Leslie Johns

Curriculum Vitae

August 2026

Department of Political Science
University of California, Los Angeles
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Appointments

University of California, Los Angeles
- Professor, Department of Political Science, 2020–present
- Acting Professor, UCLA School of Law, 2015–present
- Associate Director, Burkle Center for International Relations, 2022–2024
- Associate Professor, Department of Political Science, 2015–2020
- Assistant Professor, Department of Political Science, 2008–2015

The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation
- Senior Fellow, 2026–present

Princeton University
- Visiting Research Scholar, Niehaus Center, 2021–2022
- Visiting Associate Research Scholar, Niehaus Center, 2012–2013

Education

New York University
- Ph.D., Department of Politics, 2008
- M.A., Department of Politics, 2005

Carnegie Mellon University
- M.S., Heinz School of Public Policy and Management, 2003
- B.F.A., School of Drama, 2002

Publications

Books

2026 *Politics and International Law: Making, Breaking, and Upholding Global Rules.* Cambridge University Press. Second edition.

2022 *Politics and International Law: Making, Breaking, and Upholding Global Rules.* Cambridge University Press. First edition.

2015 *Strengthening International Courts: The Hidden Costs of Legalization.* University of Michigan Press.

Articles

2026 "False Alarm: The World Health Organization's Flawed Data Analysis of 'Attacks on Health Care.'" *Henry Jackson Society* 1–52.

2025 "Immigration, Justice Remittances, and US Courts" with Máximo Langer and Margaret Peters. *International Studies Quarterly* 69: 1–12.

2025 "Living with Impunity Versus Living in Fear: Universal Jurisdiction Defendants, Due Process, and the Use of Democracies by Autocracies to Prosecute Their Opponents" with Natalie Bryce and Máximo Langer. *Leiden Journal of International Law* 38: 322–342.

2024 "The Politics of Punishment: Why Dictators Join the International Criminal Court" with Francesca Parente. *International Studies Quarterly* 68: 1–15.

- Received the 2025 Best Article Prize, Honorable Mention from the International Law and Social Science interest group of the American Society of International Law.

2022 "Migration and the Demand for Transnational Justice" with Máximo Langer and Margaret E. Peters. *American Political Science Review* 116: 1184–1207.

2021 "The Price of Doing Business: Why Replaceable Foreign Firms Get Worse Government Treatment" with Rachel Wellhausen. *Economics & Politics*. 33: 209–243.

2020 "Judicial Economy and Moving Bars in International Investment Arbitration" with Calvin Thrall and Rachel Wellhausen. *Review of International Organizations*. 15: 923–945.

2019 "The Design of Enforcement: Collective Action and the Enforcement of International Law." *Journal of Theoretical Politics*. 31: 543–567.

2019 "When Things Fall Apart: The Impact of Global Governance on Civil Conflicts" with Frank Wyer. *Journal of Politics*. 81: e80–e84.

2019 "How a Retreat from Global Economic Governance May Empower Business Interests" with Krzysztof Pelc and Rachel Wellhausen. *Journal of Politics*. 81: 731–738.

2019 "International Law's Empire." *Journal of Politics*. 81: e23–e26.

2018 "Free-Riding on Enforcement in the WTO" with Krzysztof J. Pelc. *Journal of Politics*. 80: 873–889.

2016 "Under One Roof: Supply Chains and the Protection of Foreign Investment" with Rachel Wellhausen. *American Political Science Review*. 110: 31-51.

- Received the 2017 Michael Wallerstein Award from the American Political Science Association for the best political economy article published in 2016.
- Early draft named the Best Paper in International Relations by the Midwest Political Science Association in 2014.

2016 "Fear of Crowds in World Trade Organization Disputes: Why Don't More Countries Participate?" with Krzysztof J. Pelc. *Journal of Politics*. 78: 88-104.

2014 "Who Gets to Be In the Room? Manipulating Participation in WTO Disputes" with Krzysztof J. Pelc. *International Organization*. 68: 663-699.

2014 "Depth versus Rigidity in the Design of International Trade Agreements" *Journal of Theoretical Politics*. 26: 468-495.

2012 "Courts as Coordinators: Endogenous Enforcement and Jurisdiction in International Adjudication" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 56: 257-289.

2012 "Formal Models of International Institutions" with Michael Gilligan. *Annual Review of Political Science*. 15: 221-243.

2010 "Strengthening International Courts and the Early Settlement of Disputes" with Michael Gilligan and Peter Rosendorff. *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 54: 5-38.

2007 "A Servant of Two Masters: Communication and the Selection of International Bureaucrats" *International Organization*. 61: 245-275.

