Kristen Aanstoos

Assistant Professor (Teaching), University of Southern California | aanstoos@usc.edu |
kristenaanstoos.owlstown.net
Languages: Spanish *(proficient);* Mandarin Chinese *(proficient);* Russian *(proficient);* Arabic *(intermediate);* Cantonese *(beginner);* Dutch *(beginner)*

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Women, Peace, & Security; peace processes; conflict resolution; gender & politics; gender & conflict; international security; international negotiations; diplomacy

EDUCATION

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE | PhD in Political Science | July 2024
First Field: International Relations (primary), Gender and Politics (secondary)
PhD Dissertation: "Local Voices at the Table: How Participation in Peace Processes Shapes Women's Political Empowerment"
Committee: Professor Heidi Hardt (Chair), Professor Kristen Monroe, Professor Miriam Anderson

KING'S COLLEGE LONDON | MA | August 2009
Major: Conflict, Security, and Development
Thesis: "The 'China Threat' in Japanese Remilitarisation: China's Impact on Strategic and Normative Changes in Japan's Defence Policy since 1964"

GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY | BSFS | December 2007
Major: International Politics, Foreign Policy and Policy Processes
Certificate: Asian Studies
Thesis: "Pollution, Pentathletes, and Polar Icecaps: China's Environmental Decline and its Interaction with the International Environmental Regime"
Magna Cum Laude

PUBLICATIONS

PEER-REVIEWED JOURNAL ARTICLES

Aanstoos, Kristen. 2025. "A Voice at the Table: How Women in Peace Processes Shape Political Representation." *Politics & Gender*. 21(3):431-61. doi:10.1017/S1743923X2510038X.

Aanstoos, Kristen and Heidi Hardt. 2026 (*Forthcoming*). "Formal Learning and Implementation in Military Operations." *Security Studies*.

Cosby, Arthur, Kristen Aanstoos, Marissa Matta, Jeremy Porter, and Wesley James. 2013. "Public Support for Hispanic Deportation in the United States: The Effects of Ethnic Prejudice and Perceptions of Economic Competition in a Period of Economic Distress." *Journal of Population Research* 30.1: 87-96.

CHAPTERS IN EDITED VOLUMES

Aanstoos, Kristen. 2021. "Hidden Economic Costs of Geopolitical Disputes for Supply Chains in East Asia." In *Geopolitics, Supply Chains, and International Relations in East Asia,* ed., Etel Solingen. Cambridge, UK: Cambridge University Press, 96-114.

RESEARCH IN PROGRESS

"Women at the Doors, Women at the Table: How Women in Peace Processes Secure Political Empowerment after Conflict" – *Revising for submission*

From Peace to Empowerment – In development

The Gendered Ethics of Transitional Justice and Effects on Post-War Gender-Based Violence – Literature review

"Women and Peace in Sudan: Shifting Models of Inclusion in Sudan's Peace Processes" – *Literature collection*

GRANTS, FELLOWSHIPS, AND AWARDS

RESEARCH FUNDING

$5,000 Humane Studies Fellowship – Institute for Humane Studies, 2023-2024
Awarded to support dissertation field research

$550 Kenneth E. Boulding Award – ISA Peace Studies Section, 2023
Best graduate student paper presented at a Peace Studies panel

$4,500 Kugelman Research Fellowship – Center for Citizen Peacebuilding, 2021-2022, 2022-2023, 2023-2024
Awarded to support dissertation research and produce articles on women's roles in peace processes

$47,250 Merit Fellowship – UC Irvine, 2018-2024
Awarded to support dissertation and related research

$5,000 Graduate Dean's Recruitment Fellowship – UC Irvine, 2018
Awarded to support PhD studies

$7,260 Department of Political Science Summer Research Funding – UC Irvine, 2018-2023
Awarded to support summer research projects

PROFESSIONAL AWARDS

Meritorious Honor Award – Department of State, 2015
In recognition of achievements promoting public diplomacy in Qatar as Cultural Affairs Officer and acting Public Affairs Officer

