. Department of State 2011-2013

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE Irvine, CA
Alec Glasser Center for the Power of Music and Social Change 2025-Present
Researcher and Project Lead

- Proposed, designed, and secured funding for the Peacebuilding through Storytelling project; designed the data collection methodology and directed all phases of research, from protocol design through analysis.
- Personally interviewed and collected stories from 40+ Sudanese, South Sudanese, and Nigerian women on their perceptions of their own power in peace processes.
- Managed a team of local research assistants in Uganda and South Sudan to collect over 100 additional stories and qualitative interviews with South Sudanese women on local peacebuilding efforts.
- Partnered with local women's and civil society organizations in Uganda, Nigeria, and South Sudan to build networks elevating local women peacebuilders.

RAND Santa Monica, CA
Senior Policy Analyst 2019-2025

- Co-Principal Investigator directing a team of six researchers to assess foreign competition, manipulation, and interference in Africa; designed the case study research approach including field research across six countries and led the analysis and drafting of the final report.
- Lead author and investigator for case study and quantitative analysis on crisis response in Africa.
- Conducted research and published on Women, Peace, and Security; institutional capacity building in Africa; and countering foreign and domestic terrorism.

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE Irvine, CA
Graduate Researcher 2023-2024

- Co-designed a mixed-methods study of NATO's climate adaptation, developing data collection and subject recruitment protocols and leading the IRB submission and approval process for human subjects research spanning 65 elite interviews in six countries.
- Conducted field research in six countries, personally interviewing 36 high-level NATO officials.
- Led qualitative coding and analysis of 65 elite interviews using Dedoose software and Microsoft Excel; drafted empirical results and discussion sections for journal article publication.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE Irvine, CA
Teaching Assistant 2021-2026

- Designed and led discussion sections and select lectures, advised and mentored students, and graded assignments for the following courses:
  - Principles in the Social Sciences (Spring 2026)
  - Introduction to International Relations (Winter 2025, Spring 2024)
  - Politics of Decolonization (Fall 2024)
  - Veterans Voices (Winter 2023)
  - Introduction to Microeconomics (Fall 2022)
  - Introduction to Race, Ethnicity and Politics (Spring 2022)
  - Basic Economics for Engineers (Winter 2022)
  - Conflict Resolution (Fall 2021)

INVITED LECTURES AND PRESENTATIONS

University of California, Irvine, Irvine, CA.
Invited Lecturer for International Security undergraduate class: Peace Processes in Sudan (May 2025).
--Introduction to International Relations undergraduate class: International Development (March 2024).
--International Organizations undergraduate class: Negotiating Resolutions (May 2023).
--Conflict Resolution undergraduate class: Conflict and Peace Processes in Rwanda (November 2021).

University of Central Florida, Intelligence Community Center for Academic Excellence, Orlando, FL.
Invited Speaker for Annual Colloquium: Intelligence Failures: The Approaches that Surprise Us (March 2024).

University of Notre Dame, Kroc Institute for International Peace Studies, South Bend, IN.
Panelist: Chaos in Sudan: Democracy vs Militarization (May 2023).

University of Minnesota, Humphrey School of Public Affairs, Minneapolis, MN.
Invited Lecturer for Conflict Resolution graduate class: International Negotiations in Sudan, South Sudan, and the UN Human Rights Council (November 2020).

Harvard University, Harvard Kennedy School, Cambridge, MA**.**
Invited Lecturer for International Conflict graduate class: U.S. Foreign Policy, Sanctions Relief, and Peace Processes in Sudan (April 2019).

GOVERNMENT AND POLICY EXPERIENCE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE Khartoum, Sudan
United States Embassy Khartoum 2015-2017
Lead Conflicts Officer and Strategic Advisor to the Special Envoy
U.S. focal point for all inter- and intrastate conflict issues in Sudan; represented the United States at all negotiations and international fora and served as key liaison to Sudan's two peacekeeping missions.

Office of the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan Washington, DC
Negotiations and Strategy Advisor 2013-2015; 2017-2018
Advised senior decision makers and participated in mediation efforts; led a $3M+ grant portfolio for local peacebuilding and WPS projects; U.S. delegate to the UN Human Rights Council 24th Session in Geneva.

