

NATHALIA JUSTO

nathaliajusto.com

Grinnell College

Political Science

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RESEARCH INTERESTS

Ethics and international affairs; global politics of citizenship; international law and migration; postcolonialism and empire in global politics; human rights; climate crisis; international organizations; international political economy; qualitative and interpretive methodologies.

ACADEMIC AND PROFESSIONAL APPOINTMENTS

Grinnell College

Assistant Professor of Political Science (2025 - current)

Bowdoin College

Visiting Assistant Professor (2023-2025)

Northwestern University

Lecturer (2022-2023)

Sao Paulo State University

International Relations Specialist & Senior Executive Assistant (2012 – 2015)

EDUCATION

- | | | |
|--------------|--|-----------|
| Ph.D. | Northwestern University, Political Science | July 2023 |
| | Fields: International Relations and Political Theory | |
| | Dissertation: The Global Politics of Citizenship: Producing and Protecting the “Deserving” Subject | |
| | Committee: Elizabeth Shakman Hurd (Chair), Ian Hurd, Mary Dietz, Naeem Inayatullah | |
| M.A. | Northwestern University, Political Science | Dec 2023 |
| M.A. | PUC-Rio, International Relations | Sep 2012 |

Thesis: The International Regime for the Protection of Stateless Peoples in two moments: contributions to an analysis on the relationship between statelessness, citizenship, and the international order.

B.A. Sao Paulo State University, International Relations Dec 2008
Senior Thesis Title: Human Trafficking, values, and prostitution.

HONORS AND AWARDS

Faculty Fellow, Bowdoin's Baldwin Center for Learning and Teaching.	2024-2025
Buffet Global Impacts Fellowship, Northwestern University	2020-2021
Exchange Program at the École Normale Supérieure (ENS) – France	2019-2020
SSRC/Northwestern - Dissertation Development Program	2018
The New School's Institute for Critical Social Inquiry (ICSI) fellowship	2018
Brazilian Council for Scientific and Technological Development Fellow	2010-2012
Primeiro Prêmio Libertas - Enfrentamento ao Tráfico de Pessoas, 3rd place UNCDC, WTO, Brazilian Ministry of Justice	2008

PUBLICATIONS

Peer-Reviewed articles

Justo, N. (2026). Situated Assessments: Centering Positionalities To Ground a Critical Human Rights Education. *Hum Rights Rev*
<https://doi.org/10.1007/s12142-026-00755-4>

Justo, N. (2025). Above politics: The construction of human rights in the negotiation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. *Journal of Human Rights*, 24(4), 440–455. <https://doi.org/10.1080/14754835.2025.2530093>

Works in Progress

Justo, N. *(Un)deserving subjects: Global Politics in the Margins of Citizenship*. Book manuscript.

Book review

Justo, N. "[A Conversation about the Politics of Rights within Rights as Weapons](#)"
Ethics and International Affairs Journal.

Public Scholarship

"[Lessons learned from 'Encanto': Oscar winner for Best Animated Feature teaches us about flaws of U.S. immigration policy](#)," Northwestern Now, 03/28/2022

"[Granting Temporary Protected Status to Ukrainians Is a Start, but It's Not Enough](#)," Chicago Tribune, 03/17/22

"[Feeding Agrarian Reform with Food Donations: a Covid-19 Story from Brazil](#)"
(2020). Living with Plagues: New Narratives for a World in Distress Impressions and Reflections.

Book Chapter

Tráfico de pessoas: questão das relações internacionais. In: Secretaria Nacional de Justiça. (Org.). I Prêmio Libertas: enfrentamento ao tráfico de pessoas. Brasília: BDJur- Biblioteca Digital Jurídica, 2010, p. 263-287.

Resource for Sage's Political Science and International Relations collection

Justo, N. "Deservingness" and Immigration Law: A TPS Story." In Sage Video. : Sage Publications, Ltd., 2024. Video, 00:22:55.
<https://doi.org/10.4135/9781529681680>.

INVITED TALKS

Bowdoin College, November 2024

Deservingness and Law: The expanding gap in the refugee status

Southampton University, October 2024

Ethnographies of Deservingness: the expanding gap in the refugee status

University of Washington at Tacoma, April 2023

Deservingness and Law: The Global Politics of Morality

William & Mary, March 2023

Deservingness & Race: Teaching International Relations

Francis Marion University, February 2023

(Un)deserving political subjects: the refugee and the stateless in international law

Claremont McKenna, October 2022

The limits of deservingness and law: a TPS story

SELECTED PRESENTATIONS AND WORKSHOPS

“Deservingness and IR: between individual morality and political responsibility” and
“Racialized (Post-)Colonial Citizenship in Germany and Italy” in ISA 2026.

“(Un)deserving Subjects: The Creation of the Temporary Protected Status” in APSA,
September 2024.

“Above politics: the construction of human rights in the negotiation of the Universal
Declaration of Human Rights,” in ISA, April 2024.

“Between morality and responsibility: an ethnographic history of the negotiation of the
Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” in ISA, April 2024.

“Deservingness, Empire, and International Law: The Differentiation between the Stateless
and the Refugee” in ISA-NE, November 2023.

“The limits of deservingness to address limits in law: a TPS story,” in APSA 2022,
September 2022.

“Deservingness and the international: a historical account of the differentiation of the
stateless and the refugee in international law” in Millennium 2021 Conference (Re)Writing
the International: Interrogating Histories, Imagining Futurities, October 2021.

“Between morality and responsibility: the limits of human rights and the limits of the human”
in ISA Human Rights & Foreign Policy 2021, June 2021 and APSA, October 2021.

