

Alon Burstein

Visiting Assistant Professor
Israel Institute Teaching Fellow

Department of Political Science
Tufts University

CONTACT INFORMATION

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EDUCATION

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

March 2021

PhD

Department of Political Science

- Winner – Mark Juergensmeyer Best Dissertation in Religion and International Relations Award
- Honorable mention – Aaron Wildavsky Best Dissertation in Religion and Politics Award
- PhD committee: Professors Eitan Alimi (Hebrew University), Mark Juergensmeyer (University of California Santa Barbara), Bruce Hoffman (Georgetown University), Badi Hasasi (Hebrew University)

Concordia University

June 2015

M.A.

Public Policy & Public Administration

- Award for Highest Standing in Program

Inter-University Consortium of Political and Social Research (ICPSR)

June 2014

Summer Program in Quantitative Methods

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

June 2012

M.A.

Political Science

- Magna Cum Laude

Hebrew University of Jerusalem

July 2009

B.A.

Political Science and Jewish History

- Magna Cum Laude

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Social movements, protest and collective action; Terrorism and political violence;
Israeli-Palestinian conflict

PUBLICATIONS

Alimi, Eitan Y., **Alon Burstein**, and Orit Moradov. 2025. "Political Process, State Actions, and Variations in Insurgent Violence: Evidence from Israel-Palestine." *Mobilization: An International Journal* 30(1): 51-72.

Burstein, Alon. 2024. "Backsliding Without Democracy: The effects of Israel's democratic backsliding on the Palestinian Territories." *Israel Studies Review* 39(1): 104-122.

Alimi, Eitan Y., Gregory M. Maney, and **Alon Burstein**. 2019. "Beyond the media's radar: Introducing the Intifada Non-Media-Based Dataset," *International Interactions* 45(4): 736-756.

Burstein, Alon. 2019. "Challenges of Comparatively Studying Groups: Frame Analysis, Paired Comparisons, and Terrorism Research," *Sage Research Methods Cases* DOI: <https://dx.doi.org/10.4135/9781526490285>

Burstein, Alon, and Liora Norwich. 2018. "From a Whisper to a Scream: The politicization of the Ethiopian community in Israel," *Israel Studies* 23(2): 25-50

Burstein, Alon. 2018. "Ideological rigidity and flexibility of secular and religious terror groups: the case of the Palestine Liberation Organization and the Palestinian Hamas," *Studies in Conflict & Terrorism* 41(9): 696-721.

Burstein, Alon. 2018. "Armies of God, armies of men: A global comparison of religious and secular terror organizations," *Terrorism and Political Violence* 30(1): 1-21.

ARTICLES UNDER REVIEW

WORKS IN PROGRESS

The Israel-Hamas War. A book manuscript situating the Israel-Hamas War of 2023 within the decades-long contentious dynamics between Israel and the Islamic Resistance Movement (Hamas)

"The Age of Xenophobia: Understanding International White Power Terrorism." A collaborative project exploring the rise in White Power terrorism

"Going Global: The effects of international terrorism on local conflicts." Comparative paper exploring how variations in violent mobilization external to a conflict's national borders impact the dynamics of local actors in conflict

AWARDS & ACCOMODATIONS

- 2024:** Outstanding Teaching Award (two-time winner), Department of Political Science, University of California Irvine
- 2023:** Mark Juergensmeyer Best Dissertation in Religion and International Relations Award, International Studies Association (ISA)
- 2023:** Outstanding Teaching Award (three-time winner), Department of Political Science, University of California Irvine
- 2022:** Outstanding Teaching Award (two-time winner), Department of Political Science, University of California Irvine
- 2021:** Outstanding Teaching Award (two-time winner), Department of Political Science, University of California Irvine
- 2021:** Honorable Mention, Aaron Wildavsky Best Dissertation in Religion and Politics Award, American Political Science Association (APSA)
- 2020:** Israel Ministry of Science and Technology travel scholarship for doctoral students
- 2017-2021:** President Scholarship for Outstanding PhD Students, The Hebrew University of Jerusalem
- 2016:** Herbert F. Quinn Medal for Political Science, Concordia University
- 2013-2015:** Concordia International Tuition Remission
- 2013:** Concordia Merit Scholarship
- 2013:** Montefiore Fellowship, Azrieli Institute of Israel Studies, Concordia University
- 2013:** Outstanding Teacher Distinction, The Department of Political Science, The Hebrew University
- 2011:** Ruthi Gilutz Scholarship, The Harry S. Truman Research Institute for the Advancement of Peace
- 2010:** Outstanding academic excellence scholarship, The Department of Political Science, The Hebrew University
- 2009:** Dean's list, Humanities Faculty, Hebrew University
- 2009:** Stern Award, Department of Jewish History, Hebrew University

