

**ALBERT C. CANO**  
**Fellow in International Relations**  
**London School of Economics and Political Science**  
Department of International Relations  
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[LSE profile](#) | [LinkedIn](#) | [Orcid](#)

## RESEARCH INTERESTS

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Conflict and critical peacebuilding studies | Trauma | Political violence | International political theory | Lacanian psychoanalysis | Literature and affect | Interpretive methods

## ACADEMIC APPOINTMENTS

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|--------------------------------------------------------|----------------|
| <b>Fellow in International Relations</b>               | 2026 - present |
| London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) | London         |

## EDUCATION

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------|
| <b>PhD in International Relations</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         | 2022 – expected 2027 |
| London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE)                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        | London               |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Title: ‘Theorising the Death Drive in Liberal Peacebuilding: A Lacanian-Vernacular Analysis of Trauma, Surplus Violence, and Autoktonopower in the Northern Ireland Peace Process’</li><li>Supervisor: Professor Mark Hoffman. Advisor: Professor Toby Dodge</li><li>Visiting PhD Studentship at the School of Psychology in Queen’s University Belfast during fieldwork in Northern Ireland (September 2024 - February 2025)</li></ul> |                      |

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|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>MSc in International Security</b>                                                                                          | 2020 – 2022 |
| Institut Barcelona Estudis Internacionals (IBEI)                                                                              | Barcelona   |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Erasmus+ exchange at the MSc in Political Science at Freie Universität Berlin</li></ul> |             |

|                              |             |
|------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>BA in English Studies</b> | 2014 – 2018 |
| Universitat de Barcelona     | Barcelona   |

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|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>MA in Contemporary Thought and Classical Tradition</b> | 2013 – 2014 |
| Universitat de Barcelona                                  | Barcelona   |

|                                          |             |
|------------------------------------------|-------------|
| <b>MA in Pedagogy (Teacher Training)</b> | 2012 – 2013 |
| Universitat de Barcelona                 | Barcelona   |

|                          |             |
|--------------------------|-------------|
| <b>BA in Philosophy</b>  | 2007 – 2011 |
| Universitat de Barcelona | Barcelona   |

## PUBLICATIONS

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### Peer-reviewed article

(2026) ‘The Politics of Civilian Suicidality in Liberal Peacebuilding: Theorising the Death Drive in International Relations.’ In press at *European Journal of International Relations*. [<https://doi.org/10.1177/13540661261498604>]

### Special Issue

(2024). ‘Remapping the Critical: Imagining Anti-Hierarchical Futures in International Studies’ (Introduction with Eva Leth Sørensen and Shreya Bhattacharya). *Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, 52(3): 533-539. [<https://doi.org/10.1177/03058298241294139>]

### Under review

'Unsettling the Normal: Lacan, Woolf, and Queer Emancipation in Literary Political Theory.' Revised and resubmitted to *Psychoanalysis, Culture, and Society* on 28 September 2026.

'Darkening Critical Theory: Enjoying Methodological Pessimism in the Negative Turn of International Relations.' Revised and resubmitted to *Journal of International Political Theory* on 13 June 2026.

### Book chapters

(2027, Forthcoming). 'Ethics of Pessimism for Dark International Relations.' In Ignasi Torrent and Srishti Malaviya (eds). *Dark International Relations: On Critique Beyond Affirmation*. University of Michigan Press.

(2025). "'We're the Goodies'—Lacanian Vernacular Peace: Ideology, *Derry Girls*, and Ontological (In)Security in Northern Ireland'. In Lee Jarvis, Michael Lister, and Akinyemi Oyawale (eds). *New Directions in Vernacular Security Research*. Palgrave Macmillan, pp. 43-67. [[https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-97717-6\\_3](https://doi.org/10.1007/978-3-031-97717-6_3)]

### Working paper

(2022). 'The Chinese Peacebuilding Script. A Pragmatic Contestation of the Liberal International Order'. *SCRIPTS* Working Paper No. 19, Berlin: Cluster of Excellence 2055 "Contestations of the Liberal Script -SCRIPTS".

[<https://www.scripts-berlin.eu/publications/working-paper-series/Working-Paper-19-2022/index.html>]

### Works in progress

'Warpeace or the Missing Signifier of the International.' To submit to *International Political Sociology*. Presented at EISA, EWIS, and BISA 2026.

'Ideology and Post-Paramilitary Governance.' To submit to *International Organization*. Presented at LSE's IR504 Security and Statecraft research cluster.