Group Meritorious Honor Award – Department of State, 2015
In recognition of exceptional efforts organizing 240th Independence Day celebration

Group Meritorious Honor Award – Department of State, 2012
In recognition of outstanding adaptation of non-immigrant visa section to increase efficiency and customer service in response to new regulations and demands

Franklin Award – Department of State, 2012

In recognition of excellent service as coordinator of the Mission Strategic Plan development committee

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

UNIVERSITY OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA | DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE AND INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS | 2025 – PRESENT

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (TEACHING)

Violent Conflict
Gender and Global Issues
International Organizations
Human Security and Humanitarian Intervention
Civil War, Peace Building and International Intervention

USC IN DC POIR TRACK DIRECTOR

UNIVERSITY OF CINCINNATI | SCHOOL OF PUBLIC AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS | 2024 – 2025

VISITING ASSISTANT PROFESSOR

Women and Politics
Feminist International Politics (senior capstone & MA)
International Relations Theory (PhD seminar)
Global Gender Politics
Conflict in International Relations
International Women's Human Rights (senior capstone)

UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA, IRVINE | 2018 – 2024

TEACHING ASSISTANT

International Humanitarianism (Upper-Division writing course)
Ethics & Politics of Difference (Upper-Division writing course)
Just War Revisited (Upper Division, discussion sections)
Philosophy of the Other (Upper Division writing course, discussion sections)
International Political Economy of East Asia (Upper Division)
Introduction to Global Studies (discussion sections)
Computational Research in the Social Sciences (lab-based)
Macroeconomics (discussion sections)
Statistics (lab-based)

GRADUATE STUDENT RESEARCHER

Heidi Hardt – Co-authored article on military lessons learning among NATO member states.
Erin Lockwood – Researched international organization discourse on global inequality.
Etel Solingen – Authored chapter for edited volume on effects of geopolitical disputes on supply chains in East Asia.

CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, FULLERTON | DEPARTMENT OF POLITICS, ADMINISTRATION, AND JUSTICE | OCTOBER 2022 – DECEMBER 2022

LECTURER

Women & Politics: A Comparative Perspective (writing course)

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF STATE | JANUARY 2010 – SEPTEMBER 2018

FOREIGN SERVICE OFFICER

Fraud Prevention Manager in Hong Kong
Cultural Affairs Officer in Doha, Qatar
Regional Policy Officer in Washington, DC

SOCIAL SCIENCE RESEARCH CENTER, MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY | SEPTEMBER–DECEMBER 2009
RESEARCH CONSULTANT
Co-authored article on public support for deportation during an economic recession for publication.

INTERNATIONAL CENTRE FOR SECURITY ANALYSIS, KING'S COLLEGE LONDON | OCTOBER 2008 – AUGUST 2009
RESEARCH ANALYST
Tracked developments in Japanese domestic, foreign, defense, and nuclear policy through open-source technology. Reported on these developments to the IAEA bimonthly and briefed IAEA officials biannually on overarching trends in Japanese public attitudes toward nuclear weapons.

INVITED TALKS

USC Global Policy Institute Panel on Careers in Global Policy, *USC*
November 2026

Booker T Junior World Affairs Council Panel on Culture and Diplomacy, *Booker T Junior High School*
April 2026

USC UNA Dialogue on Future of International Organizations, *USC*
November 2025

School of Public and International Affairs Colloquium, *University of Cincinnati*
March 2025
Presented book: *From Peace to Empowerment*

Guest Lecturer, *UC Irvine*
War, Peace, and Gender, Prof. Heidi Hardt, Spring 2025
Just War Revisited, Prof. Daniel Brunstetter, Fall 2021, 2022, 2023
International Security, Prof. Heidi Hardt, Winter 2023

Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies (GPACS) Lunch Talk, *UC Irvine*, February 2023
Co-presented paper: "Selective Learning: Why Militaries Adopt Lessons but Leave Others Behind in Multilateral Operations"

Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies (GPACS) Lunch Talk, *Virtual*, October 2021
Presented paper: "A Voice at the Table: How Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations Affects Women's Representation in Post-Conflict Legislatures"

INTERVIEWS

Buss, Alexa. "Q&A With Kristen Aanstoos: Witnessing Hong Kong's Political Transformation From Within," *Us-China Today.* April 29, 2026. Https://Uschinatoday.Org/Qa/2026/04/29/Qa-With-Kristen-Aanstoos-Witnessing-Hong-Kongs-Political-Transformation-From-Within/

Mattson, Daniela And Maria Laguna. "U.S. State Department to remove USC from research program over DEI hiring practices," *USC Annenberg Media*. November 20, 2025. https://www.uscannenbergmedia.com/2025/11/20/us-state-department-to-remove-usc-from-research-program-over-dei-hiring-practices/

CONFERENCES

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting & Exhibition, *Vancouver, Canada,* September 2025
Presented Paper: "Gendered Justice: Transitional Justice and Post-War Gender-Based Violence"

International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, *Chicago, IL*, March 2025
Presented Paper: "Gendered Justice: Women's in Peace Processes and Post-Conflict Gender-Based Violence"

International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, *San Francisco, CA*, April 2024

Presented Paper: "Local Voices at the Table: How Women in Peace Processes Shape Empowerment"

International Studies Association – International Security Studies Section (IS-ISSS) Annual Conference, *Colorado Springs, CO*, October 2023

Presented Paper: "Bridge to Empowerment: How Women in Peace Processes Increase Women's Political Empowerment in Post-Conflict States"

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting & Exhibition, *Los Angeles, CA,* September 2023

Authored paper: "Bridge to Empowerment: How Women in Peace Processes Increase Women's Political Empowerment in Post-Conflict States"

Co-authored paper: "Selective Learning: Why Militaries Adopt Lessons but Leave Others Behind in Multilateral Operations"

International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, *Montreal, CAN,* March 2023

Presented paper: "Voices of Change: How Women in Peace Processes Increase Women's Political Empowerment in Post-Conflict States"

Co-presented paper: "Selective Learning: Why Militaries Adopt Lessons but Leave Others Behind in Multilateral Operations"

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting & Exhibition, *Montreal, CAN,* September 2022

Presented paper: "Voices of Change: How Women in Peace Processes Increase Women's Political Empowerment in Post-Conflict States"

International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, *Nashville, TN*, April 2022

Presented paper: "Voices of Change: How Women in Peace Processes Increase Women's Political Empowerment in Post-Conflict States"

Co-presented paper: "Selective Learning: Why Militaries Adopt Lessons but Leave Others Behind in Multilateral Operations"

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting & Exhibition, *Seattle, WA and Virtual*, September-October 2021

Presented poster: "Negotiating Women's Representation."

Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies (GPACS) Annual Graduate Student Conference, *Virtual*, April 2021

Presented paper: "Diversifying the Post-Conflict Legislature: The Impact of Female Negotiators on Women's Political Representation."

International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, *Virtual*, April 2021

Presented paper: "Diversifying the Post-Conflict Legislature: The Impact of Female Negotiators on Women's Political Representation."

Presented paper: "Hidden Economic Costs of Geopolitical Disputes for Supply Chains in East Asia."

Symposium on "Global Supply Chains and International Relations in East Asia," sponsored by the Center for Global Peace and Conflict Studies, University of California Irvine. *Irvine, CA*, May 2020

Presented paper: "Hidden Economic Costs of Geopolitical Disputes for Supply Chains in East Asia."

International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention, *Honolulu, HI*, March 2020 (*Cancelled due to Global Pandemic*)

Presenting paper: "Negotiating Women's Security: The Effect of Women's Participation in Peace Negotiations on Women's Security in Post-Conflict States."