THE WHITE HOUSE NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL Washington, DC
Special Assistant for African Affairs, Presidential Management Fellow 2012-2013
Led strategic planning efforts for the President's Young African Leaders Initiative (YALI) and coordinated the interagency process for the visit of four African Heads of State/Government.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE Washington, DC
Office of the U.S. Special Envoy to Sudan and South Sudan 2011-2012
South Sudan Desk Officer, Presidential Management Fellow
Interagency focal point for countering intercommunal violence in South Sudan; drafted briefing memos, policy recommendations, and press guidance for senior officials.

UNITED STATES AIR FORCE RESERVE Multiple Locations
Master Sergeant, Intelligence 2001-2013
Superintendent of Intelligence Operations, 459th Air Refueling Wing (2010-2013), managed a team of six analysts and deployed as NCO-in-Charge of Intelligence; Air Reserve Technician (ART) and lead anti-terrorism and force protection analyst for a 1,400-member unit, 934th Airlift Wing (2001-2009).

RAND PUBLICATIONS

Burns, Jacqueline G., Cormarie, Paul, Holynska, Khrystyna, Helmus, Todd C. (2025). *Strategic Competition in the African Information Space*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.

Hunter, Kyleanne M., Fleming, Joslyn, **Burns, Jacqueline G.**, Falgoust, Grace. (2024). *Enabling Human Security from Space: Using Space Force Capabilities to Better Humanity*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.

Butler, Dwayne, Denton, Sarah, **Burns, Jacqueline G**., Shumate, Will, Davis, Tangier, Talbert, Eli, Li, Rosemary (2024). *Improving Representation at Senior Levels through Strategic Messaging*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.

Butler, Dwayne M., **Burns, Jacqueline G.,** Keyes, Tiffany, Talbert, Eli, Shumate, Will, Denton, Sarah W., Espelien, Doris (2024). *Enhancing Lateral Entry Initiatives in the U.S. Air Force to Increase Uniformed Senior Leader Diversity and Overall Innovation*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.

Tapia, Daniel, Warren, Kristin, **Burns, Jacqueline G.,** Holynska, Khrystyna, Reimer, Jordan P., Schirmer, Peter, Shumate, Will. (2023). *Countering Domestic Racially and Ethnically Motivated Violent Terrorism on Social Media: Introducing the Racist and Violent Extremist Flock Tool*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.

Burns, Jacqueline G., Noyes, Alexander (2021). *Resilience or Retreat? Globalization and the COVID-19 Pandemic in Sub-Saharan Africa*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.

Martin, Bradley, Linick, Michael E., Fraade-Blanar, Laura, **Burns, Jacqueline G.**, Foran, Christy, Grocholski, Krista R., Hastings, Katherine C., Litterer, Sydney J., Lynch, Kristin F., Mondschein, Jared. (2021). *Measuring Strategic Readiness: Identifying Metrics for Core Dimensions*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.

Burns, Jacqueline G., Mouton, Christopher A., Grissom, Adam, Godges, John (2020). *Seizures of Western Diplomatic Facilities*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.

Mouton, Christopher A., Grissom, Adam, Bartels, Elizabeth M., Baveye, Damien, **Burns, Jacqueline G**., Godges, John, Harting, Sarah, Lee, Caitlin, Pillion, Stephanie Anne, Simpson, Michael, Smith, Victoria M. (2020). *Capabilities-Based Assessment of SOCOM's Next-Generation ISR*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.

Mouton, Christopher A., Doll, Abby, Grissom, Adam R., **Burns, Jacqueline G.,** Hanson, Russel, Godges, John P. (2019). *Setting the AFRICOM Area of Responsibility for Crisis Response*. Santa Monica, CA: RAND.

ACADEMIC CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

International Studies Association 66th Annual Convention, Chicago, IL (March 2025).
Presenter: Gendered Extraction in Sudan: How Extractive Economic Activities Exacerbate Conflict in an Era of Great Power Competition.
Co-Presenter: Climate Change as Threat Multiplier: Why and How NATO is Adapting to Climate Change.

