

Vanessa C. Leon, PhD

Education

PhD **Florida International University**, Department of Politics and International Relations
International Relations

Status Competition Between the U.S. and China on the Stage of Africa

Thomas A. Breslin (chair), John F. Clark, Erin K. Damman, Robert E. Gutsche, Jr.

M.A. **Salve Regina University**, Department of International Studies, 2009
International Relations

B.A. **Florida International University**, Department of Anthropology and Sociology, 2001
Sociology; Minor in Environmental Science
Summa cum laude
Phi Beta Kappa

Awards

- University of Southern California's Center on Public Diplomacy Dissertation Grant (2015).
- Florida International University's Teaching Assistantship (2011-2013; 2014-2016).

Teaching Experience

Florida International University, Department of Politics and International Relations, 2016 - Present
As Adjunct Faculty, I teach the following classes:

- Foreign Policymaking, INR 3303
- American Foreign Policy, INR 3102
- International Relations of North Africa, INR 3252
- Introduction to International Relations, INR 2001
- Diplomacy, INR 3030

Florida International University, Department of Politics and International Relations, 2011-2016

Miami Dade College, Fall 2010 and Spring 2011

- Instructor: POS 2041 - American Federal Government

Internships

- USAID, Global Innovation Exchange (2015)
- The Bassiouni Group, a development consulting firm (2015)

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Conference Papers

"Status Competition Between the U.S. and China on the Stage of Africa," the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, Atlanta, Georgia, March 16-19, 2016.

"Signaling the West: Adoption of Western Education Norms," presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association, San Francisco, California, April 4-6, 2013.

"The Flow of Global Norms: A Case Study of World Bank Influence on Tanzania's Education Policy," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Southern Political Science Association, Orlando, Florida, January 3-5, 2013.

"Peace Through Imitation: A Case Study on Educational Signaling in Core and Periphery States," presented at the Florida International University Graduate Conference, Miami, Florida, November 17, 2012.

"International Education Competition and American Exceptionalism," presented at the Annual Meeting of the Northeastern Political Science Association, Boston, Massachusetts, November 15-17, 2012.

"Reframing Failure to Educate as a Human Rights Violation," presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association Northeast, Baltimore, Maryland, November 2-3, 2012.

"Education as Image: Can Remaking an Education System Result in Reimagining of Status?" presented at the Annual Meeting of the International Studies Association South, Atlanta, Georgia, October 12-14, 2012.

"Strengthening of National Ethos in a Connected World," presented at the New Technologies as a Factor of International Relations Conference, Lublin, Poland, May 16-18, 2012.

Languages

- English, native
- Spanish, basic fluency