2006 "Knowing the Unknown: Executive Evaluation and International Crisis Outcomes" *Journal of Conflict Resolution*. 50: 228-252.

Book Chapters

2025 "Formal Models of International Political Economy" In *Oxford Handbook of International Political Economy*, Jon Pevehouse and Leonard Seabrook, ed. Oxford University Press. pp. 129–144.

- Included in *Oxford Handbooks Online*. Online Publication Date: December 2021

2024 "Migration and the Demand for Transnational Justice" with Máximo Langer and Margaret E. Peters. In *International Criminal Law before Domestic Courts*, Michael Lysander Fremuth, ed. MANZ'sche Verlags- und Universitätsbuchhandlung. pp. 91–125.

2018 "The Diverging Theory and Practice of International Law" In *Oxford Encyclopedia of Empirical International Relations Theory*, William R. Thompson, ed. Oxford University Press. pp. 513–535.

- Included in the online *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics*. Online Publication Date: May 2017

2015 "The Design of Trade Agreements" with Lauren Peritz. In *Oxford Handbook of the Politics of International Trade*, Lisa Martin, ed. Oxford University Press. pp. 337–359.

2009 "Dispute Settlement, Compliance and Domestic Politics" with Peter Rosendorff. In *Trade Disputes and the Dispute Settlement Understanding of the WTO: An Interdisciplinary Assessment*, James C. Hartigan, ed. Emerald Group Publishing. pp. 139–163.

Commentary

2026 "The Bad Data Behind the 'Genocide' Charge" with Gregory Rose. *Jewish Journal* .August 20.

2025 "Migrants Matter: New Evidence Shows Migration Patterns Help Drive US Lawsuits for Human Rights Abuses Abroad" with Máximo Langer and Margaret E. Peters. *Opinio Juris*. December 3.

2025 "The Uneven Application of Universal Jurisdiction: Living with Impunity vs. Living in Fear" with Natalie Bryce and Máximo Langer. *EJIL: Talk*. October 2.

2024 "Dictators and the ICC: The Enemy's Enemy" with Francesca Parente. *Australian Outlook*. September 24.

2024 "Secrecy, Information, and Power in International Criminal Tribunals" with Natalie Bryce. *H-Diplo / Robert Jervis International Security Studies Forum* Roundtable Review 15-52. July 12.

2022 "The FIFA World Cup, Migrant Workers, and International Law's Dirty Secret" with Margaret E. Peters. *Opinio Juris*. November 22.

2022 "Instead of Prohibiting Child Labor, Empower Child Workers" *World Politics Review*. November 3.

2022 "Migrants and Justice Remittances: How the Movement of People Across Borders is Enabling the Spread of Universal Jurisdiction Cases" with Máximo Langer and Margaret E. Peters. *Opinio Juris*. June 16.

2022 "Germany Convicted a Syrian Man of War Crimes in Syria. Can National Courts Prosecute Injustices Everywhere?" with Máximo Langer and Margaret E. Peters. *Washington Post*. January 14.

Work in Progress

2026 "Universal Jurisdiction and Atrocity Prevention" with Natalie Bryce and Máximo Langer. Book chapter commissioned for the *Anthem Handbook of Genocide and Mass Atrocity Prevention*

Grants and Awards

- Best Article Prize, Honorable Mention, International Law and Social Science interest group, American Society of International Law, 2025
- Research Grant, Consequences of the Pandemic Program, UCLA, 2025
- Research Enabling Grant, Council on Research, UCLA Academic Senate, 2014–2020, 2022–2024
- Fellowship, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Princeton University, 2021–2022
- Faculty Research Grant, Burkle Center for International Relations, UCLA, 2020–2022
- Bridge Research Grant, Council on Research, UCLA Academic Senate, 2021–2022
- Conference Travel Grant, Council on Research, UCLA Academic Senate, 2008–2020
- Faculty Research Grant, Burkle Center for International Relations, UCLA, 2017–2018
- Michael Wallerstein Award, American Political Science Association, 2017
- Vasa Cube Award for Teaching, UCLA Freshman Seminar Program, 2016–2017
- Best Paper in International Relations Award, Midwest Political Science Association, 2014
- Faculty Research Grant, Burkle Center for International Relations, UCLA, 2013–2015
- Fellowship, Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance, Princeton University, 2012–2013
- Faculty Career Development Award, UCLA, 2012–2013
- Dean's Dissertation Fellowship, New York University, 2007–2008
- Penfield Fellowship for Diplomacy, International Affairs, and Belles Lettres, 2006–2007
- MacCracken Fellowship, New York University, 2003–2007
- New York University Conference Travel Awards, 2005–2007
- Summer Research Fellowship, New York University, 2003–2007
- Inter-university Consortium for Political and Social Research Fellowship, 2004
- Stephen Omer Lee Award for Outstanding Thesis, Carnegie Mellon University, 2004
- W.W. Cooper Scholarship, Heinz School of Public Policy and Management, 2002–2003
- Senior Leadership Award, Carnegie Mellon University, 2002
- Volunteer of the Year Award, American Civil Liberties Union (West Pennsylvania), 2002
- Andrew Carnegie Scholarship, Carnegie Mellon University, 1998–2002