International Studies Association 65th Annual Convention, San Francisco, CA (March 2024).
Co-Presenter: Climate Change as Threat Multiplier: Why and How NATO is Adapting to Climate Change.

American Political Science Association 119th Annual Meeting, Los Angeles, CA (August 2023).
Co-Presenter: Climate Change as Threat Multiplier: Why and How NATO is Adapting to Climate Change.

International Studies Association 64th Annual Convention, Montreal, Canada (March 2023).
Presenter: Left Behind on the Streets of Khartoum: International Financial Institutions, Gendered Circuits of Violence, and the Subversion of Peacemaking and Peacebuilding Goals.

International Studies Association 61st Annual Convention, Honolulu, HI (March 2020).
Co-Presenter: Asleep at the Switch: U.S. Foreign Policy in Africa. (Cancelled due to COVID-19)

SELECTED MEDIA APPEARANCES

The Chicago Council on Global Affairs, Deep Dish on Global Affairs Podcast. "Rethinking Conflict Resolution in Sudan," June 8, 2023.

National Public Radio, All Things Considered. "The U.S. contributed to Sudan's instability, a former official says," April 4, 2023.

O'Connor, Tom (2023). "Can the U.S., Russia and China Stop War in Sudan from Destabilizing Africa?" ***Newsweek***, April 27, 2023.

CBS News (2023). "What's next for Sudan after 72-hour ceasefire." [Television Broadcast], April 24, 2023.

CNN International (2023). "Russia's Lavrov Hosts UN Meeting on International Peace." [Television Broadcast], April 24, 2023.

Peck, Michael (2021). "Attacks On U.S. Embassies That Have Taken Two Hours or Less Have Been Too Fast for Rapid Response Teams, Study Finds." ***Forbes***, February 24, 2021.

SERVICE AND PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

Contributor, Special Issue Preparation, Africa-China Research Network 2024-2025
Mentor for Incoming PhD Students, University of California, Irvine 2023-Present
Advisor and Mentor, Summer Associates Program, RAND 2023-2025
Panel Discussant, "Diversity, Equity, and Inclusion in the US Military,"
Inter-University Seminar on Armed Forces and Society International Conference 2022
Founding Member, Africa-China Research Network 2020-Present
Participant, Women in Conflict Studies 2025-Present
Member, Political Science Womxn's Caucus, University of California, Irvine 2021-2025
Member, Women in National Security, RAND 2023-2025
Member, American Political Science Association 2022-Present
Member, International Studies Association 2020-Present
Staff Writer and Copy Editor, Georgetown Public Policy Review 2009-2011

RESEARCH METHODS AND CERTIFICATIONS

Qualitative: Semi-structured elite interviews, surveys, in-depth interviews, storytelling collection, case studies, process tracing, narrative analysis, qualitative coding and analysis (Dedoose, Excel, AI-enabled tools).
Quantitative: Bivariate and multivariate regression analysis, descriptive statistics (Excel, Stata, SAS, SPSS, R).
Field Research: Includes conflict-affected settings, team leadership, and both in-person and remote data collection.

In-person: Nigeria (2026), Uganda (2025), Ghana (2025), Tanzania (2025), UK (2025, 2023), France (2025, 2023), Norway (2023), Belgium (2023), Poland (2023), Germany (2023), Sudan (2015-2017), South Sudan (2017, 2015, 2013).

Remote/Team Leadership: Sudan (2024-2026), South Sudan (2026), Uganda (2026), Burkina Faso (2025), Libya (2025), Cote d'Ivoire (2025), Benin (2025).

CITI Program Certification: Human Subjects Research — Social & Behavioral Research

SELECTED PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Superior Honor Award, United States Department of State 2017, 2016
Meritorious Honor Award, United States Department of State 2014
Letter of Appreciation, United States National Security Advisor 2013
Commendation Medal, United States Air Force 2010, 2008, 2005, 2003
NATO Medal, North Atlantic Treaty Organization 2004
Achievement Medal, United States Air Force 2004, 2002
Global War on Terrorism Expeditionary & Service Medals, United States Air Force 2003