KASSADI SMITH

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EDUCATION

Security Studies Ph.D. | University of Central Florida   **08/24 - 12/27 (expected)**

- Research Area: Digital Infrastructure, Collective Action, and Complex Networks
- Relevant Coursework: Adv. Quantitative Methods, Adv. Qualitative Methods, Political Network Analysis
- UCF Graduate Fellow
- CITI Program Certification in Human Research (Social/ Behavioral Research Investigators and Key Personnel)
- Methods Comprehensive Exam: **Passed** Security Comprehensive Exam: 08/25 Field Area Exam: 05/2026

Political Science M.A. | Florida Atlantic University   **Graduated 05/22**

- Research Area: Sociotechnology, Cyberspace, and Political Spheres
- Served as Student Liaison to Graduate Dean for FAU Graduate College

Political Science B.A. | Florida Atlantic University   **Graduated 05/20**

- Department of Political Science Honors Program
- Thesis: Technology and Conflict: An Unexplored Link
- Minor in Business Law
- Certificate in Ethics, Law, and Society

TEACHING AND CAREER EXPERIENCE

Graduate Teaching Assistant | University of Central Florida, Orlando, FL   **08/24 - Present**

- Current class assignment: Environmental Politics; Modern Political Ideologies
- Providing support for over 290 students. Duties include student support, grading, and YellowDig monitoring.

Student Affairs Specialist | Lynn University, Boca Raton, FL   **10/22 - 07/24**

- Collaborated with senior leadership to research, plan, and manage logistics for divisional projects and programs.
- Developed project scopes, objectives, and assessments to enhance students' experiences beyond the classroom.
- Conducted surveys and created comprehensive documentation to evaluate program effectiveness.
- Developed curriculum and implemented the Lynn Leadership Institute, graduating 40 students with leadership certifications.

Director | Florida Atlantic University, Boca Raton, FL   **09/19 - 05/22**

- Developed and implemented surveys and assessments to identify and address graduate student needs and concerns, ensuring effective support for the GPSA membership.
- Authored and distributed meeting agendas, reports, and documentation, streamlining administrative processes for graduate and professional student organizations.
- Conducted research and analysis to guide funding decisions, managing a budget of $250,000 per fiscal year to optimize resources for various campus initiatives.

PROJECTS AND PRESENTATIONS

Complexities of Political Violence through the Cyber Domain
UCF Student Scholar Symposium, March 2025
FPSA Symposium, March 2025, Comparative Politics and Political Theory
- Utilizing quantitative analysis through STATA, this project explores factors influencing the likelihood of individuals engaging in political violence, focusing on digital infrastructure's role within the framework of the contentious dynamics.

Technology and Conflict: An Unexplored Link
Graduate Research Day, Spring 2021, Oral Presentation
FAU Wilkes Honors College Research Symposium, Spring 2020, Oral Presentation
- Focusing on violent international conflicts (and secondarily on cyber threats), this paper probes the influence of technological development on conflict between nations. Through logit regression utilizing SPSS, this paper assesses the likelihood of conflict between nations when aspects of technological development are present.

RESEARCH INTERESTS

Cybersecurity | Contentious Dynamics | Network Theory | Digital Infrastructure | Political Violence

AWARDS

3rd Place & Finalist Impact of Research Competition| University of Central Florida
College of Science Dean's Doctoral Fellow| University of Central Florida
College of Graduate Studies Dean's Doctoral Fellow| University of Central Florida
Field Experience Scholar | Florida Atlantic University
Humanitarian Award | EmpowHER of the Palm Beaches

PROFESSIONAL AFFILIATION

Member | Pi Sigma Alpha: National Political Science Honor Society
Member and Alumna | EmpowHER of the Palm Beaches
Member | Florida Political Science Association

TECHNICAL SKILLS

STATA | Quantitative Analysis | Qualitative Analysis | Microsoft & Google Suite | Python | Data Analysis & Visualization

References available upon request