"The limits of deservingness to address limits in law: a TPS story" in CRS & CERLAC 2021
Virtual Student Conference Recognition, Agency, and Deservingness: (Re)framing Refugee,
Black, and Indigenous Movements, February 2021.

“Climate change, deservingness, and the limits in international law” in ISA Northeast Annual
Conference 2020 - Transnationalism in World Politics: Beyond Methodological Nationalism
in International Studies, November 2020.

“(Un)deserving Political Subjects: Entanglements and Detachments and the Limits of
International Law” in Millennium: Journal of International Relations. 2020 Online
Conference - Entanglements and Detachments in Global Politics, October 2020.

“(Un)deserving Political Subjects: Hierarchies of Rights and the Limits of International Law”
in ISA-West, September 2020.

“The morality of migration: the national and its others in the United Nations (1945 -

1961)” at the conference Walls and Bridges: Migration and Its Histories, Nicholas D. Chabreja Center for Historical Studies, Northwestern University, April 2019.

1st New School Political Theory workshop in New York - “Autobiographies as political theory: self-healing and modern subjectivity in Mill and Nietzsche,” March 2020.

NU International Relations workshop - “The Brazilian State as Missionary: Differentiating Culture from Religion to Save Race,” November 2018.

New School’s Institute for Critical Social Inquiry (ICSI) – The Relevance of Hannah Arendt - “Storytelling and statelessness: an exploration of the human limit in the writings of Hannah Arendt,” June 2018.

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

Grinnell College, Instructor of Record

- International Relations Politics (Fall 2025)
- Human Rights: Foundations, Challenges, and Choices (Fall 2025)
- Introduction to Political Science (Spring 2026)
- Deservingness, law, and public policy (Spring 2026)

Bowdoin College, Instructor of Record

- Introduction to International Relations (Fall 2023, Spring 2025)
- Human Rights (and Wrongs): the International Politics of Human Rights (Fall 2023, Fall 2024)
- Ethics in International Affairs (Spring 2024, Fall 2024)
- Deservingness, law, and public policy (Spring 2024, Spring 2025)

Northwestern University, Instructor of Record

- International Relations Theory (Fall 2022)
- Introduction to International Relations (Spring 2023)

Northwestern University, Teaching Assistant

- Foreign Aid and US Foreign Policy (Spring 2022)
- International Political Economy (Winter 2019)
- Politics of Religious Diversity (Fall 2018)
- Politics of the Middle East (Spring 2018, Winter 2017)
- Introduction to International Relations (Spring 2019, Winter 2018, Spring 2017)
- Introduction to Law in the Political Arena (Fall 2017, Fall 2021)
- National Security (Fall 2016)

Northwestern University/Sciences Po/Paris Sorbonne Nouvelle Program in Art, Literature, and Contemporary European Thought (France), Teaching Assistant

- French Politics, Society, and Culture (Fall 2019)

PUC-Rio (Brazil), Teaching Assistant

- International Relations Theory (2011)

Outreach Project - Cursinho da UNESP

Taught Biology for low-income high school students as part of grassroots social movement based on Paulo Freire's pedagogy for three years while an undergraduate student at Sao Paulo State University, Brazil.

PROFESSIONAL TRAINING

Teaching Certificate Program

Northwestern's Searle Center for Advancing Learning and Teaching, 2018-2019

Yearlong combined seminars, workshops, mentoring, and discipline-specific discussions on learning goals, assessments, and evaluation. Emphasis on critical pedagogies and active learning.

Climate Justice Institute Maroon University Summer School Social Justice Initiative – the University of Illinois at Chicago July 26-28, 2021**New School's Institute for Critical Social Inquiry (ICSI) The Relevance of Hannah Arendt, Summer 2018**

PROFESSIONAL SERVICE

2025-2026

- Panelist - "Carrers at Liberal Arts Colleges," Northwestern University.
- Chair and Discussant - Panel Borders and Belonging: Ideology's Role in Shaping Migration Governance, 2026 MPSA Conference
- Discussant - Panel U.S Migration Politics: Framing, Ideology, and Enforcement Practices, 2026 ISA Conference
- Discussant 2026 Iowa Human Rights Research Conference

Other/Previous Service

- Co-Organized Symposium [Global "Religion": Invention, Translation, Critique](#), Northwestern University, 2022.
- Study Group Co-Organizer, Interpretive Methods, Summer 2020.
- Student Organization Co-Organizer, Weekly discussions about race and social justice in the Graduate Christian Fellowship, Winter 2018, Spring 2019, and Summer 2020.
- Peer-Reviewed Articles for: Refugee Review Journal of the ESPMI Network.
- Planned events for Sao Paulo State's School of Leadership and Management in Higher Education: Five conference and workshop-based events in four different cities with an average of 100 participants and ten speakers each.

LANGUAGES

Portuguese: Native Language

English: Fluent

French and Spanish: Advanced Listener and Reading; Intermediate Speaker and Writing

PROFESSIONAL REFERENCES

Elizabeth Shakman Hurd, Professor of Political Science and Religious Studies
Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
eshurd@northwestern.edu

Ian Hurd, Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
ianhurd@northwestern.edu

Naeem Inayatullah, Professor of Politics
Department of Politics, Ithaca College
naeem@ithaca.edu

Mary Dietz, John Evans Professor of Political Science
Department of Political Science, Northwestern University
M-Dietz@northwestern.edu

Henry Lawrence, Professor and Chair
Department of Government and Legal Studies, Bowdoin College
hlaurenc@bowdoin.edu