Ravi Bhavnani

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Academic Positions

2011 – present	*The Graduate Institute, Geneva* Professor Associate Professor
2005 – 11	*Michigan State University* Assistant Professor
2003 – 05	*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* Assistant Professor

Education

2003	*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor* Ph.D., Political Science, Comparative Politics & Methods Dissertation: Essays on Intraethnic & Interethnic Violence Chaired by Robert Axelrod
1995	*University of Michigan, Ann Arbor* M.P.P., Ford School of Public Policy, Development Finance
1992	*Beloit College* B.A., Economics & International Relations, Magna Cum Laude

Additional Training

2002	*University of Michigan* Degree Certificate in Complex Systems
2001	*Stanford University* Hamburg Pre-doctoral Fellow
1998	*University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign* Merriam Junior Master's Class
1998	*Santa Fe Institute* Summer Program in Computational Economics
1992	*Hebrew University of Jerusalem* Raoul Wallenberg Scholar

Research Interests

Civil Conflict

Social Complexity

Data-Driven Modeling

Articles

Project-Specific Research on Conflict, Climate & Acute Malnutrition

33. Bhavnani, R. and N. Schlager. 2025. "D2A: Piloting an Open–Source Mobile Phone Application to Monitor Household Nutrition Dynamics in Kenya." *Under Review.*

32. Bhavnani, R., N. Schlager, M. Reul, and K. Donnay. 2023. "Trajectories of Resilience to Acute Malnutrition in the Kenyan Drylands." *Frontiers in Sustainable Food Systems* 7 (July).

32. Bhavnani, R., et al. 2023. "Household Behavior and Vulnerability to Acute Malnutrition in Kenya." *Nature, Humanities & Social Sciences Communications* 10:63 (February).

Conflict Research

30. Bhavnani, R. M. Melillo and J. Hellinger. 2025. "Spatio-temporal Dynamics of Attacks By and Against Refugees in Europe" *In Progress.*

29. Bhavnani, R. and J. Hellinger. 2025. "Why Discriminate? The Logic of Targeting in Gaza." *Under Review.*

28. Reul, M. and R. Bhavnani. 2025. "How Loyalty Trials Shape Allegiance to Political Order." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 69:1 (January):178-206.

27. Penic, S., K. Donnay, R. Bhavnani, G. Elcheroth and M. Albzour. 2024. "How Does the Geography of Surveillance Affect Collective Action?" *Political Psychology* 45:2 (April): 319-340.

26. Penic, S., G. Elcheroth, M. Albzour, K. Donnay and R. Bhavnani. 2024. "The Geography of Military Occupation and its Effect on Palestinian Community Cohesion, Norms, and Resistance Motivation." *Peace and Conflict: Journal of Peace Psychology* 30:1 (February): 94-106.

25. Hellinger, J. and R. Bhavnani. 2023. "Aerial Occupation and Aerial Forensics in Gaza." *Global Challenges: Urban Morphology and Violence* Issue no. 2 (March).

24. Bhavnani, R. and X. Osorio Garate. 2023. "Centering the Urban in Our Understanding of Violence." *Global Challenges: Urban Morphology and Violence* Issue no. 2 (March).

23. Schlager, N., K. Donnay, H. Kim, and R. Bhavnani. 2023. "Drivers of COVID-19 Protests Across Localities in Israel: A Machine Learning Approach." *Political Research Exchange* 5:1 (September).

22. Schenker, L., D. Sylvan, J. Arcand and R. Bhavnani. 2023. "Segregation and Out-of-Placeness: The Direct Effect of Neighborhood Racial Composition on Police Stops." *Political Research Quarterly* 76:4 (December): 1646–1660.

21. Bhavnani, R. and M. Reul. 2019. "The Morphology of Urban Conflict." *Global Challenges: New Grammars of War—Conflict and Violence in the 21st Century* Issue no. 5 (April).

20. Bhavnani, R. and M. Reul. 2019. "The Morphology of Urban Conflict." *GLOBE: Graduate Institute Review* 23 (Spring): 22-23.

19. Bhavnani, R., K. Donnay, D. Miodownik, M. Mor and D. Helbing. 2014. "Group Segregation and Urban Violence." *American Journal of Political Science* 58:1 (January): 226-245.

    Recipient of the 2014 *American Journal of Political Science* Best Paper Award.

