

Gabriella Colello

www.gabriellacolello.com • gcolello@uci.edu • pronouns: she/her

Professional Summary

Ph.D. candidate in International Relations seeking applied research roles in intelligence, strategic foresight, risk analysis, and national security policy.

Core Competencies

Nuclear weapons politics and strategic stability • AI and emerging technologies • Catastrophic risk • Institutional behavior under uncertainty • Environmental security • Differential vulnerability • Qualitative and interpretive methods • Archival research • Interviewing • Qualitative coding and document analysis • Process tracing and source triangulation • FOIA navigation • Legislative and policy analysis • OSINT •

Education

Ph.D., Political Science (ABD, expected 2027)

University of California, Irvine

Fields: International Relations; Political Theory

M.A., Political Science

University of California, Irvine

B.A., Political Science

Quinnipiac University

Professional Experience

Summer Instructor

UC Irvine Ethics Institute | (Anticipated Start Date: June 2026 - July 2026)

- Design and teach “The Ethics of Nuclear Risk and Responsibility,” a research-based module for high school students in the UCI Ethics Center Summer Program

Adjunct Professor

Fullerton College | 2025–Present

- Design and teach “Introduction to Comparative Politics,” a survey course for 40+ students
- Integrate simulations and “wargaming” to strengthen analytical reasoning among undergraduates

Lead Facilitator & Coach, Fellowship Mentorship Program

University of California, Irvine (Graduate Division) | 2023–Present

- Design and deliver 30 hours of annual training curricula for grant/fellowship writing coaches, focusing on high-stakes national funding opportunities
- Oversee recruitment, hiring, training, and performance evaluation for 6–8 coaches each cycle

Research Assistant

University of California, Irvine | July–Aug 2023

- Wrote literature review on nuclear politics and environmental security in Oceania
- Thematically indexed an edited volume

National Political Advocacy Intern – Equality Division

American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) | June–Aug 2022

- Developed a federal legislative strategy proposal, conducted opposition research

Policy Fellow & Researcher

Central European Institute at Quinnipiac University | Sept 2020–May 2021

- Produced quarterly policy briefs on minority rights and governance in Hungary

Legislative Intern to the Senate President Pro Tempore

Connecticut General Assembly | Jan 2021–Apr 2021

- Tracked active legislation and produced briefings for senior staff

Data Collection Lead, International Mining Risk Analysis

Spatiotemporal Information Analysis Services | 2019–2020

- Managed regulatory datasets for 7,000+ sites and supported integration into a consumer database

Select Trainings

- Certificate of Completion, Introduction to OSINT (Security Blue Team, 2026)
- Public Policy and Nuclear Threats Bootcamp (UC Institute on Global Conflict and Cooperation, 2025)
- Mentoring Excellence Certificate (UC Irvine, 2023)

Select Fellowships and Awards

- National Science Foundation Graduate Research Fellowship, (2023–2028, \$147,000)
- Eugene Cota-Robles Graduate Fellowship (2022–2028, \$107,256)
- Kugelman Research Fellowship, UCI Center for Citizen Peacebuilding (2025–2026, \$1,500)

Research

Dissertation: *Securing Precarious Worlds: Institutions, Catastrophic Risk, and the Politics of Survival*

- My dissertation examines how competing understandings of security shape responses to catastrophic risk, and seeks to advance strategic foresight by developing alternative frameworks for anticipating and governing high-stakes security challenges.

Select Publications

- Colello, Gabriella. "Saprobic Politics: Decomposing Colonial Cosmologies in International Relations." *Review of International Studies*, 2025, 1–21. <https://doi.org/10.1017/S0260210525000269>.
- Colello, Gabriella, Swapna Pathak, and Marcos S. Scauso. 2022. "Solutions for Whom and by Whom?" *Environmental Philosophy* 19 (1): 93–113. <https://doi.org/10.5840/envirophil202266118>
- *Forthcoming (Invited Contributor)*: Behera, Navnita; Colello, Gabriella; Kurki, Milja; Lynch, Cecelia; Querejazu, Amaya. "Relational Voices in IR: Pluralizing Relationality" *International Studies Review [Presidential Issue]*. Forthcoming (2026).
- *Revise and Resubmit (Security Dialogue)*: Colello, Gabriella. "Worlds in Contest: Cosmological Security and Colonial Violence in West Papua."

References

Cecelia Lynch

Professor of Political Science
University of California, Irvine
clynnch@uci.edu

Daniel Brunstetter

Professor of Political Science
University of California, Irvine
dbrunste@uci.edu

Jodi Balma

Professor of Political Science
Fullerton College
jbalma@fullcoll.edu

John Emery

Assistant Professor of International Security
Pepperdine University
john.emery@pepperdine.edu