## AWARDS AND SCHOLARSHIPS

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### Funding

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|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| LSE PhD Studentship (£185,000 total)                                  | 2022-2026 |
| LSE Postgraduate Travel Fund (£4,000 total)                           | 2022-2026 |
| LSE Global South Award (£3,000 fieldwork grant)                       | 2025-2026 |
| Phelan US Centre (LSE) Summer Research Grant (£2,500 fieldwork grant) | 2024      |
| LSE IR Sponsorship for IQMR (£1,000 Travel Grant plus expenses)       | 2024      |
| LSE IR Department Methods Training Funding (£2,000)                   | 2023      |

### Awards

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|------------------------------------------------------------|------|
| LSE Class Teacher Award                                    | 2025 |
| Highly Commended LSE Class Teacher Award                   | 2024 |
| Nominated for LSE Student Union Outstanding Teaching Award | 2024 |

## TEACHING EXPERIENCE

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### Postgraduate

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|----------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| IR4A1 International Relations: Core Theories and Debates | 2026-2027 |
| London School of Economics and Political Science         | London    |
| Department of International Relations                    |           |
| ▪ Seminar leader.                                        |           |

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|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| IR499 Dissertation in International Relations                                                           | 2026-2027; 07-08/2024; 07-08/2023 |
| London School of Economics and Political Science                                                        | London                            |
| Department of International Relations                                                                   |                                   |
| ▪ Led dissertation surgeries in 2023 and 2024. Seminar leader and dissertation supervisor in 2026-2027. |                                   |

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|--------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| IR494 Conflict and Peacebuilding                 | 2024-2025 |
| London School of Economics and Political Science | London    |
| Department of International Relations            |           |

- Led seminars and guest lectured. Achieved a 4.7/5 mean student satisfaction score. Won LSE Class Teacher Award.

### Undergraduate

#### IR100 Introduction to International Relations: Concepts, Theories, and Debates

2026-2027

London School of Economics and Political Science

London

Department of International Relations

- Seminar leader.

#### IR205 International Security

2026-2027; 2024-2025

London School of Economics and Political Science

London

Department of International Relations

- Guest lectured.

#### IR349 Conflict and Peacebuilding

2024-2025; 2023-2024

London School of Economics and Political Science

London

Department of International Relations

- Led seminars and guest lectured. Achieved a 4.6/5 and a 4.9/5 (Autumn and Winter Terms 2023-24) and 4.8/5 (Winter Term 2024-25) mean student satisfaction score.
- Won Highly Commended LSE Class Teacher Award and nominated for LSESU Teaching Award for 'Outstanding Teaching' (2023-2024) and LSE Class Teacher Award (2024-2025).

#### IR211 America as a Global Power: FDR to Trump

06-07/2025

LSE Summer School

London

Department of International Relations

- Led seminars. Achieved a 4.7/5 mean student satisfaction score.

### Secondary school

#### Secondary school teacher and tutor

2012-2020

Schools from Jesuïtes Educació and Escoles Pies de Catalunya

Barcelona

- Designed and led lectures for the courses Philosophy, History, Psychology and Sociology, Ethics, and English Language mainly for Year 8s, 11s, 12s and 13s.

### OTHER RESEARCH EXPERIENCE

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#### Project lead

2026-2027

Project WATCHMEN, Department of International Relations, LSE

London

- Won funding from the Undergraduate Research Assistant Internship to recruit a student for the project 'Who Watches the Watchmen? On the Liminality of Violence in Post-Paramilitary and Criminal Vigilantism' (WATCHMEN).

#### Geopolitical Risk Analyst

04/2022 – 04/2023

London Politica

Remote - London

#### Research Assistant

12/2022 – 03/2023

Project SOCIR, Department of Government, LSE

London - Remote

#### Research Assistant

07/2022 – 11/2022

Project ETHNICGOODS, IBEI

Barcelona - Remote

### ACADEMIC SERVICE

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#### Editorship

##### Editor and Associate Editor

2022-2024

*Millennium: Journal of International Studies*, Vols. 52 and 53

#### Convenorship

##### Co-Convenor

03/2025 - present

British International Studies Association (BISA) Emotions in Politics and IR working group

#### Roundtable: 'The Purchase of Lacanian IR as a Relational Approach to International Politics'

ISA, 2024

Conference: 2023 *Millennium* Annual Symposium (LSE)

19-20/10/2023

**Peer review**

*Millennium: Journal of International Studies*

2026

**PRESENTATIONS**

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**Media appearances**

**Podcast guest**

12/03/2026

*The Law of Empire* [[Link](#)]

**Political commentary**

31/01/2025

Televisión Española (TVE) [[Link](#)]

**Selected speaker invitation**

**Paper presentation**

20/01/2026

*Séminaire de relations internationales et de politiques planétaires Paris*

Centre for International Studies (Ceri), Sciences Po

- Presented the paper: 'The Politics of Suicide and Conflict Containment: Theorising the Death Drive in International Relations'.

**Selected conferences**

European International Studies Association's (EISA) Conference

2023, 2024, 2025, 2026

European Workshops in International Studies (EWIS)

2026

British International Studies Association (BISA) Conference

2024, 2025, 2026

International Studies Association (ISA) Annual Convention

2024, 2025, 2026

International Society of Political Psychology (ISPP) Conference

2024

American Political Science Association (APSA) Annual Meeting

2023

Association for the Study of Nationalities (ASN) Annual World Convention

2023

**LANGUAGES**

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**Catalan**  
Native

**Spanish**  
Native

**English\***  
Full  
proficiency

**French\*\***  
Full  
professional  
proficiency

**German**  
Intermediate

**Italian**  
Intermediate

\*Cambridge English: Proficiency [CPE] (C2 certification), 2015 | \*\*Diplôme approfondi de langue française C1 [DALF C1], 2021