

## Sommer N. Mitchell

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Pennsylvania State University  
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### CURRENT APPOINTMENTS

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Assistant Teaching Professor, Global & International Studies Program, Pennsylvania State University

Director of Undergraduate Studies, Global & International Studies Program, Pennsylvania State University

### EDUCATION

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**Ph.D.** in Government, University of South Florida, May 2018

Dissertation Title – *Becoming Legitimate: How PMSCs are Seeking Legitimacy in the International System*

Committee Members - Dr. Steven Roach (chair), Dr. Earl Conteh-Morgan, Dr. Amy Eckert, and Dr. Jongseok Woo

**M.A.** in Social Science Education, University of South Florida, December 2010

Concentration in Political Science (27 semester hours)

**B.S.** in Education, Ohio University, June 2000

Concentration in Social Studies

### PUBLICATIONS

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“Private Military and Security Companies: Justifying Moral Responsibility through Self-Regulation”, in Steven C. Roach and Amy E. Eckert (eds) *Moral Responsibility in 21<sup>st</sup> Century Warfare*. Albany, NY: State University of New York Press, 2020.

“Infusing the UN Sustainable Development Goals into a Global Learning Initiative.” *International Journal of Development Education & Global Learning*, 12(2): 2020.

“From Emergence to Disappearance: Theorizing Norms and PMSC Legitimacy.” In progress article.

### PRESENTATIONS

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“Moral Responsibility in Twenty-First Century Warfare.” Roundtable at the *International Studies Association Annual Conference*, Virtual, April 2021.

“Global Learning Across the Disciplines.” Workshop led at the *Global Learning in College Conference of the Association of American Colleges and Universities*, Seattle, WA., October 2018.

“Defining & Measuring Global Competence: Lessons Learned Midway Through USF’s Global Citizens Project.” Presentation at Auburn University’s *International Perspectives on University Teaching & Learning*, Orlando, FL., May 2018.

“Supporting Faculty, Staff, and Students through Global Engagement Programming.” Workshop led at the *Global Learning in College Conference of the Association of American Colleges and Universities*, New Orleans, LA., October 2017.

“Engaging Faculty in Global Learning: Strategies for Curriculum Design and Development.” Workshop led at the *Global Learning in College Conference of the Association of American Colleges and Universities*, Denver, CO., October 2016.

“Back in Good Old 1955: Published Annual Teaching Centers Reflections.” Poster presented at the *Professional and Organizational Development National Conference*, San Francisco, CA., November 2015.

“PMSCs and Legitimacy: Changing Perceptions and Discourse.” Paper presented at the *International Studies Association National Conference*, New Orleans, LA., February 2015.

“The Problematics of PMSCs.” Presentation at *USCENTCOM*, MacDill AFB, Tampa, FL., September 2014.

“Private Security and State Capacity: Implications for IR Theory.” Paper presented at the *International Studies Association South Conference*, Atlanta, GA., October 2012.

## **AWARDS**

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International Studies Association Travel Grant, February 2015.

University of South Florida Conference Presentation Grant, October 2012.

## **ADMINISTRATIVE APPOINTMENTS**

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### **Professional Development Specialist**

Global Citizens Project, University of South Florida, Tampa 2015-2019

- Create and facilitate faculty development opportunities for global learning, curriculum development, course design/redesign, assessment strategies, and pedagogy.
- Serve on the General Education Council Revision Subcommittee in the revision of University of South Florida’s general education curriculum.
- Consult General Education Council regarding the inclusion of global competencies in general education courses.
- Collaborate with faculty across campus in the implementation of their global learning teaching goals.

Includes the development of courses that incorporate:

- undergraduate research (with the Office of Undergraduate Research),
- service-learning (with the Office for Community Engagement and Partnerships), and
- study abroad/away (with Education Abroad Office).

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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### **Thesis Advisor**

Schreyer Honors College, Pennsylvania State University, State College 2020-present

- Supervise undergraduate students researching and writing their honors thesis

### **Assistant Teaching Professor**

Global and International Studies program, Pennsylvania State University, State College 2019-present

- GLIS 101N Globalization
- GLIS 102 N Global Pathways
- GLIS 400Y Seminar in Global and International Studies

### **Director of Undergraduate Studies**

Global and International Studies program, Pennsylvania State University, State College 2019-present

- Work with the Academic Advise to advise undergraduate students on major courses, fulfilling university requirements, and internship/job opportunities
- Recruit and retain students for the major program
- Build a global and international studies community to help support and inspire students

### **Undergraduate Research Mentor**

Global Citizens Project, University of South Florida, Tampa 2018-2019

- Supervise undergraduate students conducting qualitative research projects on global learning

### **Adjunct Instructor**

School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa 2017-2019

- INR 3011 Globalization
- INR 3202 International Human Rights

### **Instructor**

School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa 2012-2015

- INR 2002 Introduction to International Relations
- INR 3202 International Human Rights
- INR 4083 Conflict in the World
- INR 4910 Directed Research

### **Teaching Assistant**

School of Interdisciplinary Global Studies, University of South Florida, Tampa 2011-2012

- INR 3011 Globalization
- POS 2112 State and Local Government and Politics

## RELATED WORK EXPERIENCE

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### **Faculty Development Research Assistant**

Academy of Teaching and Learning Excellence, University of South Florida, Tampa 2013 - 2015

- Created and presented faculty development workshops

- Developed briefs, annotated bibliographies, and literature reviews on research findings, best practices, and faculty development
- Designed materials relevant to the implementation and dissemination of USF's general education program

## **UNIVERSITY SERVICE & PROFESSIONAL LEADERSHIP**

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General Education Council Revision Subcommittee, 2016-2019.

General Education Council, 2016-present.

Office of Multicultural Affairs International Festival Planning Committee, 2016-2019.

Second Annual GAPS Forms of Conflict and Unrest Interdisciplinary Conference, conference planning committee member, April 2014.

First Annual GAPS Global Governance and Sustainable Communities Interdisciplinary Conference, co-chair and conference planning committee member, April 2013.

Graduate Association of Political Scientists, founding member and secretary, January 2012-October 2013

## **PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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Intelligence Community Summer Seminar: Community Insights, IC-CAE, 2013.

- Clearance: Interim Secret granted by Defense Intelligence Agency.
- Seminars: Intelligence Collection, Critical Thinking, Alternative Thinking, Creative Thinking, Applications of Analysis, Analytic Writing, Information Sharing, and Denial & Deception.
- Site visits: NGA, INR, FBI, NCTC, and DIA.

## **PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS**

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Association of American Colleges and Universities

International Studies Association

ISA International Security Studies

Professional and Organizational Development Network in Higher Education

Women in International Security

## **REFERENCES**

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Dr. Steven Roach, Professor of International Relations

University of South Florida

813-974-9753

[sroach@usf.edu](mailto:sroach@usf.edu)

Dr. Jennifer Jones Lister, Associate Dean and Professor of Communication Sciences & Disorders

University of South Florida

813-974-9712

[jlister@usf.edu](mailto:jlister@usf.edu)

Dr. Joseph Wright, Professor of Political Science  
Pennsylvania State University  
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[josephwright@gmail.com](mailto:josephwright@gmail.com)