Department of Political Science

MICHELLE JURKOVICH

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**ACADEMIC POSITIONS/AFFILIATIONS**

**University of Massachusetts Boston**

Associate Professor of Political Science September 2023-present

Assistant Professor of Political Science 2015-2023

Affiliated Faculty, McCormack Graduate School of Policy

and Global Studies

**California State University, Fresno**

Visiting Scholar in the Humanities Summer 2023

**Johns Hopkins School of Advanced and International Studies (SAIS)**

Visiting Scholar, Global Food Ethics and Policy Program January-May 2023

**Harvard University**

Visiting Fellow, Edmond J. Safra Center for Ethics January-December 2020

**Brown University**

Postdoctoral Fellow in International Studies

Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs July 2016-2017;

July 2014-2015

**EDUCATION**

**The George Washington University**

Ph.D. Political Science, 2014 Ph.D. Dissertation: *Boomerang or Buckshot? Blame Diffusion in International Anti-hunger*

*Advocacy*

**California State University, Los Angeles**

M.A. Political Science, 2008

MA Thesis: *Political Dimensions of Hunger:*

*The Accountability of National Governments*

**California State University, Fresno**

Smittcamp Family Honors College

B.A. English; Minor: Spanish, 2005

*Summa cum laude*

**PUBLICATIONS**

*Book*

Jurkovich, M. (2020). *Feeding the Hungry: Advocacy and Blame in the Global Fight Against Hunger*. Cornell University Press.

* International Studies Association, Northeast Book Circle Honoree, 2016
* Subject of HDiplo/ISSF Roundtable (May 2021); Reviewed in the *Times Literary Supplement* (June 2021)
* World Food Policy Center’s Leading Voices in Food podcast discussion of the book (February 24, 2021): [https://wfpc.sanford.duke.edu/podcasts/society-hunger-conundrum-who-blame-and-who-responsible-now](https://nam10.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwfpc.sanford.duke.edu%2Fpodcasts%2Fsociety-hunger-conundrum-who-blame-and-who-responsible-now&data=04%7C01%7CMichelle.Jurkovich%40umb.edu%7C6237bb2ea2d14b7b824808d8d41203a6%7Cb97188711ee94425953c1ace1373eb38%7C0%7C0%7C637492521184056540%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=9ah%2BghrAzH4WLqokA94Aryv1qlAG4ZFukscom3Qc6c4%3D&reserved=0)
* New Books Network podcast discussion of the book (February 7, 2022): <https://newbooksnetwork.com/feeding-the-hungry>

*Articles*

Holmes, C., Guliford, M., Mendoza, M., & Jurkovich, M. (2023) “A Case for Description.” *P.S. Political Science & Politics.* <https://doi.org/10.1017/S1049096523000720>

Bishara, D., Jurkovich, M. & Berman, C. (2023) “Citizens' Understanding of the Social Contract: Lessons from Tunisia.” *World Development, 168.* <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.worlddev.2022.106163>

Berman, C., Bishara, D., & Jurkovich, M. (2023) “When Citizens Look Backwards: Retrospective Understandings of Grievance in Post-Revolutionary Societies.” *Acta Politica.* [https://doi.org/10.1057/s41269-023-00306-6](https://link.springer.com/epdf/10.1057/s41269-023-00306-6?sharing_token=Wi-_sO74rAFFtFGCeJHSw1xOt48VBPO10Uv7D6sAgHsMRf4M9vlwQ2gogQBhEwqj7LZ11pue8axT_13Z-HGQzcs0uDiOt13Jaq1Do5Ayml3cBx3yjW_bxv4da_ZukbwXAjz71UN7IpT8wr90dW2OHBoxKNp6VbbkeBhWqGvXUgY%3D)

Mendoza, M.A., Guliford, M., Holmes, C., & Jurkovich, M. (2022). “Just telling it like it is:

Descriptive work and social science research.” *International History and Politics Newsletter,* 8 (2): 5-7. Published online September 2022 (Fall edition).