18. Bhavnani, R. and H. Choi. 2012. "Modeling Civil Violence in Afghanistan: Ethnic Geography, Control, and Collaboration." *Complexity* 17:6 (July/August): 42-51.

17. Bhavnani, R. and K. Donnay. 2012. "Here's Looking at You: The Arab Spring and Violence in Gaza, Israel and the West Bank." *Swiss Political Science Review* 18:1 (March): 124-131.

16. Bratton, M., R. Bhavnani and T. Chen. 2012. "Voting Intentions in Africa: Ethnic, Economic or Partisan?" *Commonwealth and Comparative Politics* 50:1 (February): 27-52.

15. Miodownik, D. and R. Bhavnani. 2011. "Ethnic Minority Rule and Civil War Onset: How Identity Salience, Fiscal Policy, and Natural Resource Profiles Moderate Outcomes." *Conflict Management and Peace Science* 28:5 (November): 438-458.

14. Bhavnani, R., D. Miodownik and H. Choi. 2011. "Violence and Control in Civil Conflict: Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza." *Comparative Politics* 44:1 (October): 61-80.

13. Bhavnani, R. and J. Lavery. 2011. "Transnational-Ethnic Ties and the Incidence of Minority Rule in Rwanda and Burundi." *Nationalism and Ethnic Politics* 17:3 (July-September): 231-256.

12. Bhavnani, R., D. Miodownik and H. Choi. 2011. "Three Two Tango: Territorial Control and Selective Violence in Israel, the West Bank, and Gaza." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 55:1 (February): 133-158.

11. Miodownik, D., B. Cartrite and R. Bhavnani. 2010. "Between Replication and Docking: 'Adaptive Agents, Political Institutions, and Civic Traditions' Revisited." *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation* 13:3 (June).

10. Bhavnani, R. 2009. "Scarcity, Abundance, and Conflict: A Complex New World." *Whitehead Journal of International Diplomacy* 10:2 (Summer/Fall): 19-34.

09. Bhavnani, R., M. Findley and J. Kuklinski. 2009. "Rumor Dynamics in Ethnic Violence." *Journal of Politics* 71:3 (July): 876-892.

08. Bhavnani, R. and D. Miodownik. 2009. "Ethnic Polarization, Ethnic Salience, and Civil War." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 53:1 (February): 30-49.

07. Bhavnani, R., R. Riolo and D. Backer. 2008. "Simulating Closed Regimes with Agent-Based Models." *Complexity* 14:1 (September/October): 36-44.

06. Bhavnani, R., D. Miodownik and J. Nart. 2008. "REsCape: An Agent-Based Framework for Modeling Resources, Ethnicity, and Conflict." *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation* 11:2 (March).

05. Bhavnani, R. 2006. "Ethnic Norms and Interethnic Violence: Accounting for Mass Participation in the Rwandan Genocide." *Journal of Peace Research* 43:6 (November): 651-669.

04. Snyder, R. and R. Bhavnani. 2005. "Diamonds, Blood, and Taxes: A Revenue-Centered Framework for Explaining Political Order." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 49:4 (August): 563-597.

03. Bhavnani, R. 2003. "Adaptive Agents, Political Institutions, and Civic Traditions in Modern Italy." *Journal of Artificial Societies and Social Simulation* 6:4 (October).

02. Bhavnani, R. and M. Ross. 2003. "Announcement, Credibility, and Turnout in Popular Rebellions." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 47:3 (June): 340-366.

01. Bhavnani, R. and D. Backer. 2000. "Localized Ethnic Conflict and Genocide: Accounting for Differences in Rwanda and Burundi." *Journal of Conflict Resolution* 44:3 (June): 283-307.

Edited Volumes

03. Bhavnani, R. and X. Osorio Garate (eds.). 2023. *Global Challenges: Urban Morphology and Violence* Issue no. 2 (March).

02. Backer, D., R. Bhavnani, and P. Huth (eds.). 2018. *Peace and Conflict* Routledge.

01. Backer, D., R. Bhavnani, and P. Huth (eds.). 2017. *Peace and Conflict* Routledge.

Working Papers

05. Penic, S., K. Donnay, R. Bhavnani, G. Elcheroth, and M. Albzour. 2022. "How Does the Geography of Surveillance Affect Collective Action?" *PsyArXiv Preprints* DOI: 10.31234/osf.io/eq29y.