Conference Presentations

- American Political Science Association: 2006–2008, 2011, 2014–2017, 2019–2021, 2023

- European Political Science Association: 2013
- International Political Economy Society: 2008, 2010–2011, 2015
- International Studies Association: 2014–2015, 2018, 2022
- Midwest Political Science Association: 2006–2007, 2009–2010
- Political Economy of International Organizations: 2009, 2012, 2014

Seminar and Workshop Presentations

- Henry Jackson Society (UK). August 2026
- The Hague Initiative for International Cooperation (Netherlands). November 2025.
- Southern California International Law Scholars Workshop. University of Southern California. April 2023.
- New Directions in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Princeton University. Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance. March 2023.
- Washington University in St. Louis. Dept of Political Science. November 2022.
- University of Nebraska, Lincoln. Future of Human Rights Conference. September 2022.
- Global Research in International Political Economy. June 2022.
- Princeton University. School of Public and International Affairs. March 2022.
- New York University. Dept of Politics. November 2021.
- Temple University. Beasley School of Law. April 2021.
- Harvard University. Dept of Government. March 2021.
- Southern California International Law Scholars Workshop. University of Southern California School of Law. February 2021.
- American Society of International Law. Working Group on International Law in Domestic Courts. December 2020.
- Texas A&M University. Dept of Political Science. October 2020.
- University of California, Merced. Dept of Political Science. November 2019.
- Cornell University. Dept of Government. October 2019.
- Southern California International Law Scholars Workshop. Loyola Law School. February 2019.
- Foreign Policy in the Age of Trump Symposium. University of Southern California. Sol Price School of Public Policy. December 2018.
- Stanford University. Dept of Political Science. February 2018.
- American Society of International Law Research Forum. Washington University in St. Louis. School of Law. October 2017.
- University of California, Los Angeles. School of Law. April 2017.
- University of California Conference on International Cooperation. UC Santa Barbara. March 2017.
- Conference on Institutions and Law Making. Emory University. Center for the Study of Law, Politics, and Economics. February 2017.
- Southern California International Law Scholars Workshop. University of Southern California School of Law. February 2017.

- Texas A&M University. Dept of Political Science. November 2016.
- Conference on the Politics of Multinational Firms, Governments, and Global Production Networks. Princeton University. Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance. September 2016.
- George Mason University. Center for the Study of Public Choice. February 2016.
- Conference on Formal Models of International Relations. University of Southern California. Center for International Studies. February 2016.
- University of Texas, Austin. Dept of Government. October 2015.
- University of California, Berkeley. Dept of Political Science. October 2015.
- Southern California International Law Scholars Workshop. UCLA School of Law. February 2015.
- Yale University. Leitner Political Economy Seminar. November 2014.
- Conference on Theoretical and Quantitative International Relations Research. Princeton University. Program for Quantitative and Analytical Political Science. May 2013.
- University of Pennsylvania. Dept of Political Science. April 2013.
- Rutgers University. Dept of Political Science. March 2013.
- University of Maryland. Dept of Political Science. March 2013.
- Workshop on *Strengthening International Courts*. Princeton University. Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance. February 2013.
- Temple University. Beasley School of Law. February 2013.
- Princeton University. International Relations Colloquium. October 2012.
- Stanford University. International Relations Workshop. March 2012.
- Georgetown University. Dept of Government. January 2012.
- University of Wisconsin. Political Economy Colloquium. November 2011.
- Texas A&M University. Program on International Conflict and Cooperation. February 2011.
- UC Southern California Symposium. UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation. University of California, Irvine. January 2011.
- Stanford University. Graduate School of Business. June 2010.
- Georgetown University. Mortara Center for International Studies. November 2009.
- Workshop on Political Economy and Public Law. University of Chicago. Law School and Harris School of Public Policy. June 2009.
- Workshop on Law, Politics, and Human Rights. Emory University. Dept of Political Science. March 2009.
- Harvard University. Dept of Government. November 2008.
- Stanford University. Law School and Dept of Political Science. November 2008.
- University of California, Los Angeles. Dept of Political Science. December 2007.
- University of Chicago. Harris School of Public Policy. November 2007.
- University of California, Berkeley. Dept of Political Science. November 2007.
- University of California, San Diego. School of International Relations and Pacific Studies. November 2007.
- Emory University. Dept of Political Science. November 2007.
- Yale University. Dept of Political Science. November 2007.
- Princeton University. Dept of Politics. November 2007.