Finnemore, M. & Jurkovich, M. (2020) “The Politics of Aspiration.” *International Studies Quarterly*, 64(4): 759–769. Advance Access (online) publication date August 2020. <https://doi.org/10.1093/isq/sqaa052>

•2021 Best Post-PhD Paper Award, ISA International Theory Section

Jurkovich, M. (2020) “What Isn’t a Norm? Redefining the Conceptual Boundaries of “Norms” in the Human Rights Literature.” *International Studies Review*, 22(3): 693–711. Advance Access (online) publication date August 2019. <https://doi.org/10.1093/isr/viz040>

•2018 Best Post-PhD Paper Award, ISA International Law Section

•2020 & 2021 Designated “high-impact article” by *International Studies Review*

Jurkovich, M. (2019) “Taking ‘Professionalization in the Discipline’ with Lee Ann Fujii.”

*Qualitative and Multi-Method Research*, 16 (1). Published online Spring 2019. https://doi.org/10.5281/zenodo.2562290.

Finnemore, M. & Jurkovich, M. (2014) “Getting a Seat at the Table: The Origins of Universal Participation and Modern Multilateral Conferences,” *Global Governance: A Review of Multilateralism and International Organizations*, 20(3): 361-373.

*Written public and policy engagement:*

Jurkovich, M. (2021) “Who’s responsible for feeding hungry people?” (January 5, 2021). *New*

*Security Beat* (Wilson Center blog). <https://www.newsecuritybeat.org/2021/01/whos-responsible-feeding-hungry-people/>

Jurkovich, M. (2019) “What is…and isn’t…a norm?” (September 17, 2019). *Duck of Minerva*

blog post. https://duckofminerva.com/2019/09/what-is-and-isnt-a-norm.html.

Jurkovich, M. (2016) “Venezuela has solved its hunger problem? Don’t believe the U.N.’s

numbers.” (September 21) *The Washington Post* (Monkey Cage). https://www.washingtonpost.com/news/monkey-cage/wp/2016/09/21/venezuela-has-solved-its-hunger-problem-dont-believe-the-u-n-s-numbers.

Jurkovich, M. (2015) “Food is a Human Right” (October 15) *Duck of Minerva* blog post in honor

of World Food Day. <https://duckofminerva.com/2015/10/food-is-a-human-right.html>.

**SELECTED WORKS-IN-PROGRESS**

*Under contract*

Finnemore, M. & Jurkovich, M*. Aspiration in World Politics.* Book Manuscript.

* Under advance contract with *Cornell University Press*.

*In progress*

Invited to organize and co-edit (with Carolyn Holmes, Meg Guliford, and Mary Anne Mendoza) a special issue of *International Politics* on descriptive research in political science.

* Abstracts accepted in June 2023. Special issue articles are expected to be submitted by December 2023, with our introductory article to follow.

Jurkovich, M. “The Uneasy Fit of Externally-funded Social Cash Transfer Programs

and Economic and Social Rights”

Jurkovich, M. *Good Enough for Them? Ethics and Politics in the Construction of the Food Ration* (book project, data collection stage)

**SELECTED AWARDS, HONORS, GRANTS & FELLOWSHIPS**

**Special Project Fund**

Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs Spring 2022

*Co-PI (with Carolyn Holmes, Mary Ann Mendoza, and Meg Guliford). Grant awarded to host a second round multi-day research workshop at UMass Boston in Fall 2022 entitled “Telling It Like It Is: Descriptive Work and Political Science (Part 2)”* ($25,000)

**Pedagogical Innovation Award**

University of Massachusetts, Boston Spring 2022

*Awarded by the College of Liberal Arts for my Politics of Food Security undergraduate course. ($1000)*

**Dean’s Research Funding**

University of Massachusetts, Boston 2018-2024

*Awarded research funding from the College of Liberal Arts Dean’s Research Fund. Repurposed and awarded again after pandemic disruption (approx. $7000)*

**Best Conference Post-PhD Paper Award**

International Theory Section, International Studies Association Fall 2021

*Award “seeks to honor excellent work in theorizing international politics across the plurality of theoretical approaches.” Awarded for paper “The Politics of Aspiration” co-authored with Martha Finnemore.*