04. Bratton, M., R. Bhavnani and T. Chen. 2011. "Voting Intentions in Africa: Ethnic, Economic or Partisan?" *Afrobarometer Working Paper* No. 127.

03. Bhavnani, R. and D. Backer. 2007. "Social Capital and Political Violence in Sub-Saharan Africa." *Afrobarometer Working Paper* No. 90.

02. Bhavnani, R., R. Riolo and D. Backer. 2002. "A Hybrid Model of Decision-Making in Closed Political Regimes." *Proceedings of Workshop on Social Agents: Ecology, Exchange, and Evolution* Gleacher Center, University of Chicago, October 11-12.

01. Bhavnani, R. and D. Backer. 1999. "Localized Ethnic Conflict and Genocide: Accounting for Differences." *Santa Fe Institute Working Paper* 99-07-053.

Chapters

12. Bhavnani, R., K. Donnay and M. Reul. 2020. "Evidence-Driven Computational Modeling." In R. Franzese and L. Curini (eds.) *Sage Handbook of Research Methods in Political Science & International Relations* Sage.

11. Bhavnani, R. and D. Sylvan. 2018. "Simulation and ABM in Foreign Policy." *Oxford Research Encyclopedia of Politics* Oxford University Press.

10. Backer, D., R. Bhavnani and P. Huth. 2018. "Introduction to Peace and Conflict 2017." in D. Backer, R. Bhavnani, and P. Huth (eds.) *Peace and Conflict* Routledge.

09. Bhavnani, R. and K. Donnay. 2018. "Generalizing Findings from Micro-Level Research on Peace and Conflict: Reflections about Challenges and Solutions." in D. Backer, R. Bhavnani, and P. Huth (eds.) *Peace and Conflict* Routledge.

08. Bratton, M., R. Bhavnani and T. Chen 2016. "Voting Intentions in Africa: Ethnic, Economic or Partisan?" in N. Cheeseman (ed.) *African Politics* Routledge.

07. Backer, D., R. Bhavnani and P. Huth. 2017. "Introduction to Peace and Conflict 2016." in D. Backer, R. Bhavnani, and P. Huth (eds.) *Peace and Conflict* Routledge.

06. Bhavnani, R. and K. Donnay. 2017. "The Cutting Edge of Research on Peace and Conflict." in D. Backer, R. Bhavnani, and P. Huth (eds.) *Peace and Conflict* Routledge.

05. Donnay, K., E. Gadjanova and R. Bhavnani. 2015. "Disaggregating Conflict by Actors, Time, and Location." in D. Backer, J. Wilkenfeld, and P. Huth (eds.) *Peace and Conflict* Paradigm Publishers.

04. Bratton, M., R. Bhavnani and T. Chen 2013. "Voting Intentions in Africa: Ethnic, Economic or Partisan?" in M. Bratton (ed.) *Voting and Democratic Citizenship in Africa* Lynne Rienner Publishers.

03. Bhavnani, R. and D. Miodownik. 2010. "Macro- and Micro-Level Theories of Violence in Ethnic and Non-Ethnic Civil Wars." in T. Jacobson (ed.) *Causes of War: An Introduction to Theories Behind Warfare and Collective Violence* Nova Science Publishers.

02. Bhavnani, R., R. Riolo and D. Miodownik. 2010. "Computational Models of Ethnic Violence." in A. Kott and G. Citrenbaum (eds.) *Estimating Impact: A Handbook of Computational Methods and Models for Anticipating Economic, Social, Political and Security Effects in International Interventions* Springer.

01. Bhavnani, R. 2006. "Agent Based Models in the Study of Ethnic Norms and Interethnic Violence." in N. Harrison (ed.) *Complexity in World Politics: Concepts and Methods of a New Paradigm* SUNY Press.