- Stanford University. Dept of Political Science. November 2007.
- University of California, Davis. Dept of Political Science. October 2007.
- California Institute of Technology. Division of Social Sciences. October 2007.
- Journeys in World Politics. University of Iowa. Dept of Political Science. April 2007.

Workshop Participant and/or Discussant

- Legal Scholar Delegation to Israel. European Jewish Association and Europe Israel Press Association. September 2025.
- Southern California International Law Scholars Workshop. UCLA. April 2025.
- Academic Exchange. The Intersection of Domestic and International Politics in the United States and the Middle East. February 2025.
- University of California Conference on International Cooperation. UC Riverside. February 2020.
- Graduate International Relations-International Law Workshop. University of Southern California. December 2018.
- University of California Conference on International Cooperation. UC San Diego. March 2018.
- Conference on Formal Models of International Relations. University of Southern California. Center for International Studies. February 2018.
- Southern California International Law Scholars Workshop. UCLA School of Law. February 2018.
- Political Economy of Security. University of Southern California. Center for International Studies. January 2018.
- University of California Conference on International Cooperation. UCLA. March 2016.
- Southern California International Law Scholars Workshop. UC Irvine School of Law. February 2016.
- Southern California International Law Scholars Workshop. University of Southern California School of Law. February 2014.
- Workshop on *The Continent of International Law*. Temple University. Beasley School of Law and Institute for International Law and Public Policy. May 2013.
- Conference on Judicial Institutions: Courts in Domestic and International Affairs. Princeton University. October 2012.
- Political Economy and Public Law Conference. Harvard Law School. June 2011.
- Interdisciplinary Workshop on Synthesizing Insights from International Law and International Relations. Temple University. Beasley School of Law. April 2011.
- Conference on Institutions and Law-Making. Emory University. February 2011.
- Workshop on Public Law and Political Economy. Stanford Law School. June 2010.
- Workshop on the Politics of Preferential Trade Agreements: Theory, Measurement, and Empirical Applications. Princeton University. Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance. April-May 2010.
- Roundtable on the Law and Politics of International Cooperation. Duke University. School of Law. November 2009.

- Delegation and Independence in Domestic and International Law. Florida State University. Center for the Advancement of Human Rights. February 2008.

Graduate Students: Dissertation Committee Chair

Completed

Cody Giddings (Ph.D. 2023)

- Placement: Data Scientist at the US State Department
- Dissertation topic: judicial politics and foreign policy in Russia

Imil Nurutdinov (Ph.D. 2019)

- Placement: Research Fellow at the Institute for Advanced Study in Toulouse (France)
- Dissertation topic: political economy of the modern state
- Recipient of two National Science Foundation dissertation grants (SES-1757231 and SES-1747484)

Francesca Parente (Ph.D. 2019)

- Placement: Assistant Professor at Christopher Newport University; Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton University; and Postdoctoral Fellow at University of Pennsylvania
- Dissertation topic: compliance with rulings of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights
- Recipient of the Best Dissertation Award from the APSA Human Rights section

Lauren Peritz (Ph.D. 2015)

- Placement: Assistant Professor at University of California, Davis; and Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton University
- Dissertation topic: compliance with legal rulings of the World Trade Organization and the European Court of Justice
- Recipient of a National Science Foundation dissertation grant (SES-1421326)

Andrea Vilán (Ph.D. 2018)

- Placement: Assistant Professor at American University; and Postdoctoral Fellow at Princeton University
- Dissertation topic: domestic implementation of human rights treaties in Latin America
- Recipient of the Best Dissertation Award from the APSA Human Rights section

In progress

Natalie Bryce (ABD)

- Dissertation topic: UN fact finding missions

Teaching Experience

Undergraduate

- PS19, "Contemporary Issues in International Politics" (undergraduate): 2014–2017, 2019, 2021
- PS20, "World Politics" (undergraduate): 2011–2013, 2015, 2017, 2025–2026
- PS123A, "International Law" (undergraduate): 2008–2009, 2011–2012, 2014, 2016–2021, 2023, 2025–2026
- PS123B/PS139, "International Organizations" (undergraduate): 2009–2011, 2015
- PS191B, "Research Seminar: International Organizations" (undergraduate): 2017