**Centennial Center Research Grant**

Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs Fall 2021

*Co-PI (with Carolyn Holmes, Mary Ann Mendoza, and Meg Guliford). Grant awarded to host a multi-day research workshop at UMass Boston in Spring 2022 entitled “Telling It Like It Is: Descriptive Work and Political Science.” Funding provided through the 2nd Century Fund.* ($10,000)

**Kluge Fellowship**

Library of Congress 2020-2021

*Fellowship to work on project examining variation in food ration composition and distribution. Fellowship date postponed to April-August 2021 due to COVID-19.* ($25,000)

**Centennial Center Research Grant**

Centennial Center for Political Science and Public Affairs Fall 2020

*Grant awarded for project “State Food Assistance Policies during COVID-19.” Funding provided from the* *William A. Steiger Fund for Legislative Studies to support two UMB student research assistants. ($2500)*

**Policy Engagement Fellowship**

Bridging The Gap Initiative 2019-2020

*Fellowship provided to fund research projects in the 2019-2020 year to facilitate bridging the gap between academia and policy and practitioner communities ($4000)*

**TMC Workshop Participation Grant**

Washington Post/The Monkey Cage Summer 2018

*Awarded funding to participate in a pre-APSA workshop to increase public engagement with research on the topics of hunger, health, and poverty. ($1500)*

**Best Post-PhD Paper Award**

International Law Section, International Studies Association Spring 2018

*Award “recognizes outstanding contributions to the field of international law” for a paper presented in 2017. Awarded for paper “What isn’t a norm? Redefining the conceptual boundaries of ‘norms’ in the human rights literature.”*

**Science & Technology Policy Fellowship**

American Association For The Advancement Of Science Fall 2017-Summer 2018

*Awarded a one year fellowship from AAAS with a placement in the Office of Food for Peace, Policy and Technical Division at USAID. This national fellowship program selects scientists with expertise of use to the US Government and embeds them in Executive Branch agencies for one year to share their expertise as well as learn from the policy community. Fellowship included professional development funds. (approx. $97,000)*

**Watson Collaborative Grant**

Brown University Fall 2016 (awarded)

*Co-PI with Dina Bishara. Grant awarded to support running a nationally representative survey in Tunisia for the project "Economic and Social Rights and the Arab Spring: Precursors to Popular Mobilization in Tunisia." ($10,000)*

**Venture Research Grant**

International Studies Association Fall 2016 (awarded)

*Co-PI with Melissa Lee. Grant awarded as a part of the ISA’s Venture Grant program to “provide support to innovative and pioneering research.” Grant will fund a workshop which will bring together scholars from around the world focusing on cutting edge research on economic and social rights norms and sovereignty norms. Workshop held in March 2017 at Brown University. ($15,330)*

**Workshop Grant**

United Nations Academic Impact Office

& the International Studies Association Summer 2016 (awarded)

*Co-organized (with Anjali Dayal, Kerry Crawford, and David Andersen-Rodgers) a human security workshop selected for the “ISA at UNAI” program. With the help of UNAI/ISA staff, workshop brought together academics and UN practitioners to discuss contemporary human security challenges (including food security, peacekeeping, and sexual violence), problem definitions, and proposed solutions. Workshop took place at the UN Headquarters in New York City in July 2017. Small grant defrayed co-organizer travel expenses.*

**Northeast Circle Honoree**

International Studies Association, Northeast Fall 2016

*One honoree is selected by the International Studies Association, Northeast each year from an individual who is working on a first book project in international studies. ISA NE hosts a book manuscript workshop at the annual conference for the honoree.*

**Postdoctoral Fellowship** Summer 2014-2015;

Brown University Summer 2016-2017

*Two-year fellowship awarded at The Watson Institute for International and Public Affairs at Brown University. (approx. $114,000)*

**Summer Dissertation Fellowship** Summer 2013

The George Washington University

**Loughran Foundation Endowment**  Summer 2012

Dissertation Research Grant (GW)

**Hoffman Conference Travel Grant** Spring 2012

Institute for European, Russian, and Eurasian Studies (GW)

**ISA Travel Grant** Spring 2012

International Studies Association

**Pre-Dissertation Grant**  Summer 2011

American Consortium On EU Studies

**Millar Student Summer Travel** Summer 2011

Institute For European, Russian, And Eurasian Studies (GW)