Awards & Fellowships

2014	*American Journal of Political Science* Best Paper Award
2010	*ETH Zürich, Sociology, Modeling and Simulation* Research Fellowship
	Michigan State University Environmental Faculty Fellowship
2009	*Michigan State University* Global Area Thematic Initiative Fellowship
2007	*Michigan State University* Lilly Teaching Fellowship
2006	*Michigan State University* Research Fellowship
2003	*University of Illinois Program for Research in Humanities* Faculty Fellow
2001	*Stanford University* Hamburg Pre-doctoral Fellowship, CISAC
2000	*University of Michigan* Rackham Pre-doctoral Fellowship
1999	*U.S. National Science Foundation* Dissertation Research Grant
1998	*University of Michigan* Pre-dissertation Fellowship, Center for African Studies Pre-dissertation Award, Political Science Department Pre-dissertation Award, International Institute Rackham Summer Research Partnership Award
1996	*University of Michigan* Tuition Scholarship, Political Science Department
1995	*University of Michigan* Overseas Internship Award
1994	*University of Michigan* Neil S. Stabler Award, School of Public Policy
1992	*Hebrew University of Jerusalem* Raoul Wallenberg Scholarship
	Beloit College Phi Beta Kappa Honor Society Phi Beta Kappa Graduate Scholarship Thomas Mathers Award in Economics Coleman Peterson Award in Political Science Tuition Scholarship

Grants

2019 – 22	*From Data to Analysis: An Open–Source Mobile Phone Application to Monitor Household Nutrition Dynamics in Kenya (D2A)* Swiss National Science Foundation, Spark Grant: chf 75,000 (PI)
2017 – 21	*Modelling Early Risk Indicators to Anticipate Malnutrition (MERIAM)* Department for International Development, U.K. Grant: £2,750,000 (Sub-Award PI)
2014 – 18	*Aiding Resilience: The Impact of Foreign Assistance on the Dynamics of Intrastate Armed Conflict* MINERVA Research Initiative, U.S. Department of Defense Grant: £2,549,460 (Sub-Award PI)
2001 – 04	*Simulating Closed Regimes with Agent-Based Models (SCRAM)* Small Group Dynamics Grant, U.S. Department of Defense Grant: $500,000 (Principal Investigator)

Conference Presentations

American Political Science Association, Midwest Political Science Association, European Political Science Association, International Studies Association, Italian Society for Political Science, Eurasian Peace Science Conference, European Network for Conflict Research, European Consortium for Political Research, Jan Tinbergen European Peace Science, UNIWIDER-EU

Invited Presentations

2026	*Conference on Conflict Analysis* Geneva Centre for Security Sector Governance (DCAF) & Tunisian Ministry of National Defense, Tunis
2025	*Workshop on Advances in Research on Political Violence* NYU Florence and EUI
2023	*Workshop on Nationalism and National Identity Formation* University of Barcelona
2022	*2nd Int'l Conference on Environmental Peacebuilding* IHEID, Geneva
2019	*Int'l Conference on Computational Social Science(IC2S2)* University of Amsterdam
2019	*Computational Social Science Symposium* ETH Zurich
2016	*Culture, Conflict Research Network* Smithsonian Institute, Washington D.C
2015	*Methodological Innovation in Urban Political Research* Berkeley & Washington DC

2015	*Political Science Research Seminar*	
	Trinity College, Dublin	
2015	*6th International Meeting On Peace Science*	
	Chulalongkorn University, Bangkok	
2014	*The Science and Practice of Computational Modeling*	
	UM-SFI Annual Meeting, Ann Arbor	
	Held in honor of Rick Riolo	
2013	*The Evolution of Cooperation and the Framing of Peace*	
	University of Michigan	
2012	*Faculty Workshop*	
	University of Geneva	
2012	*Shining India*	
	The Graduate Institute, Geneva	
2011	*Inequality, Grievances & Civil War*	
	ETH Zürich	
2011	*Bridging Micro- & Macro- Approaches on Civil Wars*	
	Institut d'Anàlisi Econòmica, Bacelona	
2011	*Coping with Crises in Complex Socio-Economic Systems*	
	ETH Zürich	
2011	*Violent Cities, Watson Institute*	
	Brown University	
2010	*Seminar Series, Sociology Modelling and Simulation*	
	ETH Zürich	
2010	*International Conflict Research*	
	ETH Zürich	
2009	*Bose Speaker Series, Department of Political Science*	
	University of Iowa	
2009	*Climate Change, Social Stress, and Security*	
	University of Hamburg	
2009	*Global Effects and Local Dynamics of Intra-State Conflict*	
	Co-Organizer, Hebrew University of Jerusalem	
2008	*Communicating Across Borders*	
	IDC, Sammy Ofer School, Herzliya	
2008	*Failed and Failing States in Africa*	
	Cornell University	
2008	*Disaggregating Civil War*	
	ETH Zürich	
2007	*Disaggregating the Study of Civil War*	
	University of Essex	
2007	*Symposium on Complex Systems Engineering*	
	RAND Corporation, Santa Monica	
2007	*Fundação Getúlio Vargas*	
	Sao Paulo	
2007	*Micro-Foundations of Mass Politics in Africa*	
	Michigan State University	