Graduate

- PS204B/C, "Game Theory II/III" (graduate): 2009, 2011–2017, 2020
- PS220A/B, "International Relations Core Seminar I/II" (graduate): 2015–2016
- PS220B, "International Relations Core Seminar II" (graduate): 2023, 2025
- PS239, "Variable Topics: Special Studies in International Relations" (graduate): 2019–2021, 2023
- PS239, "International Cooperation" (graduate): 2009, 2014, 2017–2019, 2021, 2023

Professional Service

- Member, Committee on Organized Sections, American Political Science Association, 2022–2024
- Co-organizer, New Directions in International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law. Princeton University. Niehaus Center for Globalization and Governance. 2023.
- Editorial Board Member, *International Studies Quarterly*, 2014–2023
- Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Theoretical Politics*, 2018–2022
- Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Political Institutions and Political Economy*, 2019–2022
- Editorial Board Member, *Journal of Politics*, 2015–2020
- Founding Chair, International Collaboration Section, American Political Science Association, 2018–2020
- Review Committee, Doctoral Dissertation Research Improvement Grants, American Political Science Association, 2020
- Wallerstein Award Committee Chair, Political Economy Section, American Political Science Association, 2018
- Member, Pacific Council on International Policy, 2017–2018
- Program Chair, International Collaboration Division, American Political Science Association, 2013–2014, 2016–2017

- Term Member, Council on Foreign Relations, 2012–2017
- Co-organizer, University of California Conference on International Cooperation, 2016
- Program Chair, International Organizations Section, International Studies Association, 2014–2015
- Wallerstein Award Committee Member, Political Economy Section, American Political Science Association, 2013
- External reviewer for: Duke University and the Lauder School at Reichman University (Israel)
- Referee for *American Political Science Review*, *American Journal of Political Science*, *British Journal of Political Science*, Cambridge University Press, *Economics and Politics*, *European Journal of International Law*, *International Interactions*, *International Organization*, *International Theory*, *Journal of Conflict Resolution*, *Journal of Legal Studies*, *Journal of Politics*, National Science Foundation, Oxford University Press, *Review of International Organizations*, *Security Studies*, Swiss National Science Foundation, and *World Politics*

University-Wide Service

- Member, Faculty Welfare Committee, Academic Senate, 2025
- Associate Director, Burkle Center for International Relations, 2022–2024
- *Fiat Lux* Professor, UCLA Freshman Seminar Program, 2014–2017, 2019, 2021, 2023
- Review Committee, Vice Chancellor for Academic Personnel, 2021–2022
- Faculty Advisory Board Member, Burkle Center for International Relations, 2011–2022
- Faculty Advisor, *The Generation–World View* (student-run documentary web series), 2020–2021
- Honors Contract Professor, UCLA Honors Program, 2008–2010, 2014, 2020
- Reviewer, Dissertation Year Fellowships, UCLA Graduate Division, 2012, 2014–2020, 2025
- Reviewer, UCLA Academic Senate, Council on Research Grants, 2015–2016, 2019
- Thesis Advisor, UCLA Global Studies Program, 2018–2019

Department Service

- Elected Representative, Legislative Assembly, 2024–present
- Member, Undergraduate Studies Committee, 2013–2014, 2025–present
- Field Chair, International Relations, 2010–2011, 2015–2017, 2022–2024
- Chair, Graduate Admissions Committee, 2022–2023
- Organizer, International Cooperation Research Group, 2022–2023
- Chair, Merit Review Committee, 2020–2021
- Member, Graduate Admissions Committee, 2008–2012, 2017–2021
- Honors Thesis Advisor, 2009–2010, 2018–2019, 2021–2022
- Teaching Mentor for Graduate Student Instructors, 2017, 2018, 2020
- Placement Director, 2011–2012, 2014–2016, 2017–2019
- Chair, IL/IR Workshop, 2014–2017

- Field Chair, International Relations, 2010–2011, 2015–2017
- Member, Graduate Studies Committee, 2010–2011, 2015–2017
- Member, Faculty Search Committee, 2015–2016
- Chair, IR Speaker Series, 2014–2016
- Chair, Formal Theory Reading Group, 2014–2015
- Chair, Department Speaker Series, 2009-2010, 2014–2015
- Member, Swarr Prize Committee, 2014

Public and Private Sector Employment

- Policy Analyst Intern, Sunset Advisory Commission of the Texas State Legislature, 2002
- Legal Intake Volunteer, American Civil Liberties Union, 2001–2002
- Data Analyst, Wardlaw Appraisal Group, 2000–2001