

ALI A. ISSE

School of Public and International Affairs · Robertson Hall · Princeton University

Princeton, NJ 08540-1013

[Academic Portfolio](#) · [Personal Website](#) · isse.ali@princeton.edu

EDUCATION

Princeton University	2022–Present
Ph.D., Public & International Affairs — Specializations: <i>Security Studies & International Relations</i>	
M.A., Public Affairs	2024
<i>Dissertation committee:</i> Christopher Chyba (chair); G. John Ikenberry; Alexandre Debs	
The University of Chicago	2021
M.A., Social Sciences — Concentration: <i>Political Science & International Relations</i>	
<i>Thesis advisor:</i> Roger B. Myerson	
The Ohio State University	2018
M.S., City & Regional Planning; Minor in Public Policy & Management	
<i>Advisor:</i> Kyle Ezell	
The University of Texas at San Antonio	2015
B.A., Political Science; Minor in Global Affairs	

SHORT COURSES & STUDY ABROAD

University of Cambridge	Summer 2023
Modules: International Law—Use of Force (UN Charter); Law of Armed Conflict	
National Taipei University	Spring 2018
Modules: Transportation Planning; High-Speed Rail Systems	

RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

Dissertation Research	2022–Present
School of Public & International Affairs, Princeton University	
Prospectus Research (Visiting Scholar)	AY 2025–2026
Department of Political Science and MacMillan Center, Yale University	
Graduate Research Assistant	AY 2020–2021
Division of the Social Sciences, The University of Chicago	
Graduate Research Assistant	AY 2017–2018
Department of City & Regional Planning, The Ohio State University	

TEACHING EXPERIENCE

- 2025 **POL 396: International Organizations** (Undergraduate), Department of Politics, Princeton University
(Spring 2025, 400 Students)
Preceptor (TA); three weekly precept sessions for different student groups, office hours, grading exams and assignments
- 2024 **SPI 299: Introduction to Research Design** (Undergraduate), School of Public & International Affairs, Princeton University (Fall 2024, 75 students)
Preceptor (TA); three weekly precept sessions, office hours, grading exams and assignments

Selected Previous Teaching

- 2021 **SOCI 30100: Mathematics for Social Science** (Math Camp)
Instruction on calculus fundamentals, matrix algebra, set theory, mathematical proofs, and introductory probability.
- 2018 **CRPLAN 3100: Analyzing the City** (Undergraduate)
Computer lab instruction in quantitative & spatial analysis of urban systems (ArcGIS, Excel, and Stata)

PUBLICATIONS AND WORKS IN PROGRESS

- 2026 Anglo-American Nuclear Partnership: Cooperation, Integration, and Strategic Interdependence.
Target Journal: Journal of Strategic Studies
- Authoritarian Calculus and the Risk of Nuclear Use: Executive Power and Brinkmanship in North Korea and Iran.
Target journal: Journal of Conflict Resolution
- From Coercion to Cooperation: Reversing Nuclear Programs Through Guarantees. *Target Journal: Nonproliferation Review*
- 2024 **Isse, A.** Between Coercion and Inducements: Ensuring Compliance in Nuclear Disarmament Under the NPT and TPNW. *Under Review.*
- Isse, A.** The Strategies of Coercion in the Nuclear Era: From Diplomacy to War. *Forthcoming.*
- 2021 **Isse, A.** State building in Somalia: The role of International Actors and Actions.
Knowledge Uchicago.

CONFERENCE PRESENTATIONS

- 2025 **Alva Myrdal Center for Nuclear Disarmament, Uppsala Universitet, Sverige.**
Oral presentation of "Between Coercion and Inducements: Ensuring Compliance in Nuclear Disarmament Under the NPT and TPNW", 2025 Cross-Disciplinary Conference at Uppsala University, Sweden.

82nd Annual MPSA Conference 2025: Lightning Talk Paper Presentation

A Isse, R Omar. Regime Type, Antimigrant Sentiments and Support for State Surveillance in the Public Space. *Lightning talk Paper Presentation.* Chicago, IL. April 2025.

2024 **Bridging The Gap—NEW Era Foreign Policy Conference**

Panelist, roundtable discussions on connecting academic research to practical policymaking. Josef Korbel School of International Studies, University of Denver. September 2024.

2023 **Reimagining World Order: Diverse Models or Visions of the Coming International Order.** *Small group policy panels.* Princeton PIIRS, September 2023.

Center of International Security Studies Conference 2024. *Contributor in the panel of for the Global Nuclear Order.* School of Public and International Affairs, Princeton University, February, 2023.

2021 **2021 Interdisciplinary Graduate Conference.** *Oral presentation—Spotlight Paper, at The University of Chicago, April 2021*

INVITED TALKS & RESEARCH PRESENTATIONS

2025 **International Relations Seminar, MacMillan Center of International and Area Studies**
Department of Political Science, Yale University.