**Department Fellowship** 2008-2014

The George Washington University

**AAUW Scholarship Recipient**  Spring 2006

American Association Of University Women, Fresno Branch

**President’s Scholar**  Fall 2001-Spring 2005

Smittcamp Family Honors College at California State University, Fresno

*Four year, full scholarship (tuition, housing, book allowance)*

**SELECTED INVITED TALKS, WORKSHOPS & LECTURES**

University of Connecticut

*Invited presentation for IR speaker series* November 2023

University of Notre Dame

*Invited book discussion for MA students* November 2023

International Policy Summer Institute, American University June 2023

*Invited panelist for Bridging the Gap program*

People-centered Food Systems Collaboration May 2023

*Invited book discussion*

Université Laval February 2023

*Virtual book lecture*

University of Duisburg-Essen January 2023

*Virtual book lecture*

Descriptive Research Workshop: Just Telling it Like it Is October 2022; April 2022

*Co-organizer with Carolyn Holmes, Meg Guliford and Mary Anne Mendoza.*

Erasmus University September 2022

*Virtual book lecture*

International Policy Summer Institute, American University June 2022

*Invited panelist for Bridging the Gap program*

Illinois Institute of Technology April 2022

*Invited book presentation for the “Great Problems, Great Minds” series*

University of Cambridge February 2022

Center for Development Studies

*Virtual book discussion*

Johns Hopkins University February 2022

Berman Institute for Bioethics

*Invited presentation on ethics and food policy*

University of Georgia February 2022

*Invited presentation for IR speaker series*

Northwestern University November 2021

*Book discussion for the IR Speaker Series*

University of Maryland, College Park October 2021

*Virtual book lecture*

Rutgers University, Newark October 2021

*Virtual book discussion*

California State University, Sacramento April 2021

*Virtual book lecture*

Boston University

*Virtual book lecture* April 2021

Temple University

*Virtual book discussion* March 2021

Project on Middle East Political Science

*Invited paper presentation for POMEPS workshop* March 2021

*Presented with co-authors Dina Bishara and Chantal Berman*

Harvard University

*Invited presentation (with Martha Finnemore) at the* November 2020

*Center for Ethics Faculty Seminar*

University of Massachusetts Amherst

*Virtual book discussion* November 2020

University of Massachusetts Boston

*Virtual book discussion* November 2020

Occidental College

*Virtual book discussion* November 2020

California State University, Fresno

*Virtual book discussion* October 2020

University of Cincinnati

*Virtual book discussion* September 2020

Responsible Public Engagement Institute, University of Denver

*Invited workshop participant*  September 2020 (postponed

due to COVID)