2006	*Center for International Studies* ETH Zürich	
2006	*CSCS Advanced Academic Workshop* University of Michigan	
2005	*Center for the Study of Civil War* Peace Research Institute Oslo	
2005	*Mapping the Complexity of Civil Wars* ETH Zürich	
2005	*SFI Colloquia* Santa Fe Institute	
2005	*Hastening the Day: When Peace-Enforcers Can Leave?* McGill University	
2005	*The Complexity of Diversity* University of Michigan	
2005	*World Politics Seminar* University of Michigan	
2005	*Virginia Modeling, Analysis, and Simulation Center* Old Dominion University	
2005	*Order Conflict and Violence Series* Yale University	
2004	*CSCS Advanced Academic Workshop* University of Michigan	
2004	*Program for South Asian and Middle Eastern Studies* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	
2004	*Program for Research in the Humanities* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	
2003	*Defense Intelligence Agency* Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C.	
2003	*Resources and Civil War* McGill University	
2003	*Center for Arms Control and Disarmament Seminar Series* University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign	
2002	*Defense Intelligence Agency* Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C.	
2002	*Social Science Seminar* CISAC, Stanford University	
2001	*Defense Intelligence Agency* Bolling AFB, Washington, D.C.	
2001	*Agent-Based Modeling in the Study of Politics* Graduate Institute, Geneva	

External Service

Editorial Board

2021–24	*Journal of Politics*

Manuscript Reviewer

African Studies Review, American Journal of Political Science, American Political Science Review, British Journal of Political Science, Complexity, Comparative Politics, Comparative Studies in Society and History, Conflict Management & Peace Science, International Interactions, International Organization, International Studies Quarterly, Journal of Artificial Societies & Social Simulation, Journal of Conflict Resolution, Journal of Peace Research, Journal of Politics, Nature, Political Research Quarterly, Swiss Journal of Economics & Statistics, World Development, World Politics

Grant Proposal Reviewer

U.S National Science Foundation, Fonds National Suisse de la Recherche Scientifique, Agence Nationale de la Recherche (France), Swedish Research Council, ETH Zürich

Conference Organization and Committees

2016	*Co-Organizer*	European Network for Conflict Research, Geneva
2012 – 15	*Program Committee*	Winter Simulation Conference, Berlin
2012	*Program Committee*	Epistemological Perspectives on Simulation San Antonio
2012	*Program Committee*	Brazilian Workshop on Social Simulation, Curitiba
2012 – 13	*Scientific Committee*	European Social Simulation Association, Salzburg
2009	*Co-organizer*	Local Dynamics of Intra-State Conflict, Jerusalem

Internal Service, Graduate Institute

2025 –	*Head*, International Relations Department
2024	*Member*, Peace & Mediation Chair Search Committee
2020 – 25	*Member*, Research Ethics Committee
2021 – 24	*Member*, Global Migration Center Steering Committee
2022	*Member*, Anthropology & Sociology Search Committee
2021	*Member*, Int'l History & Politics Search Committee
2018	*Member*, Emotions & Societies Search Committee, UNIGE
2014 – 17	*Head*, International Relations Department
2014 – 17	*Member*, Academic Committee

2014 – 17	*Member*, ADG Contest Academic Steering Committee
2017 – 18	*Member*, MINT Program Steering Committee
2012 – 17	*Coordinator*, Political Science Research Colloquium
2016	*Co-Convenor*, Global South Workshop, Peking University
2016	*Member*, Anthropology & Sociology Search Committee
2016	*Vice President*, Humanitarian Studies Search Committee
2015	*Vice President*, International Relations Search Committee
2014	*Vice President*, International Relations Search Committee
2014	*Member*, Int'l Relations Search Committee, UNIGE
2013	*Member*, International Law Search Committee
2013	*Member*, Anthropology & Sociology Search Committee
2013	*Member*, Yves Oltramaire Chair Search Committee
2012	*Advisory Committee*, Geneva Mayor's Forum

Consultancies

World Organisation Against Torture (CH), Action Against Hunger (US),
Department for International Development(UK), FLAME University (IN), Save the
Children Fund (UK), Department of Defense (US), Lockheed Martin,
DARPA-COMPOEX Program (US)

28. August 2025