Presented doctoral prospectus on nuclear deterrence, coercive diplomacy, and strategic stability.
October, 2025

2024 **Africa Policy Program,** Liechtenstein Institute of Self-Determination (LISD) at Princeton
Presented research paper, "International Intervention and Regional Dynamics in Africa".
October 2024.

Security Studies Seminar, Center for International Security Studies (CISS) at Princeton.
Presented research on nuclear deterrence, coercive diplomacy, and strategic dynamics within security studies. February 2024.

2023 **Diversity and Inclusion Speaker Series,** Princeton SPIA. *Delivered invited talk, "Coming to America: Challenges and Opportunities.* March, 2023.

2022 **Higher Education Forum, Mogadishu, Somalia.** *Delivered invited talk, "Promoting Education as a Tool for State Stability and Economic Development".* June, 2022.

Africa Youth Month. *Virtual keynote speech on "The role of Somali youth to build better African continent" at DAN252 empowering youth non-profit.* June 2021.

2018 **Graduate Awards Reception, The Ohio State University.** *Delivered student remarks on behalf of comprehensive exam distinction recipients at the Department of City & Regional Planning,* April 2018.

FELLOWSHIPS & RESEARCH GRANTS

- 2025 **IvyPlus Exchange Scholar Fellow**, Yale University, Dept. of Political Science (AY 2025–2026)
- 2025 **Pre-Dissertation Fieldwork & Research Grant**, Princeton PIIRS (\$3,000)
- 2025 **Summer Fieldwork Travel Grant**, Princeton School of Public & International Affairs (\$2,400)
- 2023 **Africa Program Fellow**, Liechtenstein Institute on Self-Determination (LISD), Princeton SPIA (2023–2025)
- 2022 **Center for International Security Studies (CISS) Graduate Fellow**, Princeton University (2022–2025)
- 2022 **President’s Fellowship Award**, Princeton University (\$6,000; 2022–2024; competitive university award recognizing academic excellence)
- 2018 **Travel Abroad Research Award**, Dept. of City & Regional Planning, The Ohio State University (\$2,000; Transportation Planning Program in Taiwan)

AWARDS & HONORS

- 2021 **Maroon Scholar Research (Tuition Award)**, The University of Chicago (2020–2021)
- 2018 **Merit Certificate of Distinction**, M.S. Comprehensive Exam, City & Regional Planning, The Ohio State University (highest distinction)
- 2015 **Best Undergraduate Paper Award**, The University of Texas at San Antonio (\$250)
- 2004 **CfBT Education Trust Scholarship (EU-funded)**, study in Kenya (2004–2008)
- 1999 **Mohamed Abdullahi Merit Scholarship** (Pre-GCSE Mathematics & English), Somalia

TECHNICAL SKILLS

R, Stata, Python, SPSS; L^AT_EX, ArcGIS

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

- 2021 **Grants Specialist** Catholic Charities of the Diocese of Saint Cloud, Minnesota (Aug 2021- Sept 2022)
Developed and managed competitive grant proposals and built partnership with foundations and governmental agencies at state and federal levels.
- 2018 **Urban Planner I** (May 2018- Aug 2020)
Urban Planning Projects, City of Columbus, Ohio
Led planning initiatives focusing on urban design and transportation planning.
- 2011 **Amarillo Independent School District (ISD)** (Sept 2010- Dec 2011)
Elementary School Educator—State of Texas Certified Educator— The Certificate Expired in 2015.

SERVICE

Departmental & university service

- 2024 Participant & Mentor—International Policy Trip to Accra, Ghana, Princeton University (Winter 2024)
- 2023 Peer Mentor—Graduate Scholars Program (GSP), Princeton University (AY 2023–2025)
- 2023 Member—CISS Policy Speakers Series Planning Team, Princeton University (AY 2023–2024)
- 2022 Member—CISS Colloquium Planning Team, Princeton University (AY 2022–2023)
- 2020 Undergraduate Mentor—Office of Multicultural Student Affairs, University of Chicago (AY 2020–2021)
- 2018 Member—Accreditation & Assessment Committee, Dept. of City & Regional Planning
Ohio State University

Professional service

- 2025 Discussant — Alva Myrdal Conference, Uppsala University, Sweden
- 2025 Discussant — International Security Section, MPSA Annual Conference
- 2021 Panelist — International Relations Section, Graduate Interdisciplinary Conference
University of Chicago

PROFESSIONAL MEMBERSHIPS

American Political Science Association (APSA) • International Studies Association (ISA) • Midwest Political Science Association (MPSA)

LANGUAGES

Somali (native); English, Arabic (fluent); Swahili (basic).

Updated October 2025