International Policy Summer Institute, American University

*Invited panelist for Bridging the Gap* June 2020

*program on policy engagement*

Center for the Study of Constitutional Democracy, Boston College September 2019

*Invited participant for the workshop*

*“Theories of Economic and Social Rights”*

International Policy Summer Institute, American University June 2019

*Invited panelist for “Peacebuilding and Development:*

*Engaging with NGOs, Governments, and IOs”*

Tufts University April 2019

*Invited presentation to Tufts student organization Pi Sigma Alpha*

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) November 2018

*Co-organizer for a joint academic-practitioner workshop*

*on new monitoring methods for sexual exploitation and abuse (SEA)*

*in humanitarian operations. Workshop funded by USAID.*

Johns Hopkins School of Advanced and International Studies (SAIS) November 2018

*Invited speaker for a SAIS graduate student conference*

*on the Future of Conflict to discuss the ethics of food*

*assistance in emergency and refugee camp settings*

Johns Hopkins School of Advanced and International Studies (SAIS) October 2018

*Paper presentation (with Martha Finnemore) for the*

*Politics and Political Economy speaker series*

United States Agency for International Development (USAID) August 2018

*Presentation (with Jennifer Baca) to the Office of Food for Peace*

*on food security research findings from focus groups and*

*interviews with food aid recipients in three refugee camps*

Northwestern University/American Bar Foundation June 2017

*Invited participant for the IO/IL workshop*

*“Global order: Same as it ever was?”*

The University of Alabama November 2016

*Paper presentation for the Department of Political Science*

The Ohio State University October 2016

*Paper presentation for the Department of Political Science*

*Research in International Politics series.*

Harvard University March 2016

*Presentation for the Weatherhead Center of International*

*Affairs Workshop on the Sustainability of the World’s*

*Food and Farming Systems*

University of California Riverside February 2016

*Paper presentation in the Political Science department*

Occidental College February 2016

*Paper presentation sponsored by the U.N. Fund*

*and the Department of Politics*

Social Justice and Human Rights Symposium

Amnesty International August 2015

*Invited participant for a one-day workshop on*

*economic and social rights advocacy held at the*

*Amnesty International Secretariat office in London, UK.*

Transnational Advocacy Networks:

Reflecting on 15 years of Evolving Theory and Practice May 2015

*Invited participant to two-day workshop on*

*transnational advocacy, hosted by Peter Evans and*

*Cesar Rodriguez-Garavito and held at Brown University*

University of Southern California April 2015

*One of four junior international relations scholars invited to*

*participate in the USC Junior Scholars Research Symposium*

*sponsored by the Center for International Studies*

Reed College February 2015

*Public lecture co-sponsored by the Department of Sociology*

*and the Department of Political Science*

Amnesty International (Brown Chapter) Film Series

*Invited guest speaker*  November 2014

Brown University October 2014

*Invited presentation at the Watson Institute’s*

*Works-in-Progress Seminar*

**PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

**Bridging The Gap**

International Summer Policy Institute June 2015

*Invited participant for a week long training to help scholars bridge the gap between the policy and academic worlds with their research. Hosted by American University.*

**Institute For Qualitative** June 2011

**And Multi-Method Research**

*Participant in a two-week training sequence on qualitative methods hosted by the Consortium For Qualitative And Multi-Method Research at Syracuse University.*

**Summer Institute On Conducting Archival Research**  May 2011

*Invited participant for a training sequence in conducting archival research. Hosted by the George Washington University.*

# POLICY EXPERIENCE

**Policy Advisor** July 2024-June 2025

Office of Global Food Security (expected)

*United States Department of State*

*Invited by the Office of Global Food Security to serve as a food security policy advisor on assignment to the State Department for 12 months.*

**AAAS Science And Technology Fellow** Sept. 2017-Aug. 2018

Office Of Food For Peace

*United States Agency For International Development (USAID)*

**Food Security, Technical Team Visit**

Malawi June 2018

*United States Agency For International Development (USAID)*

*Met with government officials, INGOs, and conducted focus groups and individual interviews with women and youth for USAID’s Office Of Food For Peace.*

**Emergency Programming, Technical Team Visit**

Djibouti April 2018

*United States Agency for International Development (USAID)*

*Conducted focus groups and individual interviews with women and youth in three refugee camps to inform gender and youth considerations in emergency food security programming at USAID’s Office of Food for Peace.*

**Development Programing, Technical Team Visit**  November 2017

Zimbabwe

*United States Agency for International Development (USAID)*

*Assisted the gender and youth technical team for USAID’s Office of Food for Peace in conducting interviews and focus groups with development program participants in various regions of Zimbabwe.*

**Refine And Implement Workshop**  October 2017

Democratic Republic Of Congo

*United States Agency For International Development (USAID)*

*Assisted the gender and youth technical team for USAID’s Office Of Food For Peace in a workshop refining multi-year assistance projects in DRC.*

**Selected Participant, Young Leaders Conference** November 2010

*U.S. Department Of State and the Institute For International Education*

*Fully funded participant—one of 48 American “future leaders” selected to attend a week-long conference with 150 central and eastern European future leaders in Prague, Czech Republic*

**White House Intern** Sept. 2005-Dec. 2005

*Executive Office of the President of the United States of America*

*Intern working in the Office of Presidential Scheduling in the White House.*

**Scholar Intern**

*Kenneth L. Maddy Institute for Public Affairs* Spring-Summer 2005

*Intern for Congressman George Radanovich in his Fresno, CA and Washington, DC offices.*

**SELECTED CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS**

International Studies Association, Annual Meeting 2022; 2021; 2019; 2018; 2017; 2016; 2015; 2014; 2013; 2012; 2011