Presenting paper: "Hidden Economic Costs of Geopolitical Disputes for Supply Chains in East Asia."

Conference on "The Role of Design and Production Networks (DPNs) in East Asia's International Relations," sponsored by the University of California Irvine. *San Diego, CA,* September 2019

Presented paper: "Hidden Economic Costs of Geopolitical Disputes: Design and Production Networks and Inter-state Relations in East Asia."

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATIONS

International Studies Association (ISA), since 2019
- Women's Caucus (WCIS) section
- ISSS-ISAC section
- Peace Studies section
- Feminist Theory and Gender Studies section

American Political Science Association (APSA), since 2019
- Conflict Processes section

Women and Politics Research section
International Security section
Political Science Education section

Women in Conflict Studies (WICS), since 2020

SERVICE AND OUTREACH

Peer Reviewer for:

Journal of Politics (2025)

International Interactions (2026)

Women's Studies International Forum (2026)

Research Mentorship of USC Students and Alumni, 2025-present

Andrea Salazar

Shivali Sharma

Jordan Russell

Shaden Qutmiera

Research Mentorship of High School Students, 2026-present

Isabella Weems

Devon Mistry

USC Fulbright Committee reviewer, 2026-2027

USC Glimpse from the Globe Faculty Advisor, 2026-2027

USC Dornsife Faculty Council Teaching and Pedagogy Caucus member, 2025-2026

USC POIR Award and Scholarship Committee member, 2025-2026

UCI Ethics Center Summer Mentor, 2023

New Political Science PhD student mentor, 2019-2024

Member of the UCI Political Science Womxn's Caucus, 2018-2024

Member of UAW 2865 Academic Student Employee Union, 2018-2024

Founding member of Student Researchers United, 2020-2022

Alumni Interviewer for Georgetown University Alumni Admissions Program, 2018-present

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

PROCESS TRACING SHORT COURSE | 2022 | APSA
Best practices for process tracing methodology and Bayesian updating

NVIVO CORE SKILLS | 2021 | QSR
Essential tools and functions of NVivo software

EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO STUDENT WRITING WORKSHOP | 2020 | UC IRVINE
Best practices in giving feedback to help students improve their writing

TA DIVERSITY WORKSHOP | 2020 | UC IRVINE

Best practices in identifying and responding to prejudice, microaggression, and assumptions that undermine the contributions of a diverse student body

TA PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM | 2018 | UC IRVINE
Canvas, discussion section preparation, ethics, conflict resolution, grading best practices

INFORMATION OFFICER TRADECRAFT | 2015 | FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE
On-camera interviews, media relations, press conference organization, speechwriting, press release writing, social media, website management, staff management.

PUBLIC AFFAIRS OFFICER TRADECRAFT | 2015 | FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE
Leading a public affairs team, staff and budget management, strategic planning for public affairs, strategic communication and messaging.

STRATEGIC PLANNING WORKSHOP | 2014 | FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE
Strategic planning and communications in public diplomacy.

CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER TRADECRAFT | 2013 | FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE
Organizing and publicizing cultural events and performances, managing exchange programs, selecting and overseeing grants, budget management, federal and state arts programs, supervising a cultural affairs section.

GRANTS MANAGEMENT | 2013 & 2015 | FOREIGN SERVICE INSTITUTE
Federal grants regulations and management procedures.

NUCLEAR SAFEGUARDS COURSE | 2009 | EUROPEAN SAFEGUARDS RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION (ESARDA)
Nuclear safeguards and nonproliferation.

SKILLS & ABILITIES

RESEARCH SKILLS
Qualitative: Elite interviews, surveys, case studies, comparative analysis, process tracing, qualitative content analysis
Quantitative: Bivariate and multivariate regression analysis, descriptive statistics

SOFTWARE
Proficient with all Microsoft Office programs and Google suite, R, NVivo, Adobe Photoshop, HTML/CSS, and JavaScript. Familiar with SPSS and STATA.