SELECT CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2024: "Backsliding without Democracy: The Effects of Israel's Democratic Backsliding on the Palestinian Territories," American Political Science Association (APSA), Philadelphia
- 2023: "One State, Two States, Three States: Thirty Years to the Oslo Accords," American Political Science Association (APSA), Los Angeles
- 2023: "The Xenophobic Era: Ideology and Social Movement Theory in White Power Terrorism." International Studies Association (ISA), Montreal
- 2022: "The Xenophobic Wave: Exploring White Supremacy Terrorism," American Political Science Association (APSA), Montreal
- 2021: "In the Name of the Race: Exploring the Ideologies of White Supremacy Attacks," American Political Science Association (APSA), Seattle

- 2021: "Put Some Faith in God: The Religionization / Secularization Process of Terror Groups," International Studies Association (ISA), (conference conducted online)
- 2020: "We'll Trust in God: The Religionization / Secularization Processes of Terror Groups," American Political Science Association (APSA), (conference conducted online)
- 2019: "The Pen, The Sword and the Bomb: Comparing the Ideologies of Terror Groups," American Political Science Association (APSA), Washington D.C.
- 2018: "God amongst other things: secular-religious ideologies of terror groups," CREOR Colloquium on Religion and Violence, McGill University, Montreal.
- 2017: "From a Whisper to a Scream: The Politicization of the Ethiopian Community in Israel," Association of Israel Studies (AIS), Brandeis University, Boston.
- 2016: "Religionizing conflict: When the struggle for land becomes the struggle for God," Association of Israel Studies (AIS), Menachem Begin Heritage Center, Jerusalem.
- 2015: "With God on Our Side: Exploring the Tactics and Action Strategies of Religious and Secular Terror Organizations", International Studies Association (ISA), New Orleans.
- 2014: "Armies of God, Armies of Men: secular and religious Palestinian extremism", Association of Israel Studies (AIS), Ben-Gurion University, Israel.
- 2012: "Unto Lord and Land: ideological developments of secular and religious extremist organizations", Yitzhak Rabin Annual International Conference in Political Science & International Relations, The Hebrew University, Israel.
- 2010: "Similar Causes, Different Aspirations? Religious and Political Terrorism through Case Studies of Hamas and the PLO", Association of Israel Studies (AIS), University of Toronto, Toronto.

COURSES TAUGHT

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| Tufts University (2024-2026) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "International Law and the Israel-Hamas War" "Modern Israel: Politics & Society" "Ethics and International Relations" "Social Mobilization in Israel" "Terrorism and Political Violence" |
| Brandeis University (2025) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "Introduction to Israeli politics" (graduate seminar) |
| University of California
Irvine (2021-2024) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> "The History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict" "Terrorism and Political Violence" "Israeli Politics in Comparative Perspective" "Religious Terrorism" "Social Mobilization in Israel" |

Georgetown University “Religious Terrorism” (graduate seminar)
(2021)

SELECT INVITED SPEAKER

2025: “From Oslo to Khan-Yunis: Religoinizing the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict,” Greenberg Center for Jewish Studies, University of Chicago

2025: “Multiple Perspectives on Conflict: The Israel-Hamas War,” 3rd Space – Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT)

2025: “The Political History of the Gaza Strip,” Lehrhaus teaching series

2024: “One Year to the Israel-Hamas War,” Department of Political Science, Tufts University

2024: “Swords of Iron: Israel’s Longest War,” Temple Sinai

2023: “The Israel-Hamas War,” School of Social Sciences, University of California Irvine

2023: “200 Days of Chaos: Israel’s 37th Government,” CalTech University

2023: “100 Days of Chaos: Israel’s 37th Government,” Department of Political Science, University of California Irvine

2022: “One State, Two States, Three States: Israel, the West Bank, and the Gaza Strip,” Center for Jewish Studies, University of California Irvine

2021: “Israel, Hamas, and the Gaza Complex,” Department of Political Science, University of California Irvine

2020: “Asymmetrical Warfare in the Middle East,” Kenes Tours of American students in Israel.

2019: “Terrorizing God’s Enemies: The influence of religion on terror group activity,” Department Seminar, The Department of Political Science, The Hebrew University

2019: “Introduction to Palestinian Politics,” Kenes Tours HBCU group in Israel.

ADDITIONAL

Membership in professional associations

American Political Science Association (APSA); International Studies Association (ISA); International Political Science Association (IPSA); Association for Israel Studies (AIS); Middle East Studies Association (MESA)

Volunteer: APSA mentorship for graduate students program

Languages: English: mother tongue; Hebrew: mother tongue level; Arabic: basic

Potential courses

Israel-Palestine related:

- Modern Israel: Politics & Society
- Social Mobilization and Collective Action: Evidence from Israel
- The History of the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict
- International Law and the Israel-Hamas War

General courses:

- Terrorism and Political Violence
- Religious and Secular Violence
- Ethics and International Relations
- Introduction to Research Methods
- Qualitative Research Methods