

BEN FRANCIS
Peace Studies and Political Science PhD Candidate
University of Notre Dame
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EDUCATION

- o **University of Notre Dame – PhD Peace Studies and Political Science (Ongoing)**
Areas of focus: Climate politics, gender politics, and violence.
- o **University of Leeds – MA Global Development and International Political Economy (2015)**
Thesis: “The role of the State in Climate Change Adaptation in West Africa. A case study of Sierra Leone”
- o **University of Westminster – BA International Relations and English Language (2010)**
Thesis: “End of an era: The political economy implications of the Global Financial Crisis”

PUBLICATIONS (academic)

- Francis, B. (2025). *Peace Positionalities: Exploring the use of reflexive positionality statements in peace research*. (Accepted at *Peacebuilding*, September 12, 2025)
- Francis, B. (2024). *Be a man: A theory of climate change, masculinities and violence*. *Environment and Security*, 2(1).
- Francis, B. (Forthcoming). *Violent Peacebuilding*, in *The Ethics of Peace and Peacemaking: Critical Perspectives*. Palgrave MacMillan. (Book Chapter)

UNDER REVIEW

- *The Rights of Man and Wrongs for Women in Postwar Britain: Why Orwell, Koestler, and Russell’s 1946 Manifesto for a New ‘League’ for the ‘Rights of Man’ Failed to Launch* (with Eileen Hunt and Clare Duffy)

WORKING PAPERS:

- *Intra-Party Variation on Climate Change Positions in U.S. House Elections* (with Rachel Porter and Bill Kakenmaster)
- *A framework of localized representation: Ward-level reserved seats and women’s empowerment in urban Nepal* (with Shana Scogin and Rabina Shrestha)
- *Achieving Aims: Understanding success and failure in the pursuit of environmental justice in Vieques, Puerto Rico*.
- *When the King Can’t Move the Needle: Elite Cues, Partisan Entrenchment, and Climate Opinion in Britain*
- *Individualism for thee, not for me: Perceptions of government versus homeowner responsibility for hurricane damage* (with Debra Javeline, Tracy Kijewski-Correa, Bill Kakenmaster, and Rachel Hamburger)

WORKS IN PROGRESS:

- *Gender Norms in Hot Water: Using GIS and Survey Data to Analyse Climate Change's Gendered Ripple Effects*.
- *License to Kill: Institutional Weakness, Criminal Impunity, and Environmental Activist Killings* (with Bill Kakenmaster, Australian National University).
- *Carceral Citizenship: What Does a Comparative Analysis of Prisoner Voting Rights Tell Us About Status of Democracy?* (data collection phase ongoing)

PUBLICATIONS (non-academic)

- Forthcoming (2025): Policy Brief – Nepal’s Federalisation and Conflict Risks – International Alert
- Forthcoming (2025): In Pursuit of Locally Led Evaluation – Peace Direct
- 2024. [Climate Pledges as Vehicles for Political Posturing](#) – Duck of Minerva
- 2021. [COVID-19 In Afghanistan. Going Beyond A Ceasefire](#) – The Diplomat
- 2020. [Lasting Peace Will Be Hard To Achieve in Afghanistan](#) – Financial Times
- 2019. [Inclusion key to peace in Afghanistan](#) – International Alert

- 2019. [Women's participation is key to sustainable peace in Afghanistan](#) – International Alert
- 2018. [The local level implementation of Afghanistan's National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325 – Women, peace and security](#) – International Alert
- 2018. [Amid the election fanfare, how are Pakistan's minorities faring?](#) – The Diplomat
- 2015. [A discourse on fundraising: Child Sponsorship](#) – Practical Initiatives Network

GRANTS , TRAINING, AND AWARDS

- Visiting Scholar affiliate at Drexel University (2024-2025)
- Institute for Qualitative and Mixed Methods Research (IQMR): Syracuse, New York (2024)
- Kellogg Graduate Research Grant (10,000 USD) to conduct research on environmental justice in Vieques, Puerto Rico. (2024)
- Center for Social Concerns Graduate Justice Fellowship (2023)
- Justice in Asia Grant (2000 USD) by the Liu Institute for a research project looking at gender quotas in Nepal. (2023)
- Nanovic Graduate Grant (3000 USD) for a survey experiment on British climate attitudes (2023)
- Feminist Peace Research Summer Training Programme: Belgrade, Serbia (2023)

TEACHING

Awards and Certificates:

- Kaneb Center's Striving for Excellence in Teaching Award (2024)
- Notre Dame's Outstanding Graduate Teaching Award (2023)