American Political Science Association, Annual Meeting 2021; 2019; 2017; 2011; 2010

International Meeting on Law and Society (Mexico City) 2017

International Studies Association, Northeast 2022; 2021; 2020; 2019; 2018; 2016; 2015; 2014; 2013

American Sociological Association,

Sociology of Development Section Annual Conference 2015

Joint ISSS-ISAC Conference: Bridging the Academic/Policy Divide 2013

Annual Lilly Conference on College and University Teaching 2013

Midwest Political Science Association, Annual Meeting 2016, 2013

**TEACHING EXPERIENCE**

*Courses Taught*

**University of Massachusetts Boston**

Human Security (graduate)

The Politics of Food Security (undergraduate)

International Relations: Theories & Concepts (graduate)

Theories of International Relations (undergraduate)

Introduction to International Relations (undergraduate)

**Brown University**

The Politics of Food Security (undergraduate)

**The George Washington University**

Human Rights (undergraduate)

**California State University, Los Angeles**

American Government & Society (undergraduate)

*Teaching Award*

**Honorable Mention,**

**Philip Amsterdam Graduate Teaching Assistant Award For Outstanding Teaching**

The George Washington University Spring 2010

*Additional Experience*

**Future Faculty Program** Sept-December 2013

*The George Washington University*

*Selected participant in a weekly workshop series designed to prepare future professors to engage in active learning techniques, effective student assessment, and course design.*

**Writing In The Discipline:**

**Workshop Series On The Teaching Of Writing**  Sept 2012-May 2013

*The George Washington University*

*Selected participant in a six seminar workshop series designed to prepare future professors to teach writing to undergraduate students in the discipline*

**Graduate Teaching Assistant** Fall 2008-Spring 2013

Introduction to International Relations &

Introduction to Comparative Politics

*The George Washington University and the Women’s Leadership Program*

**English Tutor**  Oct. 2006-April 2008

*Los Angeles Unified School District*

*Weekly tutor in South Central, Los Angeles*

**SERVICE**

**Community**

Participant, Boston Food Access Council (formerly the

City of Boston Food Access Council) Fall 2019-present

**University of Massachusetts Boston**

Department Curriculum Committee Fall 2022- present; Fall 2015-

Spring 2016

Model United Nations Faculty Advisor Fall 2022

College of Liberal Arts Faculty Senator Fall 2019-Fall 2022

College of Liberal Arts

Ad Hoc Senate Committee on Sabbaticals and CLRs Spring 2022-Fall 2022

Undergraduate Program Director, International Relations Major Fall 2021

Department Grants Committee, Chair Fall 2020-present

Undergraduate Student Major Advisor Fall 2015-present

Undergraduate, Masters, & Doctoral Thesis/Dissertation Committees Fall 2015-present

College of Liberal Arts Standards and Credits Committee Fall 2020-Spring 2021

Faculty Board for the MA in International Relations Spring 2016-2021

Department Personnel Committee Fall 2018-Spring 2020

Alamgir Lecture and Award Committee Fall 2018-Spring 2019

Political Science Forum Committee Fall 2015-Spring 2016

**International Studies Association, International Law Section**

Best Paper Award Committee Chair Fall 2018-Spring 2019

**International Studies Association, International Theory Section**

Distinguished Scholar Award Committee Member Summer-Fall 2023

**American Association for the Advancement of Science**

Application Reviewer, AAAS Science and Technology Fellowship Fall 2020

**Brown University**

Undergraduate Thesis Committees 2014-2017

BIARI Alumni Grant Committee Fall 2016

**The George Washington University**

Co-Chair of the Graduate Student Caucus (Political Science Dept.) Winter 2010-Spring 2012

**Reviewer**

*International Studies Review; International Studies Quarterly; International Organization; International Theory; International Affairs; Global Policy; Global Studies Quarterly; Journal of International Relations and Development; Journal of Asian and African Studies; Review of International Political Economy; Cambridge Review of International Affairs; Review of International Studies; Journal of Human Rights; University of Georgia Press; National Endowment for the Humanities; Carnegie Corporation*

Updated December 2023