Approved Instructor of Record Courses:

- Comparative Feminist Politics
- Climate Change and Violence

Invited Guest Lectures (at University of Notre Dame unless otherwise specified):

- Fall 2025, *Gender and Climate Change* in Global Environmental Politics (LeHigh University)
- Summer 2025, *The Environment and Human Rights* in Human Rights (Drexel University)
- Fall 2024, *Gender in climate research* in Indigenous Environmental Studies (Drexel University)
- Fall 2024 & Fall 2025, *Gender Politics in the Middle East*, in Politics of the Middle East
- Spring 2023, *Gender and Peace* in Introduction to Peace Studies
- Spring 2023, *Climate Change and Environmental Peacebuilding* in Introduction to Peace Studies
- Fall 2022, *Intervention, Gender, and Islam*, in Senior Peace Seminar
- Fall 2022, *Truth Commissions*, in Senior Peace Seminar
- Fall 2022, *Gender Politics: Tunisia, A Case Study*, in Politics of the Middle East
- Fall 2022, *Politics of Gender in Islam*, in Senior Peace Seminar
- Fall 2022, *Project Cycles and Power Structures in Peacebuilding* in Senior Peace Seminar
- Spring 2022, *Introduction to the Israeli-Palestinian Conflict* in Introduction to Comparative Politics

METHODS TRAINING

- Quantitative analysis skills (proficient using R)
- Spatial data and GIS tools
- Text as data methods
- Formal Bayesian Process Tracing
- Archival research training

SERVICE

- Peer reviewer for *Progress in Development Studies*
- Sustainability Chair for Notre Dame Graduate Student Government 2023-2024
- Institutional Life Chair for Kroc Institute Graduate body 2022-2023
- Chaired panel on environmental peacebuilding at Kroc Peace Conference, 2024
- Served as discussant for Jill Locke (Gustavus Adolphus College) presenting her paper "Childhood Innocence and Moral Authority: Shaming Dialectics in the Youth Climate Movement" at the Political Theory Colloquium, Notre Dame, 2023

- Discussant for Elsa Barron (University of Notre Dame) presenting her paper “Framing and Responding to Climate-Related Loss and Damage as Violence”, at the Peace Research Education Seminar (PRES), Kroc Institute, 2025

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- SPSA 2025: *Royal Green: Measuring the influence of Britain's first eco-king*
- ISA 2025: *Peace Positionalities: Exploring the use of reflexive positionality statements in peace research*
- Politics and Gender 2025: *Symbolic failure: Assessing the impact of ward-level electoral quotas in the Kathmandu Valley*
- PJSA 2025: *Environmental (In)justice: Remediation as failed Transitional Justice.*
- SPSA 2024: *Intra-Party Variation on Climate Change Positions in U.S. House*
- APSA 2024: *A Feminist Assessment of Orwell's League for the Rights of Man*

PREVIOUS PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

International Alert – Senior Programme Design and Assessment Officer (South and Southeast Asia)

Jan 2017 – June 2021

- Provided technical peacebuilding support to teams across four countries in the region; Afghanistan, Myanmar, Nepal and Pakistan
- Led on MEL issues for projects worth a total of approximately 7-10 million USD.
- Offered MEL training on a variety of topics to various organisations and country programmes, including UN teams and local CSOs.
- Served as country lead for Afghanistan program focussed on Women, Peace and Security.
- Liaised with institutional donors and managed relationships with State Department, DfID, EU and SIDA actors.

International Children's Trust – Senior Programme Manager

Oct 2015 – Jan 2017

- Managed partnerships and programmes across nine countries with a specific focus on three in sub-Saharan Africa; Ghana, South Africa and Zimbabwe
- Conducted multiple evaluations across three countries.

British Council – Tripoli, Libya

October 2013 – June 2014

- Delivered educational programming and training during Libya's civil war.

Teach For Palestine – Nablus, OPT

Dec 2010 – July 2013

- Ran a small youth focussed NGO in the Occupied West Bank providing educational services in refugee camps and rural locations.
- Set up new formal MEL systems and an organisation wide MEL framework.
- Created new girls education programs in several locations.
- Recruited, trained and managed a team of more than twenty staff

DIRECT COUNTRY EXPERIENCE

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| • Afghanistan | • Nepal |
| • Ghana | • O.P.T. |
| • India | • Pakistan |
| • Jordan | • Puerto Rico |
| • Liberia | • South Africa |
| • Libya | • United Kingdom |
| • Myanmar | • Zimbabwe |